

**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021
(CRRSAA)**

**Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) Reporting: Emergency
Financial Aid Grants to Students**

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Report #1 under HEERF II

April 10, 2021

Overview:

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provides an additional \$22.7 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Allocation for awards under Section 314(a)(1) includes both funds for Student Aid (CFDA 84.425E) and Institution Portion (CFDA 84.425F), as described in our Grant Award Notice and the USDE HEERF II Allocation Table under Section 314(a)(1).

On August 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education posted updated guidance and reporting requirements for HEERF I participating institutions in the Federal Register (Volume 85, No. 169). The revised guidance maintains the same seven reporting elements but decreases the reporting frequency of an initial 30-day report and subsequent reports every 45 days thereafter, to every calendar quarter. Each participating institution is responsible for providing a response to the seven reporting elements, as listed below. Until OPE releases additional guidance for HEERF II funding use, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will continue to post the information listed below on the institution's primary website in a format and fashion similar to HEERF I reports. The following information will be easily accessible to the public and updated by calendar quarter thereafter, no later than 10 days after the end of the quarter (April 10, July 10, October 10 and January 10).

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh hereby addresses questions for CRRSAA Quarterly Report #1:

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, a minimum of \$3,103,881 of the funds received under Section 314(a)(1) Student Aid portion of CRRSAA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

UWO Response: No acknowledgement to the U.S Department of Education was required for the HEERF II funding. UW Oshkosh plans to provide the \$3,103,881 to students in an expedited fashion. The previous committee that assisted with the CARES Grant funding worked with the HEERF II funding as well.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

UWO Response: UW Oshkosh received \$3,103,881 in HEERF II funding. As of March 25, 2021, all funds were awarded and disbursed to eligible students. All of the funds were drawn down from the U.S. Department of Education's G5 system.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 314(a)(1) of CRRSAA (HEERF II) as of the date of submission of the calendar quarter report thereafter).

UWO Response: A total of \$3,103,881 in HEERF II funding was disbursed to students.

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 314(a)(1) (CFDA 84.425.E) of CRRSAA.

UWO Response: Based on the criteria for the HEERF II funding, there were 4,280 students eligible for the award. However, a few students chose to opt out and not receive the funding.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 314(a)(1) (CFDA 84.425.E.) of CRRSAA.

UWO Response: UW Oshkosh awarded and disbursed HEERF funding to 4,263 students. The awards ranged from \$450 to \$950 per under graduate student. Graduate students received \$300 each.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 314(a)(1) (CFDA 84.425.E.) of CRRSAA.

UWO Response: Guidance was given to follow the specific criteria which included the following:

- A. Have incurred emergency expenses due to COVID-19 on or after December 27, 2020 (the date the legislation was signed) for any item included in your Spring 2021 Cost of Attendance (COA), such as tuition, food, housing, health care and childcare.
- B. Have been enrolled for the Spring 2021 term at the conclusion of the add/drop period.
- C. Have filed a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to document being a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen.

We developed four tiers of eligibility based on exceptional need as directed by earlier guidance. Pell eligibility consisted of two EFC ranges (0-5,711) and two higher ranges (5,712-19,984) up to the instate cost of attendance. Each tier received varying amounts with largest awards going to the EFC tier. Additionally, grad students with a corresponding EFC received an award.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

UWO Response: An initial email was sent to students explaining that we would be reviewing federal data in order to determine the tiers and the award amounts for each group. Prior to awarding, we emailed the eligible students that they could “Opt Out” if they didn’t want to receive an award. We gave students one week to “Opt Out” before we began to finalize the awards for the awarding of the funding.

A team of financial aid staff and the Bursar’s office responded to incoming emails about the funding availability. These responses were done within 24 hours so that students had the most accurate information.