

**U.S. Department of Education**  
**Student Portion: P425E200790**  
**Quarterly Reporting Requirement**  
**As of September 30, 2021**  
**Reported: June 29, 2022**

LSU signed the funding certification and agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 13, 2020 and plans to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to students.

In January 2021, LSU was awarded HEERF II funding under Section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, (CRRSSA). LSU plans to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of emergency financial aid grants to students.

In May 2021, LSU was awarded HEERF III funding under Section 2003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). LSU plans to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of emergency financial aid grants to students.

- LSU has been obligated \$44,848,416 of the total Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) dollars allocated to the university for emergency student aid.
  - CARES Act [HEERF I]: \$9,441,144
  - CRRSAA Act [HEERF II]: \$9,441,144
  - ARP [HEERF III]: \$25,966,128
- As of September 31, 2021, \$24,080,217.48 has been distributed to students.
  - CARES Act [HEERF I]: \$9,441,144
  - CRRSAA Act [HEERF II]: \$9,441,144
  - ARP [HEERF III]: \$5,197,929.48

## First Disbursement | May 2020 & August 2020

- Approximately 18,276 students were eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant.
- Approximately 18,238 students have received an emergency financial aid grant.
- Total amount distributed to students was \$9,294,650.
  - In May 2020, \$9,295,600 was distributed to 18,251 students from CARES [HEERF I] Funding.
  - In August 2020, \$12,350 was distributed to an additional 25 students from HEERF I Student Funding.
  - *In June 2021, \$13,300 was returned due to unclaimed checks for 38 students. Bringing the total for the First Disbursement to \$9,294,650 for 18,238 students. These funds were reissued under the Third Disbursement's criteria in August 2021.*
- All eligible students were awarded CARES Act (HEERF I) funding. Award amounts ranged from \$150 - \$1,000 depending on enrollment status and financial need.

Eligible students are defined as:

- Enrolled in an eligible program at least half time
- A U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen
- With a Valid 2019-2020 FAFSA on file
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress
- Not in default or owe an overpayment on a Title IV grant or loan
- Having documents on file verifying the student's identity, a statement of educational purpose, selective service registration, birth certificate and social security number

The language of the law specifically prohibits the following types of students from receiving the emergency grants:

- International and undocumented students
- Dual enrollment students
- Students enrolled through LSU Online

The following email was sent to student recipients once funding was awarded:

*We understand this last semester has been challenging dealing with COVID-19 and the disruption to campus. You have been awarded LSU CARES Act funding based on your demonstrated financial need. Funding will either be direct deposited into your bank account on file with the Bursar's Office, or you will receive a check mailed to your local mailing address if you do not have a bank account on file. Please allow 5-7 business days for funding. For questions regarding your direct deposit or check, please contact the Bursar's Office at [bursar@lsu.edu](mailto:bursar@lsu.edu). For additional questions or more information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at [financialaid@lsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@lsu.edu).*

## Second Disbursement | April 2021 - June 2021

- LSU estimates that approximately 30,000 students were eligible to apply for an emergency financial aid grant.
- Approximately 10,709 students received an emergency financial aid grant.
- Total amount distributed to students was \$9,508,681.62.
  - In April 2021, \$4,023,373.59 was distributed to 3,766 students.
    - CARES Act [HEERF I]: \$133,169.24 to 257 students
    - CRSSAA [HEERF II]: \$3,890,204.35 to 3,509 students
  - In May 2021, \$5,115,389.87 was distributed to 6,429 students from CRSSAA [HEERF II] funds.
  - In June 2021, \$369,918.16 was distributed to an additional 514 students from CRSSAA [HEERF II] funds.

### Methodology of students and award amounts

- Funding was awarded to the pool of students who applied via the **online application process** with priority consideration given to students with a Pell eligible EFC of 5,711 or below.
  - Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with “*exceptional need*”. LSU uses the FAFSA data point of Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as the indicator for exceptional need, whereby all students who are Pell eligible based on their EFC number are eligible for an award in the exceptional need category. “Exceptional need” is defined as demonstrating via the FAFSA an expected family contribution (EFC) number within the Pell eligible range. For the current academic year, that EFC range is 0-5,711.
- Award amounts: \$1,200 has been determined as the maximum grant amount based on the number of applications received. Actual student grant amounts were determined by the application requested amount and a student’s financial need as determined by the FAFSA. Students who requested \$1,200 or greater and had a pell eligible EFC were awarded \$1,200. If a pell eligible student requested less than \$1,200, he/she received the amount requested. Students without a pell eligible EFC received a maximum of \$750. If a non-pell eligible student requested less than \$750, he/she received the amount requested.
- Eligibility determined by having documents on file to verify the student’s identity, a statement of educational purpose, selective service registration, birth certificate and social security number.
- Through the online application portal, students could authorize LSU to apply the grant funding to any outstanding charges on their student account.
  - If authorization was granted, they were processed as Direct to Bill where the grant was applied to the student’s fee bill balance and any remaining credit balance was issued directly to the student.
  - If authorization was not granted, these were processed as Direct to Student where the grant was issued directly to the student.

## **HEERF II Student Emergency Funds**

As part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021 (CRRSAA), the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) provides colleges with funds to award grants for their students. The purpose of these emergency funds is to provide aid to higher education students to address the unexpected expenses and losses associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

### **Am I eligible to receive the HEERF II grant?**

Currently the guidelines require a student to be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.

### **How do I apply for the HEERF II grant?**

To apply for this grant, click the button below and fill out the brief form.

[\*\*CRRSA APPLICATION\*\*](#)

Students can use these funds to cover the cost of attendance or emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health), childcare, etc.

Applying does not guarantee that a grant will be provided.

### **How was the grant amount determined?**

The US Department of Education requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who qualify for Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. Amounts were determined based on the number of applicants, total amount requested, and the number of students who demonstrated financial need as determined by the FAFSA. The maximum award amount is \$1,200.

### **More About the HEERF II Student Financial Aid Grant**

LSU's HEERF II grant allocation was \$9,441,144. An initial round of HEERF II funding will be awarded by 04/15/2021 to students based on applications submitted and financial need. An application was emailed to all students on 03/25/2021 with a priority deadline to submit by 04/5/2021. Additional rounds of funding will be awarded on a rolling basis and the application will remain open until all funding is exhausted.

## HEERF II Grants FAQs

### 1. What is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II?

The 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was passed December 27, 2020 and provides funding for students in higher education. These grants are similar to the CARES grants made during the spring/summer of 2020 (also referred to as HEERF I).

### 2. What is the difference between HEERF II grants and HEERF I (CARES) grants?

CARES/HEERF I funding was specific to students' expenses resulting from the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Expenses applicable for HEERF II funding are defined as:

- Any component of the student's cost of attendance (COA), or
- Emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as but not limited to tuition, food, housing, healthcare, mental healthcare, or childcare.
- Satisfaction of student's account balance if student provides consent.

Also, the CRRSAA requires institutions to prioritize students with exceptional need.

CARES grants were limited to students eligible to participate in Title IV federal student financial aid programs, whereas HEERF II grants do not require Title IV eligibility.

### 3. How do I request a HEERF II grant?

Applicants for the HEERF II grants must complete an online application form.

[CRRSA APPLICATION](#)

Students who meet eligibility requirements will receive a notification with a link to the application form.

Applicants must identify the type and amount of expenses that are relevant to this funding source in the application.

### 4. Which students are eligible to receive the HEERF II grants?

Currently, only International, undocumented, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students are **not** eligible for HEERF II grants. If the US Department of Education issues additional guidance editing this criteria, eligible students will be notified via email.

### 5. What is the priority deadline to file the application?

April 5, 2021 was the priority deadline but the application is still open and funding is still available.

### 6. How will I know if I've been approved for a HEERF II grant?

Students will receive an email once a HEERF II grant is awarded.

### 7. If approved, when will I receive funding?

Recipients will receive their grants beginning 04/15/2021 but grants will be made on a rolling basis.

Grants can be credited to your student account or paid to you through the normal student refund process. You must make this selection when you complete the application form.

### **8. What expenses qualify?**

Students' cost of attendance and/or emergency costs arising from the coronavirus pandemic are eligible expenses.

### **9. How much funding can I receive?**

The total pool of funds to be awarded is \$9,441,144. The individual grant amounts will depend on several factors:

- How many students apply
- Exceptional need status
- The amount of actual expenses indicated on the application form.

### **10. Do I have to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive HEERF II funds?**

No, a FAFSA is not required.

### **11. If I have changes to make to my application after I already submitted it, how do I make those changes?**

Please contact the Financial Aid & Scholarships office at [financialaid@lsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@lsu.edu) if you feel changes are needed to your application. Changes are not guaranteed.

### **12. Can I appeal the decision outcome?**

All grant amounts are final.

### **13. My family had a loss of income, what can I do?**

If your family has experienced a loss of full-time wages for more than ten weeks, we encourage you to appeal for a review of your special circumstances – this process is called Special Consideration. With this process, your Financial Aid Counselor will be able to review documentation related to unemployment or other factors that led to a change in the household income and with this information, make changes to your FAFSA to reflect the current income. This important process may qualify you to receive additional funding.

### **14. Does HEERF II funding have to be repaid?**

No, this funding is considered a financial aid grant and does not have to be repaid.

### **15. Does HEERF II funding affect the 1098-T?**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) made clear that emergency financial aid grants received by students due to the coronavirus pandemic will not be counted as taxable income. This applies to any grant a student receives from a federal agency, state, Indian tribe, higher education institution, or scholarship-granting organization.

Institutions also will not be required to send additional tax forms to the students or to the IRS to report these grants due to the fact the funds will not be included in taxable income, the IRS added.

### **16. Are graduate, LSU Online, Veterinary Medicine, and Law students eligible for HEERF II grants?**

Yes, graduate, LSU Online, Veterinary Medicine, and Law students are eligible for HEERF II grants.

### **17. How will I receive my grant?**

We encourage all students to enroll in direct deposit as it is the most secure and efficient way to receive any type of refund. You can enroll by logging into myLSU > Financial Services > Direct Deposit of Refunds. If you are not enrolled in direct deposit, you will be issued a check mailed to the local mailing address in our system.

**18. I did not receive the email to apply for the HEERF II funds. Is there a way I can still apply?**

Yes, the application can be found at [CRRSA APPLICATION](#).

## **HEERF II Grant Communication to Students**

### **HEERF II – Direct to Students (not applied to fee bill)**

We understand this last year has been challenging dealing with COVID-19 and the disruption to campus, so we're happy to be given this opportunity to provide you additional financial support. You have been awarded LSU HEERF funding based on your coronavirus relief application and demonstrated financial need. Grant amounts can be viewed in MYLSU > financial services > billing statement. Funding will either be direct deposited into your bank account on file, or a check will be mailed to your local mailing address if no bank account is indicated. Please allow 7-10 business days for funding to be mailed or direct-deposited. For questions regarding your direct deposit or check, please contact the Bursar's Office at [bursar@lsu.edu](mailto:bursar@lsu.edu). For questions or more information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at [financialaid@lsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@lsu.edu).

### **HEERF – Direct to Bill (applied to student's fee bill)**

We understand this last year has been challenging dealing with COVID-19 and the disruption to campus, so we're happy to be given this opportunity to provide you additional financial support. You have been awarded LSU HEERF funding based on your coronavirus relief application and demonstrated financial need. Grant amounts can be viewed in MYLSU > financial services > billing statement. Based on the authorization provided in your application, funding will be applied towards your account balance. If a credit balance occurs, excess funds will be direct deposited into your bank account on file, or a check will be mailed to your local mailing address if no bank account is indicated. Please allow 7-10 business days for funding to be mailed or direct-deposited. For questions regarding your direct deposit or check, please contact the Bursar's Office at [bursar@lsu.edu](mailto:bursar@lsu.edu). For questions or more information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at [financialaid@lsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@lsu.edu).

## Third Disbursement | August 2021 - September 2021

- For the debt relief initiative, 4,594 students were identified as having past due debt to the University.
- Approximately 2,656 students received an emergency financial aid grant.
- Total amount distributed to students was \$5,276,885.85.
  - In August 2021, \$4,719,878.17 was distributed to 2,501 students.
    - CARES Act [HEERF I]: \$13,324.76 to 5 students
    - CRSSAA [HEERF II]: \$65,631.62 to 773 students
    - ARP [HEERF III]: \$4,640,921.79 to 1,723 students
  - In September 2021, \$557,007.69 was distributed to 155 students from ARP [HEERF III] funds.

### Methodology of students and award amounts

- Students with past due debt to the university were identified.
  - Each student was emailed and sent a text message to authorize funding to billing statement or receive funding directly. As the responses were recorded, batches of awards were made to students who responded.
- Average award amount was \$1,235.

### Communication

The U.S. Department of Education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III provided funding to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. LSU is utilizing a portion of this funding for debt relief of past due balances. Students with a past due balance as of July 18, 2021 qualified for this debt relief. You have been selected to receive a HEERF institutional grant due to your financial hardship in paying your prior semester's balance. You may decline the emergency financial aid grant to pay off debts and instead use the funds for any component of your cost of attendance or for emergency costs.

Do you authorize LSU to apply your HEERF grant debt relief funding to your billing statement?

Yes      Based on this selection, funding will be applied towards your billing statement. If a credit balance occurs, excess funds will be direct deposited into your bank account on file, or a check will be mailed to your local mailing address if no bank account is indicated.

No      Funding will either be direct deposited into your bank account on file, or a check will be mailed to your local mailing address if no bank account is indicated.