

CRRSAA Act – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II Grants to Students 6/30/21 - Final Report

On 12/27/2020, the President of the United States signed the Coronavirus, Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. This Act provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II), found in Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act, allows higher education institutions to use certain funds allocated by the Department of Education to support students and higher education institutions with expenses and financial needs related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The following information about the CRRSSA Act is provided by Southeast Community College in order to comply with reporting requirement guidance under the Department of Education. The following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public and must include the following items and responses from the institution:

(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, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Southeast Community College received its HEERF II Grant distribution on January 17, 2021. Under the terms for acceptance of these funds, Southeast Community College will use no less than \$2,141,218.00, as stated under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act, to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

(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 under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act.

On January 17, 2021 Southeast Community College received a total of \$9,303,287 under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act, of which a minimum of \$2,141,218.00 was to be allocated directly to students to assist with expenses related to the COVID-19 crisis.

(3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act as of the date of submission.

As of April 12, 2021, Southeast Community College has distributed a total of \$2,182,100.00.

(4) The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act.

As of April 12 2021, Southeast Community College determined that 3,722 students were eligible for the HEERF II Grant.

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

The total number of students at Southeast Community College who have been offered an Emergency Financial Aid grant to students under Sections 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act as of April 12, 2021 is 3,722 for a total of \$2,182,100.00.

(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(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act.

Following Department of Education guidelines, Southeast Community College determined that students that are eligible for HEERF II funds must meet the following requirements:

- Must be enrolled (or have been enrolled) in undergraduate classes during the Spring 2021 semester
- Must be a US citizen, permanent resident or eligible non-citizen
- Must have a valid and completed FAFSA on file with SCC by March 25, 2021 for the purposes of determining financial need

Southeast Community College was required to distribute grant amounts based on a student's demonstrated exceptional financial need. The Department of Education encourages the use of FAFSA data and, more specifically, the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to measure this financial need.

After a review of our student information, Southeast Community College developed the following distribution schedule:

STUDENT EFC	HEERF II AWARD AMOUNT
0	\$900
0001-0999	\$900
1000-1999	\$800
2000-2999	\$700
3000-3999	\$600
4000-4999	\$500
5000-5999	\$500
6000+	\$200

Southeast Community College disbursed all HEERF II Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students to all identified eligible students during one distribution cycle.

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

An email was sent to all eligible students on March, 26, 2021, indicating they would be a recipient of an Emergency Financial Aid Grant. Students were told they would receive these funds automatically and there was no application process. In addition, students were encouraged to sign up for electronic refund to receive their disbursement through direct deposit and were given a deadline of April 2, 2021 to do so in order to receive funds electronically. Students were informed that those receiving funds electronically would receive them beginning April 15, 2021 and those receiving a check through the mail should expect to receive those funds 1-2 weeks after the April 15 date. Student received a reminder email restating all of this information on March 31, 2021. Funds were posted to eligible students' accounts on April 12, 2021 and were distributed electronically or via paper check shortly thereafter.

In addition, Southeast Community College created an online resource, available at <https://www.southeast.edu/crrsaa/> that outlined what CRRSAA/HEERF II was, the College's plans to distribute these funds, addressed several frequently asked questions and provided links to additional resources.