



Cedar Crest College
PR/Award No. P425E200805 – 20A
Report No. 1: Quarterly Report

Introduction

On December 27, 2020, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260 and signed into law. This report provides details on the award Cedar Crest College received under the CRRSAA for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

Cedar Crest College, reviewed, signed, and returned the U.S. Department of Education's Certification and Agreement on April 13, 2020 for the initial HEERF I award under the CARES Act. The College received the new award documentation for the CRRSAA award on January 20, 2021.

Total Award

Cedar Crest College will receive a total of \$763, 209 for distribution to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the novel coronavirus.

Funds Distributed to Date

As of the close of business on March 31, 2021, Cedar Crest College has awarded \$405,568.13 in direct grants to students.

Student Eligibility and Recipients to Date

The total number of Cedar Crest College students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore eligible to receive CRRSAA emergency financial aid grants is 640. Of those students, 1245 have received an award as of March 31, 2021.

Methods Used to Determine which Students Receive Aid and How Much

The College carefully reviewed the CRRSAA Act and the guidance provided by the United States Department of Education specifically to determine the requirements applicable for the distribution of the available emergency resources to students. The CRRSAA Act provided funding to institutions to provide emergency grants to students using the same model established through the CARES Act. CRRSAA made several changes that differ from the CARES Act such as allowing more flexibility on the allowable uses of funds. Students may use the grant toward the following expenses:



- Any component of their cost of attendance
- Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental health), and child care.

Students receiving HEERF II funding must acknowledge that the receipt of such funds will be used for the allowable costs noted above.

In order for the College to determine financial need, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the College required a completed 2020-2021 FAFSA to be on file for the spring 2021 term. Students who did not have a FAFSA on file would be permitted to submit a FAFSA to determine financial need.

The College will distribute HEERF II emergency grants to students who are actively enrolled in a degree- or certificate-seeking program as of March 24, 2021 using the FAFSA information submitted to prioritize those students with exceptional financial need. The College has determined that students with exceptional financial need are students who qualify as Pell-eligible. Eligible students are required to complete the HEERF II Affidavit Form electronically indicating that the funds will be used for allowable costs noted above as well as indicate to the College the preference of a direct distribution of funds or an application of funds to an outstanding student balance.

Students who met the requirements above, and who have completed the required form by April 16, 2021, will be provided a one-time emergency grant as follows:

- Pell eligible student - \$900
- Non-Pell eligible student - \$500

Emergency grants will not be provided to the following in accordance with the guidance issued and based upon the College's assessment of exceptional financial need:

- Students who have not submitted a completed 2020-2021 FAFSA
- certain non-US citizens as determined by federal law (international students, undocumented students, and DACA recipients)
- Auditing students and visiting students
- Students receiving tuition remission
- Students who withdrew or took a leave of absence on or before March 24, 2021
- Students with unsatisfactory academic progress as required by Title IV funding regulations

The College has committed to utilizing all of the available student emergency funds in accordance with the CRRSAA Act and pertinent guidance.



Grants will be paid via application to the students account, electronic funds transfer (where possible) or via check.

Instructions of Directions Given to Students

The following message was communicated to students via e-mail on March 19,2021:

Subject: CRRSAA HEERF II Grant Information for students

Dear Students,

We are pleased to provide information regarding the distribution of Emergency Financial Aid Grants through the federal government's Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations ([CRRSAA](#)) Act that was passed on December 27, 2020. The CRRSAA Act includes a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) that provides emergency funding to higher education, a portion of which must go directly to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants for expenses related to the following:

- Any component of a student's cost of attendance
- Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as:
 - Tuition
 - Food
 - Housing
 - Health care (including mental health)
 - Child care

Cedar Crest has reviewed the guidance from the U.S. Department of Education for distributing the student portion of funds and is adhering to the request that distribution of funds should be based upon exceptional financial need. In order for the College to determine financial need, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, a completed 2020-2021 FAFSA must be on file for the spring 2021 term. If you do not have a FAFSA on file, you can still file the FAFSA. As long as HEERF II funds are available, we will review your financial aid file as part of the request process. Additional documentation may need to be provided in order to establish your eligibility.

On or before March 24, 2021, the College will distribute HEERF II emergency grants to students who are actively enrolled in a degree- or certificate-seeking program as of that date. Emergency grants will not be provided to the following in accordance with the guidance issued and based upon the College's assessment of exceptional financial need:

- Students who have not submitted a completed 2020-2021 FAFSA
- Certain non-US citizens as determined by federal law (international students, undocumented students, and DACA recipients)



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- Auditing students and visiting students
- Students receiving tuition remission
- Students who withdrew or took a leave of absence on or before March 24, 2021
- Students with unsatisfactory academic progress

Students who meet the requirements above, and who have completed the required form by April 16, 2021, will receive a one-time emergency grant in the form of direct deposit or check as follows:

- Pell eligible student - \$900
- Non-Pell eligible student - \$500

Grants will be released on or about March 24, 2021. **All students must complete the HEERF II Affidavit Form located on the My.CedarCrest home page in order to receive this distribution.** This form is required in order to be in compliance with federal law established under HEERF II. Students who have not completed the form will not receive the distribution until it is completed, which will delay access to these emergency grants. HEERF II also provides students with the option to use the emergency grant to help assist with outstanding student account balances. Though students are not required to use these funds to pay outstanding balances, they may choose to do so by electing their preference on the HEERF II Affidavit Form.

As we move forward, additional information will be found online at <https://www.cedarcrest.edu/healthservices/covid.shtm>. For questions regarding the CRRSAA Act emergency grants, please contact Student Financial Services at financialservices@cedarcrest.edu.