

COVID-19 – CRRSAA/HEERF II Student Grant Communication

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)
- 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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth M. Meade

President
Cedar Crest College