

# Sacramento State HEERF II Emergency Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is HEERF II and where did the funding for emergency grants come from?**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) money, authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA), was passed on December 27, 2020. One aspect of the act was creating the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II). HEERF II provides funds to institutions for emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Visit the HEERF II Emergency Grants Website.](#)

## **Is the money I receive from the HEERF II emergency grants considered taxable income?**

No. The emergency funding you received for unexpected expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic qualify as disaster relief payments under the IRS tax code. This grant funding is not included as part of your gross income for 2021.

## **Do I have to report the emergency grant funds as part of my earnings when I complete my Financial Aid Application for 2022?**

No. The emergency funding you received for unexpected expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic are not considered taxable income and therefore, you do not need to include this grant funding when reporting income on your financial aid application for 2022 school year.

## **How much HEERF II funding will students receive as grants?**

Sacramento State has received \$17.8 million in CRRSAA funds (also called HEERF II) to provide grants to students. Congress intended for students to use the funds for expenses – such as food, housing, course materials, healthcare, and childcare – related to disruption of their studies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Who is eligible for HEERF II Emergency Grants?**

All students enrolled in degree programs at Sacramento State as of the university's enrollment census date will receive direct payments. This includes undergraduate and post- baccalaureate students (e.g.

graduate or credential). *Note: HEERF II emergency grants are when the federal government provides funding to college and universities. This is not an ongoing federal aid program.*

### **How much will students receive in HEERF II Emergency Grants?**

The funds were received in Spring 21 semester. Sacramento State will be allocating HEERF II funds in alignment with guidance from Congress and the Department of Education. We have worked to ensure that all students will receive relief. Students who have a high financial need as determined by their

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from their FAFSA at the level which is considered “Pell Grant Eligible” (regardless of whether they received a Pell Grant) will receive the highest amount.

The CRRSAA funds will be allocated to all students in the following manner:

1. Pell Eligible EFC and Enrolled in 7 or more units will receive \$850
2. Pell Eligible EFC and Enrolled in 6 or less units receive \$700
3. No FAFSA or Non-Pell EFC and Enrolled in 7 or more units receive \$750
4. No FAFSA or Non-Pell EFC and Enrolled in 6 or less units receive \$600

### **Can I still apply for a COVID-19 Supplemental Emergency Grant even I received one of the HEERF II grants?**

Yes. Sacramento State also has set aside an additional \$1.5 million of the University’s share of HEERF and CRRSAA funds and will be allocating it as Supplemental Grants for students in financial crisis.

### **How can I apply for a COVID-19 Supplemental Emergency Grant?**

Complete the application and we will help determine which source of funding you may be eligible to receive. [Supplemental Grant Application Information](#).

### **How much can I get from the Supplemental Grant application?**

Students have varying needs at this time. The supplemental grant funding is designed to “supplement” and is not guaranteed to cover all your costs.

### **I applied for and received supplemental funds in the fall, can I apply again?**

Yes, you can apply for supplemental funds for spring 2021 semester even if you applied and received funds in the fall semester.

### **When will I know if my request for supplemental funding has been approved?**

Processing times may vary depending on the volume of applications. Student will receive an email notification when the request is approved. Students will also see the approved supplemental funding amount by checking their account Inquiry link on the Student. It may take up to 2 weeks for an

application to be approved, submitting applications without documentation may cause delay in processing time. If you have submitted an application please monitor your email for communication from the CARES office

### **How will I receive my CRRSAA and HEERF II funding?**

Students will automatically receive their grant via eRefund or a mailed check. If students are not signed up for eRefund, it is essential that students have updated their directory information in their Student Center. Printed checks will be sent to the address listed there. The quickest way for students to receive their grant is via eRefund (direct deposit).

### **How do I sign up for eRefund?**

Information about how to access eRefund can be found on the [Campus Bursar's Office web page](#). Students who have a balance due or a hold on their account will still receive a full grant. Students are not required to use their grant to pay down their balance or resolve any holds. However, these funds can be used to pay a university balance (e.g. tuition, fees or other charges).

### **How can I help protect my account information from fraud or internet scams?**

The most important action you can take right now is to sign up for [Two-Step Verification with Duo](#). You can learn more and enroll online at [csus.edu/duo](https://csus.edu/duo). It's free, easy, and provides an additional layer of security to protect your confidential information (e.g., bank account numbers).

### **How can I use the money?**

The grant should be used for academically related expenses incurred due to COVID-19. Some examples include expenses related to food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

### **I have not applied for FAFSA. Is it too late?**

You do not need to complete the FAFSA to receive the direct disbursement of the HEERF II Emergency Grants. While completing the FAFSA now will not affect your HEERF II Emergency Grant disbursement, it may help you become eligible for other types of financial aid. Completing the FAFSA will allow students to be considered for many kinds of financial aid.

### **Who do I contact if I have questions?**

- For basic questions about your eligibility for HEERF II Emergency Grants email [SA-VP@csus.edu](mailto:SA-VP@csus.edu).
- For questions about the disbursement itself, email [bursar@csus.edu](mailto:bursar@csus.edu).
- For questions about the status of your supplemental grant application, email [caresgrant@csus.edu](mailto:caresgrant@csus.edu).

## Document Links

- [Visit the HEERF II Emergency Grants Website](https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/emergency-student-information/heerf-emergency-grants.html) <https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/emergency-student-information/heerf-emergency-grants.html>
- [Supplemental Grant Application Information](https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/emergency-student-information/heerf-emergency-grants.html#COVID-19-student-relief-aid-student-emergency-fund) <https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/emergency-student-information/heerf-emergency-grants.html#COVID-19-student-relief-aid-student-emergency-fund>
- [Campus Bursar's Office web page](https://www.csus.edu/administration-business-affairs/bursar/) <https://www.csus.edu/administration-business-affairs/bursar/>
- [Complete the COVID-19 Supplemental Grant Application](https://onbase.csus.edu/unity/forms/sr_cares_grant_request_prod.aspx) [https://onbase.csus.edu/unity/forms/sr\\_cares\\_grant\\_request\\_prod.aspx](https://onbase.csus.edu/unity/forms/sr_cares_grant_request_prod.aspx)
- [Complete Dreamer COVID-19 Emergency Grant Application \(for Dreamers, undocumented students, AB 540 students\)](https://onbase.csus.edu/unity/forms/sr_dreamers_grant_request.aspx) [https://onbase.csus.edu/unity/forms/sr\\_dreamers\\_grant\\_request.aspx](https://onbase.csus.edu/unity/forms/sr_dreamers_grant_request.aspx)
- [Two-Step Verification with Duo](http://csus.edu/duo) <http://csus.edu/duo>
- [CARES website](https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/crisis-assistance-resource-education-support/) <https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/crisis-assistance-resource-education-support/>