

## **Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Fund Reporting**

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. On December 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CRRSA Act, which provides continued emergency relief funds to organization and individual affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

This report provides details on the first, second and third round of awarding Western Illinois University received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E200622.

### **CERTIFICATION**

- B Tuition, fees, health insurance, study abroad costs and outstanding debt to the university
- B Campus housing
- B Technology needs to complete online spring courses, including laptops, printers and scanners, software, access to WiFi, expansion of data plans, etc.
- B Books and other essential academic supplies
- B Basic personal needs such as emergency housing, food, toiletries and transportation
- B Emergency medical, dental or mental health expenses not covered by insurance (ie. eyeglasses, medication, emergency/unexpected procedure)
- B Childcare needs
- B Costs to travel home unexpectedly, travel to and from work or for educational purposes
- B Travel related to the death or emergency of an immediate family member
- B Safety-related needs, including the needs of victims of domestic violence
- B Replacement of belongings lost in a fire or natural disaster
- B Basic utilities

**Types of expenses generally not covered include:**

- B** Health insurance costs
- B Non-emergency medical-related expenses
- B Non-essential costs, such as those for entertainment, recreation and non-emergency travel
- B Non-essential utilities (cable costs not associated with WiFi)
- B Parking tickets and traffic fines
- B Technology not related to education (gaming systems)

Emergency aid is given out in the form of a grant and need not be repaid. These emergency funds are administered as one-time awards and are not to be used for a current account balance. The fund can be used to meet a short-term financial need but is not designed to replace or supplement financial aid. Funding is made possible through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund via the CARES Act.

To be eligible\* for emergency aid students must:

- 1) A US Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- 2) Be enrolled for the term in which funds are being requested.
- 3) Admitted into a degree program.
- 4) Meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress  
([wiu.edu/student\\_services/financial\\_aid/appeal/index.php](http://wiu.edu/student_services/financial_aid/appeal/index.php))

**Spring 2020**

Method	Eligibility	Score
Pell Eligible	Receiving Pell Spring 2020	1 

Enrollment	Full-time: Graduate: 9 or more hours, Undergrads:12 or more hours	<b>1</b>
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Students with a score of >1 will receive:

- Pell increase and/or,
- RA award and/or,
- Amount requested on emergency aid application

Awards not to exceed \$2500 or the combination of the methods above whichever is lesser.

Students with a score equal to 1 will receive no more than the amount requested on an emergency aid application or \$500 whichever is less.

Students with a score of 0 will not receive an emergency grant.

### **Summer 2020**

To assist the most students with limited funding awards for Summer 2020 will be based on enrollment. The maximum award for Summer 2020 will be \$500. Student enrolled in 6 or more hours will receive a \$500 award; students enrolled in less than 6 hours will receive \$250 upon receipt of application. This breakdown will allow us to assist the most students based on limiting funding.

\*Students ineligible to apply for emergency aid may be eligible for emergency aid through institutional funding via the Western Illinois University Foundation. Students can apply for alternative emergency aid through the Scholarship Office by email at [SC-Office@wiu.edu](mailto:SC-Office@wiu.edu).

### **Fall 2020**

Students will be identified for emergency grants based on two factors: Pell eligibility and receipt of book award(s) during the 2019-20 AY.

- Returning students: Students who were awarded a Freshmen Book Award (807.04) will receive a CARES grant in the amount of \$600 Fall 2020.
- New transfer students: Using the criteria of the Leatherneck Book Award (Pell eligibility) new transfer students will receive a CARES grant in the amount of \$600 Fall 2

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### **Spring 2021**

Pell eligible students will be automatically awarded an emergency grant upon completion of the [Emergency Aid Credit Authorization Form](#). If you are a Pell eligible student (Expected Family Contribution (EFC) 0=5711) and did not receive your emergency aid please contact financial aid for next steps and/or complete the [Emergency Aid Credit Authorization Form](#).

After prioritization is given to Pell eligible students the [Application for Emergency Aid](#) will open to allow all eligible students to request emergency aid. In an effort to serve as many students as possible with limited resources the maximum emergency grant a student can receive Spring 2021 term is \$1000. Additional rounds of funding may be available in subsequent terms (i.e. Summer 2021, Fall 2021, etc.).

### **ROUND #1**

Students whose validated EFC is 0-5711 (RS=A) will be eligible to receive a CARES grant of up to \$1000 (EFC 0 - 5711) upon completion of the Emergency Credit Authorization Form.

### **ROUND #2**

Emergency aid application. Students may request emergency aid up to \$1000. Students who received an automatic award would not be eligible for additional funds Spring 2021.

### **Summer 2021**

To assist the most students with limited funding awards for Summer 2021 will be based on enrollment. All eligible\* students enrolled Summer 2021 will receive an emergency grant based on availability of funds divided by total number of eligible students. This breakdown will allow us to assist the most students based on limiting funding in a fair/equitable manner.

### **Process for awarding:**

All of these funds will be awarded as grants (800.11) using CARES Act funding and passed through B/R as credits. Regardless of prior balance funds can be requested as a refund or left on the account to be applied to current charges.

### **HEERF Round 3 (ARP)**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues

**1.**

If you have questions or concerns regarding your application for emergency aid, application for financial aid (FAFSA) or special circumstances appeal, email [financial-aid@wiu.edu](mailto:financial-aid@wiu.edu).

**Notification to students not eligible for emergency aid:**

Western Illinois University has reviewed your request for emergency aid. To be eligible for emergency aid students must be US Citizens or eligible non-citizens. During review of your application we determined you were not eligible for an emergency grant funded through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

If you are experiencing hardship and need emergency assistance the State of Illinois has provided a guide to economic resources online at [coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov).

If you have questions or concerns regarding your application for emergency aid please email [financial-aid@wiu.edu](mailto:financial-aid@wiu.edu).