



University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Reporting Requirements for Quarter Ending: March 31, 2021

CARES Background

See Final Report for Quarter Ending: March 31, 2021 for background, awarding, and notification documentation.

CRRSAA Background

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, the CRRSAA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion expeditiously provided last spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136.

The CRRSAA requires that an institution receiving funding under section 314(a)(1) provide the “same amount” in financial aid grants to students from the new CRRSAA funds that it was required or which it would have been required to provide under its original CARES Act Student Aid Portion award.

the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants. In addition, the CRRSAA explicitly provides that financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. Institutions may not (1) condition the receipt of financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the institution, (2) use the financial aid grants to satisfy a student’s outstanding account balance, unless it has obtained the student’s written (or electronic), affirmative consent, or (3) require such consent as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for the financial aid grant.³ Institutions should carefully document how they prioritize students with exceptional need in distributing financial aid grants to students, as the Department intends to establish reporting requirements regarding the distribution of financial aid grants to students consistent with section 314(e) of CRRSAA. 9.

The expanded use of funds authority under the CRRSAA also applies to unexpended CARES Act funds: For their Institutional Portion CARES Act grants (CFDA 84.425F), institutions are able to use their remaining funds in the same way they are allowed to use their supplemental Institutional Portion funds under the CRRSAA. For their Student Aid Portion CARES Act grant (CFDA 84.425E), institutions may use their remaining funds to provide financial aid grants in the same way they are allowed to use their supplemental Student Aid Portion funds under the CRRSAA, including by providing such grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.

Student Allocation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Institutions did not need to apply if received CARES Act funding. On January 17, 2021, Nebraska received the award notification authorizing funding of an additional \$7,814,350.00 to award emergency grants to students at UNL and NCTA under CRSA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

Student Identification and Notification

February 2021: Previous applicants for CARES funding that did not receive awards were identified first and 524 students were awarded up to \$600.00.

February 2021 and after:



Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid
P.O. Box 880411 | Lincoln, NE 68588-0411
Fax: 402.472.9826 | 402.472.2030
huskerhub@unl.edu
Walk-In & Appointment Info: huskerhub.unl.edu



Awarding Criteria for remaining students:

1. Title IV eligible (completed FAFSA, meeting SAP, eligible program, etc.)
2. Enrolled Spring 2021
3. Need greater than zero

Notification of Application Availability

- Students were sent an email notifying them of the availability of the application on MyRED (student portal) and a To Do List item was added.
- Sample Email

Dear Student,

Summary: You can login to MyRED and navigate to the Financial Aid tab to access the Federal COVID HEERF II Grant funds application to **request assistance with expenses you have incurred due to COVID-19.**

We recognize you may be facing financial challenges presented by COVID-19 and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will soon be distributing additional federal stimulus funds through the CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) Act. You are receiving this email because you may be eligible for funds. **Our Federal COVID HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) II Grant funds application has been made available to you in MyRED under the Financial Aid tab.** You can complete this form to request assistance with costs you have incurred related to tuition, housing, food, technology, childcare, healthcare, or other costs that resulted from the pandemic.

UNL received notice of this available funding as part of the CRRSA Act passed by Congress, which allocated additional federal funds to colleges and universities to aid in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is limited and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) will review requests as they are received to make decisions on distributions related to your expenses. If you are granted funds, you will receive an email to your Huskers email account. Please be sure you have set up [direct deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts in advance.

In alignment with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, UNL will prioritize students based on those with exceptional need.

If you have questions about emergency funding due to COVID-19, you can contact Husker Hub at huskerhub@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2030.

Sincerely,

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Application Information

- Students will be asked if they had expenses due to COVID-19
 - If No, taken to end of form/Signature page
 - If Yes, presented with question about whether HEERF funds can be used to pay charges on their student account
- Students with an EFC below 6,001
 - Are taken to the last page/Signature page to submit the application
 - Students who answer 'Yes' to having expenses will receive a \$1,200 grant
- Students with an EFC above 6,000
 - Are asked additional questions about type of expenses and amount of expenses
 - Then are taken to the last page/Signature page to submit the application
 - Students will be awarded the requested amount, up to \$600

Award Notification

- Students were awarded at least weekly based on completed applications and email notifications were sent.
- Sample Email

Dear Student,

You are receiving this email as notification of a Federal COVID HEERF Grant distribution.



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Per your emergency funding request, we have added a spring 2021 grant to your account which may refund to you. If you have not already done so, make sure you [set up Direct Deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts as this is the fastest way to receive funds. You can login to MyRED to see your grant and make sure you look in the 2020-2021 aid year. If you provided consent on your application to utilize **the funds** toward your UNL student account, then the funds will credit your student account first and the remainder will be refunded to you, if applicable

We understand that the amount granted to you may not be what you requested or what you might need at this time. The amount provided is based on the limited amount of funds available and prioritized to support as many students as possible and prioritizing students with exceptional need who were impacted by COVID-19. You may use these funds to help support your tuition, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and other expenses related to attendance at the University of Nebraska. **Please be sure to check your student account in MyRED to make sure you are current on your balance due.**

We recognize that you may be managing a variety of difficulties given the current circumstances and we aim to support you as much as we can. Many students, like yourself, are finding this time to be challenging and struggling to pay for basic needs such as rent, food, and monthly bills. Our website will continue to be updated with resources that may be helpful to supporting your basic needs or other questions related to finances: <https://financialaid.unl.edu/covid-19-resources>.

The University is continuing to provide helpful updates on the COVID-19 at <https://covid19.unl.edu/>.

If you have questions about emergency funding due to COVID-19 or other options for financial aid, you can contact Husker Hub at huskerhub@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2030.

Sincerely,

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Student Numbers and Amounts for Specified Quarter

- Estimated number of eligible students: 10,064
- Number of students awarded CARES grant: 85
- Amount of CARES grants awarded: \$50,609 (final)
- Number of students awarded CRSSAA grant: 6825
- Amount of CRSSAA grants awarded: \$6,463,530



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