

FAQs for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II)

What is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II)?

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), was signed into law on December 27, 2020.

Central Alabama Community College (CACC) received a total allocation under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) in the amount of \$1,222,052, of which 50% or \$611,026 will be distributed to eligible students for specific expenses related to the cost of attendance, i.e. tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

Which students are eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants from the HEERF?

Student eligibility for HEERF II funds will be determined by CACC based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education Supplemental Grant Funds for Students Agreement, HEERF II Student FAQs, and Section 314(c)(3) of the CRRSAA.

The college will utilize the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the College student information management system, and other data sources, as necessary, to identify eligible students.

How do I apply for the HEERF grant funds?

Students who complete the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will automatically receive consideration. If you have not completed the 2020-2021 FAFSA, you may do so by visiting www.fafsa.gov or www.student.gov. In order to receive consideration for the HEERF II grant funds, students must complete the 2020-2021 FAFSA or provide citizenship verification no later than April 13, 2021.

How much can I expect to receive?

Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.

Funding will be distributed to all eligible students who enrolled for Spring Semester 2021 based on the calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Degree/Certificate seeking students who do not have a completed FAFSA on file with a calculated EFC will receive a reduced award upon providing confirmation of U.S. citizenship. Dual enrollment high school students will receive a reduced award upon providing confirmation of U.S. citizenship.

How will I be notified of my award status?

Award notifications will be made available on the student's OneACCS student account (student account detail and summary by term).

How will these funds be disbursed?

Actual award distributions will be made via check delivered through the U.S. Postal Service to the last identified address available in the student's admission record or by electronic refunds to the bank account information currently on file for the student.

Can CACC apply the HEERF award to my student account to pay outstanding balances?

With a student's permission, HEERF II grant funds may be used to satisfy account charges that were posted to the student's account prior to December 27, 2020, so long as the student was enrolled during a period of time for which the national emergency was declared.

Will the HEERF grant funds impact my financial aid award at CACC?

HEERF grant funds will not have an impact on current financial aid awards or any future financial aid awards.

Will I need to report HEERF II grant funds on my federal tax return?

The IRS issued [FAQs on the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund and Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CARES Act](#) that clarifies that CARES Act aid should be treated as a "qualified disaster relief payment" and not be treated as

taxable income. Each financial award you receive from the federal government and other sources will have separate and unique tax consequences for your federal tax return. Visit the [IRS website](#) for assistance.

Who can I contact for more information or if I have questions about my award?

If you have questions about the HEERF II grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office.