

CRRSAA: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on December 27, 2020. This new law gives the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) approximately \$22.7 billion to distribute to institutions of higher education in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus through the HEERF II. 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.

Institutions must make financial aid grants to students, which can be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. Unlike the CARES Act, the HEERF II (CRRSAA) requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants.

Lakeland University signed and agreed to the Certification and Agreement with the Department of Education on April 10, 2020. Lakeland assures to you no less than 50% of the funds received under section 314 of the CRRSAA Act for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Lakeland’s total allocation was \$2,194,050 and Lakeland was required to issue a minimum of \$680,556 for students designated as the student portion under CRRSAA.

As of April 30, 2021, \$1,324,148 dollars has been approved and released to 1076 students in accordance with Section 314 of the Act. This distribution is final for the Student portion of CRRSAA Funding (HEERF II).

Lakeland University has an estimated number of 2500 students at the institution eligible to participate in the program under section 484 in the Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 314 of the Act.

Lakeland University distributed the funding as follows:

1. Exceptional Need Category 1: EFC range of zero to 6000.
 - a. 723 students enrolled in the Spring 21 term half time or greater received \$1,385.
 - b. 36 students enrolled less than half time received \$460
2. Exceptional Need Category 2: EFC Range 6001 to 11,000
 - a. 235 students enrolled in the Spring 21 term half time or greater received \$1000.
 - b. 19 students enrolled less than half time received \$335
3. Application deadline was April 16th :
 - a. 63 students were approved ranging \$250 to \$1000
 - b. The amount was based on the application data and approved by a committee.

Lakeland University guided students through this process by providing instructions via email on how to claim funds and how the funds would be disbursed. Lakeland also communicated how to apply for funds to meet the April 16th deadline.