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Cc: Steve W. Wrigley; Teresa MacCartney; Tristan Denley; Ashley Jones May; Edward Tate; Josiah Heidt; John Fuchko; Jeff Davis; Amanda Bibby; Jason A. Matt; Joyce A. Jones; Rich Loftus; Tracy Ireland
Subject: HEERF III Student Grant Funding Guidance
Date: Friday, June 18, 2021 11:00:55 AM

Dear Presidents & Chief Business Officers:

As you know, HEERF III Student Grant funding is now available. These are Supplemental Student Grant Funds to be provided as financial grants to students. The supplemental student grants do not require a new certification, and your institution should have been notified that the funds are already available in G5. Drawing down the supplemental funds constitutes acceptance of the supplemental student aid terms and conditions that will be attached to your Grant Award Notification (also available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arpheerfiiisupplementa1student.pdf>). Your institution **should not** draw down any HEERF III funds until you have received approval from the System Office.

Institutions must submit for approval their proposed plans for distributing these funds to Jeff Davis at jeff.davis@usg.edu.

As with previous awards, the Department of Education has already calculated the minimum total student grant allocation for your institution and is providing the HEERF III minimum Student Grant funds and Institutional funds through separate Funding Opportunity Numbers in G5.

Allowable Use of Funds

- Any component of the student's cost of attendance
- Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare.

As with HEERF II, you are permitted to apply these grants directly to the student's institutional account **if your institution obtains a student's written (or electronic), affirmative consent**; however, students must be informed that they retain the option to receive a direct disbursement of the financial aid grant and that your institution cannot require that the grant be applied to the student's account.

Exceptional need must still be prioritized. The includes students who receive Pell Grants,

but students do not need to be Pell recipients or Pell eligible to show exceptional need.

(NEW) Eligible Students

The Department of Education has redefined “eligible student” for purposes of who can receive grants under any HEERF program. **An eligible student is now any individual who is or was enrolled at your institution on or after March 13, 2020.** Because of this new definition, your institution should use only (1) “enrollment on or after March 13, 2020” and (2) “exceptional need” to determine eligibility for a grant for all future awards of any HEERF student grants.

Timing, Reporting, and Audit

Timing - HEERF III student grants must be distributed within one calendar year from the date of your institution’s award. Institutions are obligated to minimize the time between drawing down funds from G5 and paying obligations incurred. **For the Student Grant portion of the HEERF III funds, this period between draw down and obligation (i.e., making the financial grants to students) should be no more than 15 calendar days.** In addition, your institution must draw down some portion of the student grant funding within 90 days of the date of award.

Reporting - Reporting for HEERF III funds will generally follow the same requirements as for CARES and HEERF II. We will be providing updated accounting and reporting guidance covering all HEERF funding at a later date.

Institutions should record the HEERF III Student Grant Fund revenue in the same manner as the prior funding:

Revenue Account: 491110 - Fed CARES/HEERF III Grants-Non-Operating
Expense Account: 781180 – CARES/HEERF II Grant Expense
Fund: 20000 – Sponsored
Program: 18100 – Scholarships
Class: 61000 - Sponsored - Federal
Project ID: “HEERFIII_GRANTS” embedded in Project id, to make unique from Institutional portion
CFDA: 84.425E

Additional accounting and reporting guidance will be provided separately.

Audit - The receipt of these funds in FY2021 and the level of funding means that institutions should anticipate these funds being subject to audit coverage as a part of the FY2021 financial audit engagement.

Additional Resources

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HEERF III FAQs - <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arpfaq.pdf>

Finally, and as stated earlier, institutions must submit for approval their proposed plans for these funds to Jeff Davis at jeff.davis@usg.edu.

Thank you,

Tracey