



Memo: HEERF

To: College Community
From: Financial Aid Director
Date: 10/1/2020
Title: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students
Purpose: To provide the College community with information relevant to the HEERF program.

HEERF

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) recently announced the allocation of emergency financial aid grants to students, through universities and colleges, as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

Under the HEERF, currently enrolled Central Penn College students may qualify for additional financial aid grants for education-related expenses due to the disruption of campus operations. Education-related expenses include course materials, technology (computers, internet access, etc.), transportation, food, childcare, housing, healthcare and other items covered under a student's cost of attendance.

Central Penn College signed the Certification and Agreement on April 14, 2020. The total amount that we received is \$275,347.

The College adopted the USDOE guidelines when determining eligibility. These guidelines are as follows:

- Active students during the Winter 2020 term, must have been enrolled in at least one on-ground course as of March 13, 2020.
- Active students who started in the Spring term, must have been registered for at least one on-ground course during the term.
- Active students must be eligible for Title IV funding (as determined by the FAFSA and SAP)
- Students must be in an active status at the time of disbursement

The College used a three-tier system for determining the dollar amount of emergency grant funds to award to each student. The three-tier system is as follows:

- Tier One: EFCs between 0 and 5,599 receive \$600
- Tier Two: EFCs between 5,600 and 10,500 receive \$450
- Tier Three: EFCs between 10,501 and 92,495 receive \$300

Eligible students must sign an acknowledgment form before the College can release the emergency grant funds. Eligible students can find the acknowledgment form in the alerts section of their student portal. You can also view the amount awarded in your student portal. The emergency grant funds are released once the acknowledgment form is complete. The processing time needed to issue the funds is approximately two weeks from the acknowledgment date.

There are 850 number of students eligible to participate in Title IV-eligible programs. Of those students 383 met the requirements to receive emergency grant funding. We notified all of the eligible students that they qualified for the CARES Act funding under HEERF. We directed each eligible student to complete an acknowledgement form before we released the funds. As of the date of this memo, 380 students acknowledged their understanding of the program and we disbursed \$194,850. We had three students who did not submit the acknowledgement form after weekly attempts made via email, phone and text. These students are no longer eligible since they do not plan to return to our summer term.

We retained \$80,497 funds in reserve for our summer 2020 term which started on July 6, 2020. We anticipate all \$275,347 will be disbursed to our students who were originally eligible and registered for classes in our summer 2020 term (institutions have one year from initial disbursement to release HEERF funds).

We were able to give 260 students another HEERF Check during our summer 2020 term which totaled \$80,117. The College used a three-tier system for determining the dollar amount of emergency grant funds to award to each student. The three-tier system is as follows:

- Tier One: EFCs between 0 and 5,599 receive \$413
- Tier Two: EFCs between 5,600 and 10,500 receive \$263
- Tier Three: EFCs between 10,501 and 92,495 receive \$113

We currently have 11 students who still need to cash their checks in the amount of \$3,380. We will continue to remind them; however, they will forfeit the money once our fall term starts. We still have \$380 to award in the account.

Should you have any questions about the CARES Act, please contact the financial aid department at kathyshepard@centralpenn.edu or visit <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>