

## CRRSAA: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II)

### Student Aid Report (Information as of March 31, 2021)

#### 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 Department of Education requires to report on the use of funds no later than 6 months after the date of this award in a manner to be specified by the Secretary pursuant to section 314(e) of the CRRSAA. Recipient must also promptly and timely provide a detailed accounting of the use of funds provided by this award in such manner and with such subsequent frequency as the Secretary may require. Recipient will comply with any other applicable reporting requirements including those in Section 15011(b)(2) of Division B of the CARES Act.

#### Required Information

**1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.**

Institutions who received HEERF I grant funds under the CARES Act were not required to submit an application for the HEERF II grant. Villanova University received its HEERF II Grant Award Notification on January 17, 2021. In keeping with the terms of acceptance of these funds, Villanova University will use no less than \$2,149,710, as stated under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA, to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

**2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA.**

The total amount available to Villanova from the Department of Education from the HEERF II grant award is **\$2,149,710** is allocated solely for direct student emergency assistance.

**3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).**

As of March 31, 2021, Villanova has distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants in the amount of **\$1,249,225**. Grant disbursements were made through direct deposit payments to the students' personal bank accounts and by issuance of checks mailed to the student's home address.

**4. The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA.**

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.

As of March 31, 2021, Villanova enrolled 4,556 title IV eligible students as indicated by FAFSA filings. All of these students are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 314(a)(1) of CRRSAA. Villanova estimates these funds will be distributed to approximately 2,949 of the neediest of these students (approximately 2,679 undergraduates and approximately 270 graduate and law students).

**5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA.**

As of March 31, **2,005 students** have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants Section 314(a)(1) of CRRSAA.

**6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA.**

**Undergraduate distributions**

Emergency grants are available to students who are experiencing unexpected financial stresses due to the COVID-19 crisis. Grants started to be funded in Spring 2021 by the federal government through the [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\) II](#). The FAFSA was used to determine Title IV eligibility so only students who completed a FAFSA were deemed eligible to be considered for funding.

Awards were distributed on a tiered approach to assist those students with the greatest need the most. Federal Pell Grant recipients received the highest grant amount since these students demonstrate the greatest financial need. Since our need-based aid programs are based on student and family income, this method also ensures that students with demonstrated financial need are assisted, that is, those most likely to be financially affected by the pandemic.

Block grant award amounts were determined for the following groups: Pell Grant recipients, recipients of institutional need-based aid, recipients of other non-institutional need-based aid and students from the BSN Express program. Non-Pell recipients' awards were tiered using the Expected Family Contribution. Additionally, undergraduate students who were not initially selected to receive funds were able to apply for HEERF II funding through an application process. These students were also required to complete the FAFSA along with the institutional application.

Grants were made to students enrolled in campus and online programs, degree and non-degree seeking, credit, non-credit or dual enrollment.

Grants may 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), childcare, other educational expenses.

**Distributions to Graduate and Law Students**

Emergency grants are available to students who are experiencing unexpected financial stresses due to the COVID-19 crisis. Grants started to be funded in Spring 2021 by the federal government through the [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\) II](#). The FAFSA was used to determine Title IV eligibility so only students who completed a FAFSA were deemed eligible to be considered for funding.

Graduate, doctoral and law students seeking funds for expenses related to their educational needs during the pandemic applied for funding through a single step survey. The CRRSA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need and authorizes grants to students enrolled in both campus and on-line programs, degree and non-degree seeking.

To help determine exceptional financial need, Villanova is requiring all U.S. citizens and permanent residents to file a [FAFSA](#). Exceptions to filing a FAFSA may be granted but students would have to provide sufficient document to prove exceptional need without a FAFSA.

Grants may 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), childcare, other educational expenses.

Awards will not exceed demonstrated need for funding. Awards through the application process will generally be \$1,000, but higher amounts may be requested and awarded under extreme hardship circumstances.

#### **7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.**

The communication to undergraduate students who received awards can be found [here](#).

The communication to graduate and law students who received awards can be found [here](#).

Overview information about the CRRSAA HEERF II Act grants to students, as well as other financial relief related to COVID-19, can be found on Villanova's [HEERF II Student Hardship Fund](#).