

University of Louisville - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Reporting - Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

HEERF III Reporting

1. The University of Louisville signed and returned the 'Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement' for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 10th, 2020. An additional Certification and Agreement was not required for HEERF III. The university committed to provide no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 314(a)(1) to Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
2. The Minimum Amount for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students for the University of Louisville is \$18,854,679.
3. As of September 30, 2021, \$9,984,363.18 has been distributed to students.
4. The University of Louisville estimates 19,368 students are eligible to receive Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 314(a)(1) and over 12,000 have been confirmed as eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in the Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.
5. As of September 30, 2021, 11,557 unique students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act, totaling 11,997 total awards.
6. The University of Louisville's methodology for distributing funds (11,997 total awards):

Block Grants.

All Block Grants bypassed university accounts and were provided to students as a residual.

The university was able to prioritize need among undergraduates by relying on FAFSA data. For undergraduate students, awards ranged in amount from \$400 to \$1500 and were based on EFC (0-EFC students received \$1,500 grants, high-EFC students and students with No FAFSA received \$400, and there was a scale/grid for students between).

11,386 "block grants" have been awarded to continuing students at the University of Louisville. Undergraduate students were automatically evaluated for eligibility (9,941 students awarded). Graduate students were asked to confirm a financial need (1,445 students awarded and See Communication #1 below). All students receiving funds via block grant were provided a communication (see Communication #2 below).

Targeted HEERF Efforts

All Targeted HEERF Efforts allowed students to have the option of receiving the funds via a residual/bypass the university account OR apply to the university account. UofL used an electronic form to collect this information and see Communication #3 for an example communication.

Given the inherent nature of the individualized, targeted effort to identify students, student need was prioritized throughout these targeted mechanisms of distributing HEERF funds.

364 students have been awarded at the discretion of a University of Louisville Student Success Coordinator. Individual appointments were required to discuss a student's personal and financial situation. The professional staff recommended an award amount based on the student's unique situation.

3 students have been awarded to assist with math readiness in advance of their first year of college.

138 students have been awarded at the discretion of the Student Financial Aid Office and the Financial Aid Counseling Team. Students were reviewed as part of the Professional Judgement process and evaluated accordingly.

106 students have been awarded based on a successful appeal of institutional aid that was lost from the 20-21 aid year to the 21-22 aid year.

7. Communication #1. Graduate and Professional students were asked to confirm a financial need before a block grant was applied. The template:

Dear <First Name>,

Based on the latest federal stimulus legislation, we are able to make funds available through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). As a continuing student enrolled in a graduate or professional program for the fall 2021 semester, you are eligible to apply for funds if you've incurred expenses associated with the pandemic.

You are receiving this invitation to apply based on the information we have available in our student information system. This application will be tied directly to your UofL Student ID number. For this reason do NOT forward this email or application link.

If you are in need of financial support, click on the link below and use your UofL credentials (ULink user ID and password) to login and complete the application by **Wednesday, July 14, 2021**.

https://louisville.edu/financialaid/federal_heerf_III_grant_application

After you submit the application, you will receive a confirmation email and our office will review your account and post eligible funds in approximately 7-10 business days. The award range is \$400 to \$800.

The Student Financial Aid Office is here to assist you. Contact us at finaid@louisville.edu or (502) 852-5511 if you have you have questions or need additional information.

Communication #2. All students receiving a block grant:

Dear <First Name>,

A Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Grant has been disbursed to you through the university's refund process.

If you have not already done so, we highly encourage you to establish your refund method via ULink. Instructions for this process are available on the [Bursar's website](#). This will allow for the fastest delivery of funds directly to you.

If you would like the HEERF award to apply to your student account to cover Fall 2021 tuition or other costs, please know the funds will be directed to you in the form of a refund and you must take action to use these funds to pay your university account. Instructions for making payment to the university are outlined on the [Bursar's website](#).

The Student Financial Aid Office is here to assist you. Contact us at finaid@louisville.edu or (502) 852-5511 if you have questions or need additional information.

Communication #3. Each Targeted HEERF Effort of awarding utilized an electronic intake form that included a question that allowed students to elect to have a HEERF award applied to the university bill. While the entire intake form is not germane to HEERF, an example of the way students were given the option to have the award apply to the university bill is:

The Student Financial Aid Office will receive the amount of the grant award from the Student Success Center. In order to process it correctly, we need to know how YOU would like it applied to your account – please select your preference:

I prefer all grant funds bypass the current charges owed to the university and are refunded directly to me.

The Student Financial Aid Office will receive the amount of the grant award from the Student Success Center. In order to process it correctly, we need to know how YOU would like it applied to your account – please select your preference:

I prefer the grant to apply to any/all university charges first and any excess funds to then be disbursed via the refund process.