

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Student Support Report



On April 14, 2020 under the signature of Ina Sotomayor, Financial Aid and Scholarships Director, University of California, Los Angeles signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004 (a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Of the total \$35,906,970 allocated to UCLA, CARES Act provided \$17,953,435 in student emergency grants.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 included additional Covid-19 relief through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Act under the terms of previously signed Certification and Agreement. Section 314(d)(5) of CRRSAA requires that an institution provide the same amount in financial aid grants to students from CRRSAA funds that it was required to provide under its original CARES Act student aid portion award. Of the additional \$52,623,807 in HEERF funds awarded to UCLA under CRRSA, \$17,953,435 was allocated to student emergency grants.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) signed into law on March 11, 2021, with some changes, is a continuation of the CRSSAA program. Of the additional \$93,156,124 in HEERF funds awarded to UCLA, ARP provided \$46,579,028 in student emergency grants.

The total amount of all HEERF funds that UCLA has received from the Department is \$181,686,801 of which \$82,485,898 will be used to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

The estimated total number of students at UCLA, eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 41,000 students.

Awards Made:

| Awards Made To Students | Number of Students | Amount Disbursed |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| April 14, 2020 - May 15, 2020 (HEERF I) | 18,312 | \$11,038,300 |
| May 16, 2020 - September 30, 2020 (HEERF I) | 4,386 | \$3,542,799 |
| October 1 - December 31, 2020 (HEERF I) | 4,438 | \$2,953,905 |
| January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021 (HEERF I) | 766 | \$418,431 |
| April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021 (HEERF II) | 13,157 | \$17,365,400 |
| July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021 (HEERF II) | 1,184 | \$544,097 |
| October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022 (HEERF II & III) | 13,604 | \$46,566,523 |
| Total (Unduplicated) | 32,651 | \$82,429,455 |

Awarding Methodology:

UCLA used slightly different approach to distributing funds received via CARES, CRSSAA and ARP.

➤ **HEERF I Awarding Methodology**

UNIVERSAL CARES GRANTS:

Since all students were impacted when UCLA moved all instruction on line for Spring 2020 Universal Grants were awarded in the Spring of 2020 to all eligible students who requested funding to cover Covid-related expenses.

NEED BASED GRANTS for UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

Spring 2020: UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships developed a need-based approach based on the Expected Family Contribution and need analysis. CARES funds were not awarded to students who received financial aid to

cover on-campus housing expenses but canceled their housing contracts. Awarding methodology ensured that higher awards were distributed to students with higher financial need since low income students were impacted more significantly by the pandemic.

The table below shows the EFC ranges used to award the Need Based CARE Grant for Undergraduate Students

| EFC Range | Grant Amount | Grant Amount for Special Populations* |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 0 | \$1,200 | \$1,850 |
| 1 - 5,576 | \$1,000 | \$1,550 |
| 5,577 - 14,070 | \$800 | \$1,350 |
| 14,071 - 22,000 | \$500 | \$1,050 |
| 22,001 – with need | \$250 | \$850 |

*Special populations include students with dependent children, former foster youth, students who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, students with disabilities, and system impacted students

Fall 2020: Need-Based CARES Grants were awarded using the following funding priorities:

- Financial aid recipients living in UCLA Residence Halls and impacted by increased housing prices due to the pandemic
- Very high financial need students living in off-campus apartments whose living costs are higher due to social distancing and reducing density in shared spaces. This group included students with Expected Student Contribution on the FAFSA of \$0.
- Students who have historically relied on work-study earnings to help with their educational expenses and who experienced a funding gap because of inability to find employment due to the scarcity of work-study positions available.
- Students who are reporting loss of income or special circumstance due to the pandemic, which prevent them from being able to pay for their educational and living expenses.

Grant awards ranged from \$249 to \$900.

NEED BASED GRANTS FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS:

The distribution methodology focused on the majority of funds going to students who have been most impacted and/or neediest due to COVID-19.

Spring 2020: students who are eligible for the CARES Grant received a survey via email and must have completed it for funding consideration. Survey responses were forwarded to each students' home academic department. Departments then facilitated a needs assessment and submitted their funding recommendations to the Graduate Division. The Graduate Division validated the departmental recommendation against applicable FAFSA data and determined the final funding level. Need-based CARES Grants ranged between \$200 and \$1,850.

Fall 2020: Graduate Division used FAFSA application data to identify neediest students most impacted by the continuing of the pandemic. Awards were \$328 per eligible student.

Professional student's awards ranged from \$200-\$844 and awarding priority was for students with loan debt.

IMPACT CARES GRANTS:

CARES funds were also awarded to undergraduate and graduate students based on individual circumstances submitted via an appeal form and requesting additional funding to cover Covid-related expenses that were not addressed by Universal Grant or Need Based Grant allocations. Impact CARES awards ranged from \$103 to \$5,000.

➤ **HEERF II Awarding Methodology:**

BLOCK GRANTS:

Spring 2021: HEERF2 Block Grants were processed by Financial Aid and Scholarships based on the data on students' financial aid application (FAFSA or DREAM Act Application) for 2020/2021 academic year. Awarding priority was given to students with exceptional financial need as reflected by their Expected Family Contribution and who were enrolled full time on the census

date (end of 3rd week of spring 2021 term). For graduate and professional students the assessment of exceptional need also included the analysis of federal and state loans accepted for 2020/21 academic year. Eligibility for block grants was determined as follows:

| EFC | Undergraduate Award Amount | Graduate/Professional Award Amount |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 0 | \$1,700 | \$2,000 |
| 1 - 2,500 | \$1,400 | \$1,700 |
| 2,501 - 5,576 | \$1,100 | \$1,400 |
| 5,577 - 10,000 | \$500 | \$500 |
| 10,001 - 14,070 | \$300 | \$300 |

Summer 2021: Block grants were awarded to undergraduate FAFSA and DREAM Act application filers with exceptional need (EFC = \$0) who were enrolled full time (at census) in summer sessions. Awards were \$250. Graduate and Professional students with a financial aid application on file, enrolled at least half time (at census) in summer sessions and who demonstrated exceptional need (EFC \$0 to \$14,070) and who had loan debt at UCLA were awarded block grants ranging from \$350 - \$750.

Additional awards were made via an appeal process for students who were not awarded a block grant and/or who documented additional need.

➤ **HEERF III Awarding Methodology:**

Fall 2021: HEERF III Block Grants were processed by Financial Aid and Scholarships based on the data on students' financial aid application (FAFSA or DREAM Act Application) for 2021/22 academic year. Awarding priority was given to students with exceptional financial need as reflected by their Expected Family Contribution and who were enrolled full time on the census date (end of 3rd week of Fall 2021 term) and were packaged for the 2021-2022 academic year as of the Fall census date.

For graduate and professional students the assessment of exceptional need also included the analysis of federal loans borrowed:

- Graduate: aggregate federal loan debt of > \$1,000

- Professional: current (21/22) accepted federal loan debt of \$10,000 or more as of October 2021.

Eligibility for Fall 21 block grants was determined as follows:

| EFC | Ug/Grad Awards* | Professional Students' Award** |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 0 | \$4,500 | \$6,500 |
| 1-2,500 | \$3,500 | \$5,500 |
| 2,501 - 5,846 | \$2,500 | \$4,500 |
| 5,847 - 10,000 | \$500 | \$2,500 |
| 10,001 - 14,070 | \$250 | \$2,250 |

*Additional \$2,000 in block grant eligibility was offered to students who are former foster youth (as determined by the financial aid application or in consultation with the Bruin Resource Center), homeless or at risk of being homeless (as determined by the financial aid application) or system impacted (identified by Bruin Resource Center).

** Professional students are students whose annual cost of attendance exceeds \$49,000 for the academic year due to being assessed Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition.

HEERF III grant funds were also awarded to undergraduate and graduate students based on individual circumstances who requested additional funding to cover their educational expenses.

An appeal form was made available on Financial Aid Website and evaluated by a financial aid counselor who determined the amount of the award using professional judgment.

Instructions, directions, or guidance provided to UCLA students concerning HEERF Student Aid Grants:

HEERF I:

Memorandum: On May 7, 2020 Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Monroe Gordon Jr. issued an electronic memorandum informing UCLA students about the availability of CARES Act Grant funding. To view the memorandum, click on the [CARES Act Grant Funding Memorandum](#).

Webpage: In collaboration with the CARES Act Task Force, the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office developed the [Cares \(HEERF 1\) FAQs](#) to provide information to UCLA students about CARES ACT Grant funding and procedures at UCLA. In addition an appeal form for students who need additional assistance with Covid related expenses is available on our home page

Financial Aid Notifications: Following information was included on the financial aid notification of students who were offered a federal CARES grant: "Federal CARES grant offered exclusively for the purpose of providing emergency financial aid to student experiencing expenses related to the disruptions of campus related operations due to COVID-19. Your award will not be disbursed if you are not enrolled at least half time (6 units undergrad students, 4 units graduate students/professional students).

HEERF II:

Webpage: The Financial Aid and Scholarships Office developed a [CRRSAA \(HEERF 2\) FAQs](#) to provide information to UCLA students about the CRRSA Grant funding and procedures at UCLA. In addition an appeal form for students who need additional assistance was published on the Financial Aid and Scholarships [website](#).

E-mails sent to students awarded block Grants: Email notifications were sent to all students awarded HEERF II block grants to notify them of their eligibility, to advise that a new financial aid award notification would be available in MyUCLA student portal and letting students know of their award amount. The email also informed students that these funds do not impact their eligibility for financial aid and that the award would be released as a full refund to the student and not be applied towards any charges in student's UCLA account.

Financial Aid Notifications: Following information was included on the financial aid notification of students who were offered a HEERF II grant and did not authorize that their grant be applied towards school balances: "You are eligible for HEERF2 emergency student grant. These funds will not be applied to any balances posted in your BruinBill account and you will receive a refund for the full amount of the grant, which you may use to cover your education and/or Covid-related expenses."

Following information was included on the financial aid notification of students who were offered a HEERF II grant and authorized that their grant be applied towards school balances: "You are eligible to receive a grant from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF2). You authorized Financial Aid and Scholarships to apply your grant to your BruinBill student account balance. If there are any funds left over after your BruinBill balance is paid, you will receive a refund."

HEERF III:

Webpage: The Financial Aid and Scholarships Office developed an [ARP \(HEERF 3\) FAQs](#) to provide information to UCLA students about the ARP Grant funding and procedures at UCLA. In addition an appeal form for students who need additional assistance was published on the Financial Aid and Scholarships [website](#).

E-mails sent to students awarded block Grants: Email notifications were sent to all students awarded HEERF III block grants to notify them of their eligibility, to advise that a new financial aid award notification would be available in MyUCLA student portal and letting students know of their award amount. The email also informed students that these funds do not impact their eligibility for financial aid and that the award would be released as a full refund to the student and not be applied towards any charges in student's UCLA account.

Financial Aid Notifications: Following information was included on the financial aid notification of students who were offered a HEERF III grant and did not authorize that their grant be applied towards school balances: "You are eligible for HEERF3 emergency student grant because you demonstrated exceptional financial need on your financial aid application and/or appeal. These funds will not be applied to any balances posted in your BruinBill account and you will receive a refund for the full amount of the grant, which you may use to cover your education and/or Covid-related expenses."