

CARES HEERF Reporting**BACKGROUND**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by the U.S. Congress and then signed into law by the president on March 27, 2020 to allocate financial emergency relief to several sectors including higher education. As part of the CARES Act, the Department of Education created the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

At least 50% of the funds awarded to an institution of higher education must be distributed as emergency aid to students who have had their semester disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency aid can include anything under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

San Jose State University (SJSU) is a beneficiary of \$28,768,546 in funding from HEERF. At least \$14,384,273 will be used to give payments to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare).

CERTIFICATION

On April 11, 2020, SJSU signed and returned to the Department of Education the CARES HEERF Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement. Funding for the program was received on April 30, 2020.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Table 1: Funding amounts and number of eligible students

Name	Amount
Total funding received from CARES Act	\$28,768,546
Reserved for direct payments to students	\$14,384,273
Reserved for institutional support	\$14,384,273
Total funding provided to students from CARES (as of May 28, 2020)	\$13,714,176
Estimated total number of students eligible to receive Title IV aid	14,546
Total number of students who received funding from CARES Act	14,523

DISBURSEMENT OF AUTOMATIC GRANTS

To promptly make available emergency financial aid grants from the HEERF fund to students, aid payments were processed automatically to students who met the following conditions:

- Are currently enrolled (Spring 2020) and matriculated (degree-seeking) undergraduate and graduate students
- Must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress

- Filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form prior to March 13, 2020 (for this current 2019-2020 academic year)
- Are part-time or full-time enrolled in a primarily on-campus degree program
- Are US citizens or permanent resident
- Experiencing unexpected financial hardship from COVID-19

On May 5, 2020, we messaged students who met the eligibility criteria for the automatic block grants (13,554 students). For students whose eligibility we verified using existing financial aid information, we processed aid payments on May 15, 2020. We sent aid payments by direct deposit for students who had direct deposit information on file. On May 18, 2020, we mailed paper checks to students who did not have direct deposit information on file.

DETERMINATION OF AUTOMATIC AID AMOUNTS

California State University issued guidance on April 24, 2020 that HEERF grants be based on each student's documented financial need and in proportion to the financial difficulty faced as a result of COVID-19. The three primary categories included:

- Students with the lowest income status who received maximum state and/or federal aid
- Students with some financial need prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Students without regard to prior state and/or federal aid received

Additionally, per the Department of Education's April 9, 2020 guidance for each institution to prioritize students with the greatest need, SJSU identified students with the highest financial need based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) in the 2019-2020 FAFSA.

SJSU recognized that all students had additional expenses as a result of the switch to remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. All students in the above three groups were provided an automatic aid payment with amounts based on financial need and enrollment status (Table 2).

Table 2: Automatic aid payments by financial need and enrollment status

	Aid amount	# of students	Total
Students with the most financial need (\$0 - \$2000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled in 6.1 units or greater</i>	\$1,100	8033	\$8,836,300
<i>Enrolled in 1.0 to 6.0 units</i>	\$600	543	\$325,800
Students with some financial need (\$2001 - \$6000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled in 6.1 units or greater</i>	\$900	2744	\$2,469,600
<i>Enrolled in 1.0 to 6.0 units</i>	\$500	173	\$86,500

Students with some financial need (\$6001 - \$10000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled in 6.1 units or greater</i>	\$600	1683	\$1,009,800
<i>Enrolled in 1.0 to 6.0 units</i>	\$325	127	\$41,275
All other qualified students	varied	1,071	\$944,901
	TOTAL	14,374	\$13,714,176

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT APPLICATION

\$824,715 of the HEERF grant not distributed through automatic aid payments and priority applications has been reserved for additional emergency funding from remaining applications. This is for students who need additional funding, above and beyond any automatic grant, to help pay for emergency expenses — such as housing, food, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare expenses — incurred as a result of the switch to remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, students who did not meet the automatic grant eligibility were encouraged to submit the Grant Request by Friday, May 15, 2020 for funding consideration (the priority-funding deadline was on May 5, 2020). Applications received by the deadline are being reviewed and emergency grants will be processed as applicable.

On June 19, 2020, we processed emergency grants from HEERF to students who applied for additional funding and who were eligible to receive Title IV aid. We sent aid payments by direct deposit for students who had direct deposit information on file. On June 23, 2020, we mailed paper checks to students who did not have direct deposit information on file.

Table 3: Funding amounts and number of additional emergency grants

Name	Amount
Total funding reserved from CARES direct payments allocation for emergency grants by application	\$824,715
Total CARES funding provided to students by application	\$183,991
Total number of students who received additional emergency grants from CARES by application	149

* Payments made through the application process included students that were eligible for CARES funding but did not receive an automatic grant.