

HEERF II 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 December 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 II (HEERF-II).

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 \$49,792,755 in funding from HEERF. At least \$14,384,773 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 January 14, 2021, the Department of Education announced the CARES HEERF II funding would be made available to institutions.. Funding for the program was drawn down on February 16, 2021 by the institution indicating our agreement to the new terms.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Table 1: Funding amounts and number of eligible students

Name	Amount
Total funding received from HEERF II	\$49,792,7556
Reserved for direct payments to students	\$14,384,773
Reserved for institutional support	\$32,247,166
Total funding provided to students from HEERF II (as of July 7, 2021)	\$14,380,218
Estimated total number of students eligible to receive Title IV aid	20,155
Total number of students who received funding from HEERF II	13,375

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 2021) and matriculated (degree-seeking) undergraduate and graduate students

- Filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form prior to February 26, 2021 (for this current 2020-2021 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 March 2, 2021, we messaged students who met the eligibility criteria for the automatic block grants (13,375 students). For students whose eligibility we verified using existing financial aid information, we processed aid payments on March 10, 2021. We sent aid payments by direct deposit for students who had direct deposit information on file. On March 12, 2021, 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 II 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 2020-2021 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>	\$1,235	7,833	\$9,673,755
<i>Enrolled in 1.0 to 6.0 units</i>	\$670	862	\$577,540
Students with some financial need (\$2001 - \$6000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled in 6.1 units or greater</i>	\$1,010	2907	\$2,936,070

<i>Enrolled in 1.0 to 6.0 units*</i>		0	\$0
Students with some financial need (\$6001 - \$10000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled in 6.1 units or greater</i>	\$670	1761	\$1,179,870
<i>Enrolled in 1.0 to 6.0 units*</i>	\$360	1	\$360
All other qualified students	varied	7	\$8248
TOTAL		13,371	\$14,375,843

*Students in this category were awarded remaining Cares I funds