

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

The [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund](#) (HEERF II) provided funding to colleges and universities for emergency student grants. The purpose of the money is to award emergency financial aid grants to students for specific expenses. Student grants may be used for any component of their cost of attendance, emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, etc. with examples including: tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental health), and childcare.

KCAI has received \$420,333 in student financial aid funding. Following the guidelines set forth by the US Department of Education, these funds will be distributed as emergency financial grants. As designated by the Department of Education, KCAI is required to prioritize grants to students with exceptional financial need, such as those who receive Pell Grants; however, we plan to distribute these funds as widely as possible. Students' financial needs will be determined by the FAFSA.

### What specific expenses are covered by the HEERF II Emergency funding?

HEERF II funding can be used to cover the following expenses.

- any component of the cost of attendance
- emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as:
  - tuition
  - food
  - housing
  - healthcare (including mental health)
  - childcare

### Who is eligible for HEERF II Emergency funding?

In order to be eligible for HEERF II Emergency student funding, a student must be enrolled in the spring 2021 semester.

### How much will eligible students receive in HEERF II Emergency funding?

The HEERF II Emergency grant is a one-time grant. As designated by the US Department of Education, KCAI is required to prioritize grants to students with exceptional financial need, such as those who receive Pell Grants; however, we plan to distribute these funds as widely as possible. Students' financial needs will be determined by the 2020-2021 FAFSA.

<b><u>Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)</u></b>	<b><u>Grant Awarded</u></b>
\$0	\$1,100
\$1-\$5,711	\$1,000
\$5,712-\$12,000	\$700
\$12,001-\$20,000	\$325
\$20,001- above	\$200

**When will eligible students receive their funds?**

Students will receive two emails the week of March 22. The first email will include general information and FAQs about HEERF II funding. The second email will include the amount the student will receive and a request to complete a short online questionnaire. The deadline to complete the questionnaire is by Wednesday, March 31. Payments will begin to be disbursed to students on April 1.

Any funding remaining after the deadline of March 31 may be distributed to other students.

**Will the HEERF II Emergency funding impact my financial aid?**

No. This one-time grant is emergency relief funding provided by Congress.

**Is HEERF II Emergency funding taxable?**

No. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), under section 139, has qualified these funds as “disaster relief payments” therefore, they cannot be included in your gross income. For more information, please review the [FAQ](#). If applied towards your student bill, there is currently an obligation to report accordingly on Form 1098-T.

**Can HEERF II Emergency Funding be applied to my student bill?**

As the recipient of these funds, you may choose to pay the balance of your tuition or student account; however, KCAI will not hold any funds to pay outstanding balances. Students who wish to apply their grant toward the balance of their student account must notify the college of their decision to do so through the online questionnaire.

**If I'm not eligible for HEERF II Emergency Funding are there other emergency funds available?**

No. We do not have additional sources for funding at this time; however, we always encourage students to reach out to student affairs for support and assistance as there are many programs and services in the area that may be of financial benefit to students. Please email student affairs at [studentaffairs@kcai.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@kcai.edu) for assistance.

**Reporting: HEERF II Emergency Student Funding**

- February 2021:
  - The HEERF II working group was established and the allocation of the amount of grants were determined by EFC as noted in students' 2020-2021 FAFSA.
- March 22, 2021
  - The HEERF II working group met to finalize the communication and timeline of the communication of information to students, as well as timeline for the payment of the grants.
- March 23, 2021
  - All students enrolled in the spring 2021 semester have received an email containing information about HEERF II Emergency funding and the timeline for receiving additional information.
- March 25, 2021
  - Students within each EFC grouping have been emailed the funding they will receive through HEERF II funding, as well as the questionnaire. The deadline to complete the questionnaire is Wednesday, March 31.
  - An online informational meeting was hosted on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9:00 p.m. by members of the HEERF II working group. All students received an email on March 23 with an invitation to participate.

- March 31, 2021
  - The online questionnaire was due.
  - 433 students completed the form.
- April 1-2, 2021
  - Students receive HEERF II funding.
  - Total of \$306,725 was awarded.
    - \$69,475 of which was applied to the student's account per their request.
    - \$237,250 was dispersed via check, etc.
- April 15, 2021
  - 207 students who were eligible, but did not return the form were awarded funding equal to \$115,300.
  - Overall \$422,025 was awarded and disbursed students.
    - Amount awarded was slightly higher than what KCAI was awarded. The difference was covered by institutional funding.
  - In summary, all HEERF II student funds were disbursed resulting in 640 students who were awarded funding.