

CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

I, II, and III Report April 2021 – June 2021

(submitted to post on website by July 10, 2021)

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-IHE/Student Aid provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. Students cannot apply for assistance directly from the U.S. Department of Education but should contact their institutions for further information and guidance. Institutions have the responsibility of determining how grants will be distributed to students, how the amount of each student grant is calculated, and the development of any instructions or directions that are provided to students about the grant. Accordingly, the following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1) and updated every 45 days thereafter:

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement (link) 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.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. This report may be a cumulative total of expenditures. Therefore, all figures provided are cumulative totals.

(3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) Student Figures of the CARES Act as of the date of submission.

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	Total Amount Disbursed
Palo Alto College	05/04/2020- 06/30/2021 11:59 PM	HCAR13	1,620,472.00

(4) The estimated total number of students at the institution 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. Estimated figures provide are cumulative and encompass the 1920 and 2021 Aid Years.

College	Timeframe	# of Students
Palo Alto College	Spring 2020- Summer 2021 06/30/2021	5,451

Student Advocacy Center



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
Palo Alto College



210-486-3125

(5) The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	# of Students Paid
Palo Alto College	05/04/2020- 06/30/2021 11:59 PM	HCAR13	2,773

General Statistics of CARES Act Recipients Palo Alto College

Gender	Male	Female
	855	1918
Average Age of Recipients	24.53	
Student Type	Count	
Concurrent HS Student	< 10	
Continuing	2708	
Early College High School	< 10	
New First Time	< 10	
Returning, Former	42	
Transfer	11	
Transient	< 10	
Undeclared	< 10	
Count of New Ethnicity	Count	
Hispanic or Latino	2432	
Not Disclosed	0	
Not Hispanic or Latino	341	
Residency	Count	
In District	2464	
Military Dep-TX Out of Dist	< 10	
Military TX- Out of Dist	< 10	
Military TX-In District	< 10	
Out of District-In State	289	
Out of State	12	
TX Res HB 1403 s2 In District	< 10	
TX Res HB 1403 s4 In Dist	< 10	
Amount Paid		
Number of Students	2773	
Total	\$1,620,472	

Student Advocacy Center



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Palo Alto College



210-486-3125

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	Total Amount Disbursed
Palo Alto College	04/01/2021- 06/30/2021 11:59PM	HHSI13	\$151,050.00

***This report should **not** be cumulative and only list expenditures incurred during the calendar quarter. Therefore, figures provided only encompass April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

314(a)(1)- Student Figures

(3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	Total Amount Disbursed
Palo Alto College	04/06/2021 - 06/30/2021 11:59 PM	HCRRA3 & HCRSA3	\$ 1,616,400.00

(4) The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

College	Timeframe	# of Students
Palo Alto College	Fall 2020 - Summer 2021 06/30/2021	10,322

(5) The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	# of Students Paid
Palo Alto College	04/06/2021 - 06/30/2021 11:59 PM	HCRRA3 & HCRSA3	2,229

314(a)(2)- MSI/HSI Figures

Category: Providing additional emergency financial aid grants to students

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	Total Amount Disbursed
Palo Alto College	04/01/2021 - 06/30/2021	N/A	N/A

2003(a)(1)- Student Figures

(3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	Total Amount Disbursed
Palo Alto College	N/A	N/A	N/A

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210-486-3125

(4) The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

College	Timeframe	# of Students
Palo Alto College	N/A	N/A

(5) The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	# of Students Paid
Palo Alto College	N/A	N/A	N/A

2003(a)(2)- MSI/HSI Figures

College	Timeframe	Fund Code	Total Amount Disbursed
Palo Alto College	04/01/2021 - 06/30/2021	N/A	N/A

6. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 included additional COVID-19 relief through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act. CRRSAA (also called HEERF II) provided Alamo Colleges District (ACD) with \$54,869.824 in (for student and institution) funding using the same Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) model established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

HEERF II: ALLOCATION BREAKDOWN				
<u>OPE ID</u>	<u>CLLG</u>	<u>Total Awd</u>	<u>Min Amt for Stdnt Aid Portion</u> <u>(CFDA 84.425E Alloc)</u>	<u>Max Amt for Inst Portion</u> <u>(CFDA 84.425F Alloc)</u>
00916300	SAC	\$17,950,364	\$3,824,127	\$14,126,237
00360800	SPC	\$8,602,242	\$1,713,753	\$6,888,489
02341300	PAC	\$8,485,780	\$1,620,472	\$6,865,308
03372300	NVC	\$15,424,223	\$3,463,310	\$11,960,913
04263600	NLC	\$4,407,215	\$671,722	\$3,735,493
TTL	ACD	\$54,869,824	\$11,293,384	\$43,576,440

In addition to an increase in the institutional portion from the CARES Act allocation, there were a number of rule changes. The most significant to ACD awarding are:

- Use of funds: Awards may be used for any component of the cost of attendance (COA) and emergency costs that arise from the pandemic, including tuition, food, health & child care. In



addition, CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize awarding students with “exceptional need”. Although ED gives an example of “exceptional need” as Pell Grant eligible, the definition and target population is left to the institution as long as it is thoroughly documented as policy.

- Title IV Eligibility: ED has removed TIV eligibility as a requirement, but maintains a student must be a citizen or eligible non-citizen. Many institutions report (to NASFAA) that they will continue to require FAFSA for proof/record of citizenship. At the time of writing ED has not issued written guidance on the eligibility of undocumented, DACA and international students for HEERF II funds.
- Distance education: Students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses are eligible for awards under HEERF II.
- Student portion of allocation: Institutions are required to award the same amount in HEERF II funds (minimum) as required to award in the initial CARES Act allocation, eliminating the percentage of total allocation formula.

Awarding Philosophy

A national survey conducted by NASFAA reports that a large number of institutions (state and national) plan to award HEERF II funds using a similar (hybrid) philosophy as ACD adopted for initial CARES: 1) batch awarding to specific population, and 2) student application. Justification of batch awarding is twofold: general acceptance that all students were (in some way) affected by the pandemic, and; ED’s narrow disbursement window (timeframe).

Assumptions (Recommended)

1. Exceptional need: Pell Grant eligible ($EFC < 5712$)
2. Eligible citizen: As reported/confirmed by ED (FAFSA)
3. Funds: ACD utilizes funds for both batch and individual (application) awarding Models

Two formulas were used to identify batch award amounts:

1. Percentage of funds: Taking a specific percentage of each college’s allocation and dividing equally among the number of Pell Grant eligible students enrolled during the spring 2021 semester (202120) on February 2, 2021. Breakdowns were analyzed at 100%, 75%, 67% and 50%.
2. Standard award amount: Taking a standard award amount per student for all college’s and dividing equally among the number of Pell Grant eligible students during same time period as above. Breakdowns included awards of \$500 through \$1,000.

Breakdown of the award amounts calculated from the formulas 1&2 were analyzed using multiple disbursements (1-5) spanning spring, summer and fall. Projections did not assume non- enrollment or a transfer/change of homeschools for disbursements three through five.

Percentage of funds (formula 1) was ruled out for multiple reasons, specifically related to the significant difference in award amounts (given the range of allocations per college and number of Pell eligible students) between colleges and possible issues involving homeschool transfers and general public relations. See related spreadsheet, “Percentage of Allocation” tab.

Standard award amount (formula 2) assumes a set (same) amount to be awarded to each Pell eligible student regardless of homeschool and tables include the total amount remaining to be used for student applications. See tables and related spreadsheet.



Recommendation

One (1) standard award of \$500-700 would be impactful and “significant” to offset costs/expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, deter issues arising from different award amounts per college across the District and allow all colleges to retain substantial amounts which could be dedicated to individual students submitting applications.

Notes

- Amounts used in the projections/analysis are the minimum which ED requires each college to use for student awarding.
- Dollar amounts and percentages related to remaining funds noted in charts are date sensitive. The number of Pell eligible students increase as ISIRs are processed and determine eligibility (number of students increases as FAFSAs are received).
- All remaining unused (not disbursed) CARES (HEERF) funds may be awarded under “new” rules applied to the CRRSAA HEERF II funds.
- If HEERFII funds are credited to institutional tuition and fees:
 - Student’s signed acknowledgement allowing institution to do so is required. (Option to allow will be added to the HEERFII application.)
 - Only those charges related to terms after December 27, 2020 (date of CRRSAA enactment) may be credited.
- ACD has one year from the date the supplemental funds were processed to disburse all funds. Initial drawdown must happen within ninety (90) days of G5 post (April). Once drawdown, institution must disburse within fifteen (15) calendar days.
- Based on conversations between NASFAA and ED, HEERFII funds will not be considered estimated financial assistance (EFA), therefore not affecting a student’s federal and state financial aid package.
- Institutions may not use HEERFII funds that would in any way imply or require students to enroll in

Information to Students on Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants. All information provided to students is found on our website at alamo.edu/studentemergencyaid.

Important Documents and Links

- [Recipient’s Funding Certification and Agreement Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)
- Federal Student Aid: Emergency Aid Requirements and Steps to Apply