

## **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I, II, III)**

### **U.S. Department of Education Quarterly Reporting Requirement as of June 30, 2021**

#### **CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I)**

LSUS signed the funding certification and agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 16, 2020 and plans to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to students. LSUS will also use approximately \$270,000 of the Institutional Portion to distribute emergency financial aid grants.

- LSUS received \$912,943 (50%) of the total Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) dollars allocated to the university for emergency student aid.
- LSUS used an additional \$269,057 of the Institutional Portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to award emergency student aid
- As of May 8, 2020, \$1,182,600 has been distributed to students
- Approximately 1,480 students are eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant
- As of May 8, 2020, 1,480 students have received an emergency financial aid grant
- All eligible students were awarded CARES Act funding. Award amounts ranged from \$125 - \$1,000 depending on enrollment status and financial need

Eligible students are defined as:

- Enrolled in an eligible program
- A U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen
- With a Valid 2019-2020 FAFSA on file as of March 13, 2020
- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress as of March 13, 2020
- Not in default or owe an overpayment on a Title IV grant or loan
- Having documents on file verifying the student's identity, a statement of educational purpose, selective service registration, birth certificate and social security number

The language of the law specifically prohibits the following types of students from receiving the emergency grants:

- International and undocumented students
- Dual enrollment students
- Students enrolled in 100% online programs

The following email was sent to student recipients once funding was awarded:

You have been awarded an Emergency Financial Aid Grant, provided by the CARES Act recently passed by Congress. Your award is posted on myLSUS under the Financial Aid Awards tab and you should receive a check or electronic disbursement in 5-7 business days. This award is a direct payment to you and will not be applied to any outstanding University balance. No further action is required on your part.

In order to assist all eligible students as defined by the CARES Act guidelines, LSUS used two factors to determine award amounts: your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from your 2019-20 FAFSA, and your spring enrollment status (please see table below).

<b>EFC</b> (found on your 2019-20 Student Aid Report)	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Less than Half-Time</b>
0-5,576 (Pell eligible range)	\$1,000	\$750	\$375
5,577-14,999	\$750	\$500	\$250
15,000+	\$500	\$250	\$125

The Emergency Financial Aid Grants are meant to assist students enrolled in face-to-face programs with the expenses incurred during the transition to online learning. You should use these funds for technology and technology-related needs, food, housing, course materials, healthcare, childcare, and other costs related to the disruption of campus operations from COVID-19.

We understand the transition to online learning due to COVID-19 has greatly affected our students. We admire your perseverance during this uncertain time and hope this Emergency Financial Aid Grant provided through the CARES Act will assist with your incurred expenses.

We understand this last semester has been challenging dealing with COVID-19 and the disruption to campus.

### **Cares Act HEERF Emergency Relief Grants for Students**

The **Cares Act HEERF Award** is a cash award from the federal government that will be paid directly to eligible students from the CARES Act funding provided to LSUS by the federal government. These funds were provided to assist with costs associated with campus disruptions in Spring 2020 due to the pandemic.

In compliance with the guidelines and eligibility requirements set forth by the U.S. Department of Education, the following criteria outlines which students are eligible for funding, as well as those who are not eligible.

Students who **are** eligible for CARES Act awards are:

- Enrolled in a traditional, on-campus degree program as of March 13, 2020; and,
- Making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree at LSUS; and,
- Have completed a FAFSA and eligible to receive federal Title IV aid.

Students who **are not** eligible and will not receive an award:

- Any student enrolled in a 100% online program as of March 13, 2020.
- International students who are not eligible to submit a FAFSA or receive Title IV aid.
- Non-degree seeking students.
- Visiting students.

Any student meeting the eligibility requirements listed above will automatically receive a CARES Act award. LSUS did not require an application for these awards and checks will be mailed to the student's mailing address listed on the myLSUS portal if no banking info was on file.

### How Funds are Distributed

Through the CARES Act, LSUS received \$912,943 million in student-aid funding for distribution to address student needs associated with the disruption to campus operations from the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, to be eligible for consideration, students are required to have a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file, must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress, and not enrolled in a 100% online program. All eligible undergraduate, graduate and practical nursing students enrolled in the Spring 2020 semester as of March, 13, 2020 will receive aid according to a sliding scale based on enrollment status and demonstrated financial need per their current FAFSA on file.

### How Students Receive Funds

Students receiving funding will either have it direct deposited to their bank account on file with the Accounting Services Office or receive a check mailed to the mailing address listed on myLSUS if they do not have a bank account on file. All students can enroll in direct deposit by logging into their myLSUS account and selecting "My Financials" then "Sign-up/Change Options" then "Electronic Disbursements." For questions or more information, please contact the Accounting Services Office at [accounting\\_services@LSUS.edu](mailto:accounting_services@LSUS.edu).

## CRRSAA Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II)

LSUS signed the funding certification and agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Virus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) on January, 17, 2021 and plans to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of emergency financial aid grants to students. LSUS will also use approximately \$1.23 million of the Institutional Portion to distribute emergency financial aid grants.

- LSUS received \$912,943 of the total Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) dollars allocated to the university for emergency student aid.
- LSUS used an additional \$1,229,457 of the Institutional Portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) to award emergency student aid
- As of April 22, 2021, \$2,142,400 has been distributed to students
- Approximately 4,928 students are eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant
- As of April 22, 2021, 4,928 students have received an emergency financial aid grant
- All eligible students were awarded CRRSAA Act funding. Award amounts ranged from \$175 - \$575 depending on financial need

Eligible students are defined as:

- Enrolled for the Spring 2021 semester through their respective census date
- A U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen
- With a complete financial aid file as of March 30, 2021 including a 2020-21 FAFSA and all additional requested documents, and who are eligible to receive Title IV aid
- Graduate and Undergraduate Degree Seeking, TeachLSUS, and Practical Nursing Programs

The language of the law specifically prohibits the following types of students from receiving the emergency grants:

- International and undocumented students
- Dual enrollment students and Continuing Education students

The following email was sent to student recipients once funding was awarded:

You have been awarded a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) Grant, provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) signed into law on December 27, 2020.

Your HEERF II Grant is now posted on myLSUS under the Financial Aid Awards tab. In order to receive your HEERF II Grant, please complete the [LSUS HEERF II Fund Distribution Choice](#) by April 18, 2021.

Funds will be disbursed April 19, and students can expect a check or electronic payment **5 – 7 business days thereafter**.

You may apply this award to a prior outstanding LSUS balance or elect to receive a direct payment. This award will not be applied towards your summer or fall LSUS charges.

In order to assist all eligible students as defined by the HEERF II guidelines, LSUS used your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the 2020-21 FAFSA to determine your award amount.

<b>EFC</b> (found on your 2020-21 Student Aid Report)	<b>Full-Time</b>
0 - 5,711 (Pell eligible range)	\$575
5,712 - 14,999	\$375
15,000+	\$175

The HEERF II Grant may be used to pay for school (or any component of the cost of attendance) or for emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19. Costs include tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental healthcare), or childcare.

If you wish to have your award pay an outstanding LSUS balance, you must opt in using the link above. Please note you will be unable to register for classes if you owe an outstanding balance.

For more information on the HEERF II Grant and instructions, please review the attached HEERF II FAQ document or visit our [LSUS Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

### **CRRSAA Act HEERF Emergency Relief Grants for Students**

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) signed into law on December 27, 2020, gave the U.S. Department of Education funds to distribute to institutions of higher education in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II).

The CRRSAA law has some similarities, as well as important differences, from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) enacted on March 27, 2020. Like the CARES Act, the CRRSAA Act provides grants to students, but an important difference is that students enrolled in exclusively distance education (100% online) courses will now be allowed to receive an award under the CRRSAA law.

Because of this, significantly more students at LSUS will receive an award under CRRSAA.

Last year, LSUS distributed \$1.1 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to eligible students who experienced education disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, LSUS will award an additional \$1.2 million through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) to continue to support students who have an exceptional need due to COVID- 19. In compliance with the guidelines and eligibility requirements set forth by the

U.S. Department of Education, the following criteria outlines which students are eligible for funding, as well as those who are not eligible.

Students who **are** eligible for CRRSAA Act awards are:

- Students enrolled for the Spring 2021 semester through their respective census date
- Students with a complete financial aid files as of March 30, 2021 including a FAFSA and all additional requested documents, and who are eligible to receive Title IV aid
- Student who are considered an eligible citizen or non-citizen as determined by the FAFSA
- Graduate and Undergraduate Degree Seeking Students, TeachLSUS Students and Practical Nursing Students

Students who **are not** eligible and will not receive an award:

- Federal guidelines exclude undocumented and international students from receiving HEERF II funds
- Non-degree seeking students, including Dual Enrollment and Continuing Education Students (other than Practical Nursing Students)

Any student meeting the eligibility requirements listed above will automatically receive a CRRSAA Act award. LSUS did not require an application for these awards.

Students awarded a HEERF II Grant may use this award to pay for the following:

- Federal components of their cost of attendance
- Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as:
  - Tuition
  - Food
  - Housing
  - Healthcare (including mental)
  - Childcare

This emergency financial aid grant does not have to be repaid. It is important to note that students may use the funds towards any unpaid balance at LSUS.

### How Funds are Distributed

Through the CRRSAA Act, LSUS received \$912,943 million in student-aid funding for distribution to continue to support students who have an exceptional need due to COVID- 19. Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, to be eligible for consideration, students are required to have a valid 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be eligible to receive Title IV aid. All

eligible undergraduate and graduate students enrolled through their respective census date for the Spring 2021 semester will receive aid according to a sliding scale based on demonstrated financial need per their current FAFSA on file.

#### **How Students Receive Funds**

Students who have a balance with LSUS will have the option to apply their HEERF II Grant towards charges. Details about this process will be communicated to students via email. Funds will be posted on myLSUS by April 13, 2021 and paid in the form of a direct deposit (if set up) or a paper check by US mail to your student mailing address on file in myLSUS. LSUS plans to issue payments during the week of April 19, 2021. All students can enroll in direct deposit by logging into their myLSUS account and selecting "My Financials" then "Sign-up/Change Options" then "Electronic Disbursements." For questions or more information, please contact the Accounting Services Office at [accounting\\_services@LSUS.edu](mailto:accounting_services@LSUS.edu).

#### **ARP American Rescue Plan Act (HEERF III)**

As of May 15, 2021 our institution received \$3,133,763.00. As of June 30, 2021 no funds have been expended.