

# **Western Nebraska Community College's Report on funds received from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) to provide Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) Student Grants**

## ***30-day Report, June 12, 2021***

Western Nebraska Community College is required to provide regular reports to the U.S. Department of Education on the use of allocated funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) and distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) for student grants. Funds received by Western Nebraska Community College under CRRSAA were authorized by Congress and signed into law by the President on December 27, 2020. The information noted below is intended to not only meet the reporting requirements of the CRRSAA but also provide information to the college community regarding WNCC's use of the student grant portion of HEERF II.

Section 314(e) of CRRSAA, Pub. L 116-260, directs institutions receiving funds under section 314 to submit (in a time and manner required by the Secretary) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the HEERF. Section 314(d)(5) of CRRSAA requires that an institution receiving funds under section 314(a)(1) provide the same amount in financial aid grants to students from the new CRRSAA funds that it was required or which it would have been required to provide under its original Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Student Aid Portion award.

Under the CRRSAA program, student portion funds must be used to provide financial aid grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education) which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. In making financial aid grants to students, an institution of higher education must prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants.

The following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public. This information must be updated no later than 10 days after the end of

each calendar quarter (September 30, December 31, March 31, June 30) thereafter, unless the Secretary specifies an alternative method of reporting:

1. *An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.*
  - Western Nebraska Community College signed the U.S. Department of Education Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students on April 20, 2020. The certification and agreement document was submitted April 29, 2020. No new application was required for HEERF II since WNCC has received funds under CARES. The U.S. Department of Education provided WNCC with an electronically signed Grant Award Notification (GAN) for HEERF II on January 19, 2021.
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 under the CRRSAA program.*
  - Western Nebraska Community College will receive \$402,849 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
3. *The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA program as of the date of this report:*
  - \$380,600 was distributed to WNCC students as of April 23, 2021.
4. *The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA program:*
  - There were approximately 684 eligible WNCC students as of April 23, 2021.
5. *The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA program.*
  - 593 eligible students were disbursed Emergency Financial Aid Grants as of April 23, 2021.
6. *The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA program.*
  - Western Nebraska Community College identified all students enrolled for the Spring 2021 semester. WNCC prioritized students having exceptional financial need using the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the college. Students enrolled exclusively online were eligible.
  - All Pell grant eligible students enrolled full-time received an award of \$800. Award amounts were then prorated based on enrollment level with no student

receiving less than \$250. Students with Expected Family Contributions (EFCs) less than 18000 received awards of \$250 to \$700, based on enrollment level. The Financial Aid Office obtained the eligible students' corresponding Expected Family Contribution from the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) created by the FAFSA. The data was stratified by EFC and by enrollment level. The chart below shows the EFC and enrollment strata summary.

- **Overview of the distribution of CRRSAA HEERF II student grants as of April 23, 2021:**

EFC/Enrollment	*Eligible Students	CARES Amount	*Total CARES Grant	*% of Total Disbursed
0-5711 EFC/12+ credits		\$800		
0-5711 EFC/9-11 credits		\$600		
0-5711 EFC/6-8 credits		\$400		
0-5711 EFC/<6 credits		\$250		
5712-17999 EFC/12+ credits		\$700		
5712-17999 EFC/9-11 credits		\$525		
5712-17999 EFC/6-8 credits		\$350		
5712-17999 EFC/<6 credits		\$250		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>593</b>		<b>\$380,600</b>	<b>94.48%</b>

\*Detail for each cohort not provided to protect personally identifiable information from student education records.

7. *Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.*

- WNCC [COVID-19 web](#) information
- Email notifications were sent to each student awarded alerting them to distribution of funds
- Letter distributed to students with checks (see below)



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April 9, 2021

Dear WNCC Student:

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) signed into law December 27, 2020, established a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) providing emergency financial aid grants to students to be used for coronavirus relief. Under CRRSAA, institutions must prioritize grants to students with exceptional financial need. Students who attend exclusively online are eligible to receive HEERF II student grants. According to U.S. Department of Education guidance, students must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen to receive HEERF II grants. Western Nebraska Community College utilizes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to confirm citizenship and to measure level of financial need.

Enclosed is a check for **HEERF II** emergency grant funds based on confirmation of eligibility to receive a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund grant under the guidelines established under the CRRSAA. Emergency grant funds are intended to assist in covering any component of student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental), or childcare.

Amounts of grants were determined based on WNCC's allocation under CRRSAA, the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated by the 2020-2021 FAFSA, and level of enrollment for the Spring 2021 semester. As directed by the U.S. Department of Education, WNCC may not use student emergency grant funds to pay any unpaid balances without the student's written authorization, so no amounts due to the college have been deducted from this aid.

Questions about these funds may be directed to either the WNCC Financial Aid Office at [financialaid@wnc.edu](mailto:financialaid@wnc.edu) or to the WNCC Business Office at [e-accounts@wnc.edu](mailto:e-accounts@wnc.edu). Information about the taxability of HEERF II grants to students and eligibility requirements may be found at <https://wnc.edu/about-wnc/campus-safety/covid-19-faq#currentstudentscovid> under Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund/COVID 19 Financial Aid Information.

WNCC wishes you the best of health and the successful pursuit of your academic goals.