

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II and III Reporting

### CRRSAA (HEERF II) and ARP (HEERF III) Acts

#### Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Reporting Requirements: Initial HEERF II reporting was completed on June 10, 2021. DSU has exhausted all funds received under HEERF II funding, as of April 13, 2021. DSU does not currently have an official procedure for the disbursement of HEERF III funds. HEERF I funds were exhausted on September 25, 2020, see HEERF I reporting for details.

1. Dickinson State University (DSU) originally signed and returned the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act on April 17, 2020. HEERF II and III funds were automatic grant awards with the HEERF I agreement. Drawdown of funds is considered acceptance of the grant. DSU intends to provide the full mandated amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under both Acts.

2. The CRRSAA was signed into law on December 27, 2020. DSU has been allocated \$320,047 under the student grant portion. DSU received authorization of this funding on January 17, 2021. The CRRSAA funds were received on April 14, 2021.

The ARP Act was signed into law on March 11, 2021. DSU received authorization of the HEERF III funding on May 17, 2021 and has been allocated \$1,079,161 in student grants. The ARP funds have not yet been accessed for distribution.

3. Under the CRRSAA, \$594,400 has been distributed to students on April 13, 2021. This included the full portion of the CRRSAA student grant (\$302,047) and a transfer of institutional HEERF funds (\$274,353) to the student grant portion.

As of the date of this reporting, the ARP funding has not yet been distributed.

4. It has been estimated that 1282 students may have met the eligibility requirements for the CRRSAA funding.

The number of students who meet the eligibility requirements for the ARP funding is undetermined at this time, due to the possible fluctuation of fall 2021 enrollment and the procedures created for disbursement.

5. Under the CRRSAA, the total number of students who have received an emergency student grant is 503.

As of the date of this reporting, the ARP funding has not yet been distributed.

6. Distribution of funds, CRRSAA: If eligible and approved, CRRSAA funding is disbursed directly to students via direct deposit, if enrolled, or via check mailed to the student's address listed in Campus Connection if not enrolled in direct deposit. DSU must disburse CRRSAA grants directly to students and may only apply the grant toward an outstanding institutional charge with the student's consent.

The CRRSAA requires that DSU prioritizes students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. To prioritize students with exceptional need, DSU automatically awarded CRRSAA grants to students who have a Pell-eligible EFC. All undergraduate students with an EFC of less than 5,712 qualified for an automatic grant. Students who have a Pell-eligible EFC were awarded a grant of \$1400.

Students who do not have a Pell-eligible EFC, including graduate students, were required to submit a hardship application in order to receive CRRSAA funding. The application was open March 6-28, 2021 on the students' Blackboard account. Students who submitted a complete and accurate application were awarded a grant of \$800.

Early Entry/Dual Credit Students: In order to prioritize students with exceptional need, DSU automatically awarded CRRSAA HEERF II Emergency Relief Grant funding to DSU Early Entry/Dual Credit students who applied for and received tuition assistance from the Bank of North Dakota (BND) for being eligible for free or reduced lunch. No action was required if the student received tuition assistance from the BND in the spring 2021 semester. These students were awarded a grant of \$1400.

Early Entry/Dual Credit students who did not receive BND tuition assistance, and had emergency expenses due to the coronavirus, may submit the CRRSAA HEERF II Hardship Application. A hardship application must be fully completed by the student and submitted to the Office of Financial Aid by Friday, April 9, 2021. Students who submitted a complete and accurate application were awarded a grant of \$800.

Distribution of funds, ARP: To be determined.

## 7. Instructions, directions, and guidance provided to students by DSU:

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 through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II). Dickinson State University has been allocated \$320,047 to assist students in covering components of cost of attendance and emergency costs associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

According to CRRSAA and guidance from the Department of Education, the following eligibility rules apply:

- Institutions must make financial aid grants to students, which can 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.
- Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.
- Student must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Student must currently be enrolled during the spring 2021 semester.
- Student must currently be enrolled in a degree-seeking program.

In order to prioritize students with exceptional need, DSU will automatically award CRRSAA HEERF II Emergency Relief Grant funding to DSU students who received a Pell Grant during the spring 2021 semester. No action will be required if the student is Pell-eligible. *To check Pell eligibility, students should access their Campus Connection account and view their financial aid awards.*

Students who are not eligible for Pell Grants, may submit the **CRRSAA HEERF II Hardship Application**. This online application will be available March 6 – 28, for students who are not Pell-eligible and have emergency costs due to coronavirus.

To access the application, students should log in to their [DSU Blackboard account](#), click the "My DSU" tab, and navigate to the Blue Hawk Hub, where they will find further instructions. *Students who received a Pell Grant in the spring 2021 semester do not need to submit this application.*

For questions or clarification, please contact DSU's Office of Financial Aid:

- Phone: 701-483-2371
- Text: 701-561-0904
- Email: [dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu](mailto:dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu)

DSU Early Entry/Dual Credit Students,

Do you have expenses related to the coronavirus pandemic?

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 through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II). Dickinson State University (DSU) has been allocated funding to assist students in covering components of cost of attendance and emergency costs associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

According to CRRSAA and guidance from the Department of Education, the following eligibility rules apply:

- Institutions must make financial aid grants to students, which can 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.
- Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and also authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.
- Student must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.

- Student must be enrolled during the spring 2021 semester at DSU. (The Department of Education has ruled that dual-enrollment and non-degree students do qualify for this grant.)

In order to prioritize students with exceptional need, DSU will automatically award CRRSAA HEERF II Emergency Relief Grant funding to DSU Early Entry/Dual Credit students who applied for and received tuition assistance from the Bank of North Dakota (BND) for being eligible for free or reduced lunch. No action will be required if the student has received tuition assistance from the BND in the spring 2021 semester.

Students who did not receive BND tuition assistance, and had emergency expenses due to the coronavirus, may submit the attached **CRRSAA HEERF II Hardship Application**. This application must be fully completed by the student and submitted to [Christopher.meek@dickinsonstate.edu](mailto:Christopher.meek@dickinsonstate.edu) by Friday, April 9, 2021.

As the grant draws on a limited pool of funds, DSU cannot guarantee the availability of funds for assistance.

For questions or clarification, please contact DSU's Office of Financial Aid:

- Phone: 701-483-2371
- Text: 701-561-0904
- Email: [dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu](mailto:dsu.financialaid@dickinsonstate.edu)

Applications must be received by April 9, 2021.

June 10, 2021: Initial HEERF II and III Reporting

June 14, 2021: Update of instructions sent to Early Entry Students