CARES Act HEERF I

In response to the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the CARES Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. One aspect of the Act was the creation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) provided to institutions for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 outbreak. WAU received a total allocation of $805,558. Of the $805,558, 50 percent ($402,779) of the funds received will be used to provide emergency financial aid cash grants to eligible students with allowable expenses. WAU may use the remaining 50% of the HEERF funds for institutional costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus. As a minority-serving institution (MSI), WAU also received $57,922 of Higher Education Relief funds to defray allowable expenses incurred due to the coronavirus outbreak. WAU may also use this award for eligible grants to students. Visit ED.GOV to review Washington Adventist University’s grant allocation received under the CARES Act.

1. WAU signed and submitted to the Department of Education (ED) through Grants.gov the Certification and Agreement affirming our commitment to using 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. WAU has received the total CARES Act HEERF I allocation of $805,558 and the MSI allocation of $57,922. On May 12, 2020, WAU received $402,779 to be used exclusively to provide emergency financial aid cash grants to eligible students. WAU received the allocation of the institutional portion ($402,779) on June 9, 2020.

On July 2, 2020, WAU received the MSI allocation of $56,764. The remaining MSI amount of $1,158 was received on February 15, 2021.

3. As of this report’s date, WAU distributed $212,949.47 in CARES Act HEERF I cash grants to eligible students.

On March 10, 2021, WAU treated the remaining CARES Act HEERF I of $189,829.53 as CRRSAE HEERF II. Before March 10, 2021, $212,949.47 of HEERF I funds had been expended.

WAU has estimated that 756 students are eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are therefore qualified to receive a HEERF I Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. The number of students who completed an application developed by WAU was 280. 165 students who resided in a residence hall during the spring 2020 semester were
automatically eligible to be awarded a HEERF I Grant due to relocation expenses stemming from the requirement to move out of the residence halls.

4. As of March 31, 2021, 381 eligible students have received a CARES Act HEERF I Grant.

As of today’s date, 250 eligible students received the remaining CARES Act HEERF I Grant treated as CRRSAA HEERF II.

5. WAU’s methodology to determine which students received a HEERF I Grant and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act was developed following ED’s guidelines. To be eligible for a CARES Act HEERF I Grant, students must meet requirements established by ED, including but not limited to:

- Enrollment impacted by the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19
- Qualified to complete the FAFSA form and receive federal aid
- Current enrollment or acceptance status
- U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or another eligible non-citizen status
- Enrollment in a face-to-face or hybrid program
- Expenses related to the disruption of campus operations

Allowable expenses include:

- Food
- Housing
- Utilities
- Course materials
- Technology
- Health care
- Child care

An application was required to be considered for a CARES Act HEERF I Grant and was emailed to students on June 4, 2020. The initial application due date was June 12, 2020; however, the form remained open until January 4, 2021.

165 students who resided in a residence hall during the spring 2020 semester were automatically eligible to be awarded a HEERF Grant due to relocation expenses stemming from the requirement to move out of the residence halls.

Awarding was done through Student Financial Services, and Student Accounts disbursed the funds onto the student’s WAU account. The CARES Act HEERF I Grant was a pass-through and will not be used to offset any charges or balances on a student’s account. The Accounting office issued the cash payment in the form of a check to the student.
For the 756 eligible undergraduate and graduate students, WAU calculated a fixed monetary grant per student based on enrollment status. The schedule for the distribution of funds is listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible full-time students</th>
<th>$570.91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible part-time students</td>
<td>$285.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Timeline of communications to students:

- On April 29, 2020, an initial email was sent to students introducing the HEERF Grant and announcing WAU’s commitment to providing cash grants to eligible students facing financial hardship and disruptions due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- On June 4, 2020, the HEERF Grant application was emailed to students.
- Students were reminded to apply for the grant through email and verbal communications.
- On March 10, 2021, an email was sent to students introducing the CRRSAA HEERF II Grant and announcing the availability of additional CARES Act HEERF Grants transferred into the CRRSAA HEERF II funds.

CRRSAA HEERF II

In response to the ongoing crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. The CRRSAA requires an institution receiving funds under section 314(a)(1) to provide the “same amount” in financial aid grants to students from the CRRSAA HEERF II funds required to provide under its original CARES Act HEERF I Student Aid Portion award. WAU received a total allocation of $1,602,392. Of the $1,602,392, the minimum amount of $402,779 will be used to provide emergency financial aid cash grants to eligible students with allowable expenses. WAU may expend the $1,199,613 for institutional the following permissible uses:

- To defray expenses associated with coronavirus (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll).
- To carry out student support activities authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) to address coronavirus needs.
- To make additional financial aid grants to students.

As a minority-serving institution (MSI), WAU also received $95,636 of Higher Education Relief funds to defray allowable expenses incurred due to the coronavirus outbreak. WAU may also
use this award for eligible grants to students. Visit ED.GOV to review Washington Adventist University’s grant allocation received under the CRRSAA Act.

1. WAU signed and submitted to the Department of Education (ED) through Grants.gov the Certification and Agreement affirming our commitment to using 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. As a CARES Act HEERF grantee who received Institutional Portion and Student Aid Portion funds, WAU received the CRRSAA HEERF II grant award automatically.

2. WAU has received the total CRRSAA HEERF II allocation of $1,602,392. On January 17, 2021, WAU received both the $402,779 allocation to be used exclusively to provide emergency financial aid cash grants to eligible students and the $1,199,613 institutional allocation. On March 5, 2021, WAU received the MSI allocation of $ 95,636.

3. As of this report’s date, WAU distributed $461,906.81 in CRRSAA HEERF II cash grants to eligible students. The amount includes $272,077.28 of CRRSAA HEERF II funds and $189,829.53 of CARES Act HEERF I funds treated as CRRSAA HEERF II. As of this report’s date, all of the CARES Act HEERF funds have been expended.

WAU has estimated that 753 students are eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and were therefore qualified to receive a HEERF II Grant under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. WAU determined the number of eligible students before the Department of Education’s May 14, 2021, final ruling that all streams of HEERF funds were available to all students, including international students, DACA recipients, other DREAMers, undocumented students, refugees, and asylum seekers. Based on the final ruling, WAU will extend all remaining HEERF funds to all students while prioritizing domestic students.

The number of students who completed an application developed by WAU was 438. Of the 438, 250 were eligible to receive an additional CARES Act HEERF I amount treated as CRRSAA HEERF II.

4. As of June 30, 2021, 426 eligible students have received CRRSAA HEERF II funds. Of the 426, 250 received additional CARES Act HEERF I Grant treated as CRRSAA HEERF II.

5. WAU’s methodology to determine which students received a HEERF II Grant and how much they would receive under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act was developed following the ED’s guidelines. To be eligible for a CRRSAA HEERF II Grant, students must meet requirements established by ED, including but not limited to:
• U.S. citizen or national, permanent resident, or another eligible non-citizen status (before ED’s May 14, 2021, final ruling).

• Exceptional need, measured by the 2020-2021 FAFSA Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number and mirroring the 2020-2021 Pell EFC number.

• Unlike CARES Act HEERF I, CRRSAA HEERF II requires prioritizing students with demonstrated exceptional need, such as Pell recipients, in awarding HEERF II grants. However, students do not need to be Pell recipients or Pell-eligible.

Allowable expenses include:

1. any component of a student’s cost of attendance
2. emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as:
   • tuition
   • food
   • housing
   • health care (including mental)
   • child care

An application is required to be considered for a CRRSAA HEERF II Grant. The application was emailed to students on March 10, 2021. To access the application, tap here: WAU CRRSAA HEERF II GRANT APPLICATION or follow the direct link below: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLsdFdp7z968jBI1AZ4b7sqCk1Epj0Xgtd_ljxoLNdemEnBfg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628.

The initial application due date was March 19, 2021; however, the form remained open until June 4, 2021. Due to the latest final rule extending the availability of HEERF grants to all students, regardless of citizenship status, students will be notified, and the application will reopen.

Awarding is done through Student Financial Aid, and Student Accounts disburses the funds onto the student’s WAU account. The CRRSAA HEERF II Grant is considered a pass-through and will not be used to offset any charges or balances on a student’s account. The Accounting office issues the cash payment in the form of a check to the student.

Alternatively, students can voluntarily elect to apply all or a percentage of their CRRSAA HEERF II Grant to an outstanding balance on their WAU Student Account by selecting the option on the application form. Otherwise, the Grant funds will be sent directly to students as a direct payment in the form of a check. The amount applied to a student’s account will not be considered a pass-through and will apply to any outstanding balance of allowable expenses incurred after March 13, 2020. WAU will not require a student to apply HEERF funds to their account or condition the disbursement of the funds to an account balance on continued or future enrollment.
For the 753 eligible undergraduate and graduate students, WAU calculated a fixed monetary grant per student based on need. The schedule for the distribution of funds is listed below:

| Tier 1 | An eligible student with a FAFSA EFC between 0-5711, mirroring the 2020-2021 Pell EFC range. | $676.69 |
| Tier 2 | An eligible student with a FAFSA EFC of 5712 or greater, outside of the 2020-2021 Pell EFC range. | $519.48 |
| Tier 3 | An eligible student who did not submit a 2020-2021 FAFSA can document U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizenship. | $519.48 |

Additionally, students with a 0 Pell EFC who submitted the HEERF II application by March 19, 2021, received an additional $759.57 from the remaining CARES Act HEERF I funds treated as CRRSAA HEERF II. WAU contributed $64 to the remaining HEERF I funds to increase the amount to $189,893.53.

6. Timeline of communications to students:

- On March 10, 2021, an initial email was sent to students introducing the CRRSAA HEERF II Grant and the availability of additional CARES Act HEERF I Grants, to be treated as CRRSAA HEERF II funds. The email contained a link to access the application form.
- On March 15 and 18, 2021, reminders of the March 19, 2021 CRRSAA HEERF II Grant application deadline were emailed to students.
- On April 8, April 15, and June 4, 2021, emails were sent to students alerting them to the availability of unexpended CRRSAA HEERF II Grants funds and encouraging them to apply.
- Students were reminded to apply for the grant through email and verbal communications.

**ARP HEERF III**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2), providing additional support to higher education institutions to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP funds are in addition to
funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA HEERF II) and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES Act HEERF I). HEERF III is structured like the HEERF II program.

WAU received a total allocation of $2,837,729. Of the $2,837,729, the minimum amount of $1,421,104 (over 50 percent) will be used to provide emergency financial aid cash grants to eligible students with allowable expenses. WAU may expend the remaining $1,416,625 to defray expenses associated with the coronavirus, such as lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses incurred, technological costs associated with transitioning to distance learning, faculty and staff trainings, payroll, and additional grants to students. A portion of the instructional funds must be allocated for:

- Implementing evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus following public health guidelines.
- Conducting direct outreach to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to adjust financial aid due to the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student or other circumstances.

Visit ED.GOV to review Washington Adventist University’s grant allocation received under the ARP Act.

1. WAU signed and submitted to the Department of Education (ED) through Grants.gov the Certification and Agreement affirming our commitment to using 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. As a CARES Act HEERF grantee who received Institutional Portion and Student Aid Portion funds, WAU received the ARP HEERF III automatically.

2. WAU has received the total ARP HEERF III allocation of $2,837,729. On May 20, 2021, WAU received both the $1,421,104 allocation to be used exclusively to provide emergency financial aid cash grants to students, especially students with exceptional need. The university also received the institutional tranche of funds of $1,416,625 on May 20, 2021.

3. As of this report’s date, WAU distributed $0.00 in ARP HEERF III cash grants to eligible students. WAU will begin awarding grants to students within the next few weeks.

For additional information about the HEERF funds, including WAU’s allocations, please visit ED’s webpage at https://www2.ed.gov/programs/heerf/index.html.

Please contact Student Financial Aid at finaid@wau.edu or 301.891.4005 if you have a question or require additional information.