

CRRSAA: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020.

For existing private nonprofit and public CARES Act grantees, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) authorized supplemental awards to existing Student Aid Portion and Institutional Portion grantees. These institutions will not be required to submit new or revised applications to the Department to receive these new funds. However, an eligible private nonprofit or public institution that did not originally receive a CARES Act Student Aid Portion and/or Institutional Portion grants will also have an opportunity to apply for these new funds. Congress expanded the allowable uses for supplemental awards and new awards made under section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA and for unspent CARES Act funds, subject to certain limitations.

Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Fund Report

Lamar University has received additional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II) through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), which was signed into law December 27, 2020. The university has been allocated \$12,878,096 through CRRSAA. The university intends to use \$3.52 million of the funds received under Section 314(a)(1) Public Law 116-260 to serve students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Lamar Students: \$3,524,387

Third quarter 2021 Reporting Information:

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs:

as of 10/8/21 Lamar University has distributed \$3,471,237.82 in grants to students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (HEERF II).

The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) is **9,536**.

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:

as of 10/8/21, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA (HEERF II) is 2,148.

The method(s) used by Lamar University to determine which students received CRRSAA HEERF II grants and how much they would receive.

Lamar University used a multi-tiered approach to determine which students would receive HEERF II funds and how much students would receive in these funds.

Group 1 (HEERF II Amount dependent on student's needs to assist with tuition and fee cost)

- Enrolled in the Spring 21 term, and



- Identified as having difficulty paying their tuition and fees and at risk of being dropped from their Spring 21 courses on 2/15, and
- Have a valid 2020-2021 ISIR on file with the University and determined to be meeting general Title IV eligibility requirements, and
- Have an Emergency Aid Application on-file, completed on or after January 22, 2021

Group 2 (\$400-\$2000)

- Students who were identified as having a remaining unmet need greater than \$7200, and
- Enrolled in the Spring 21 semester, and
- Have a valid 2020-2021 ISIR on file with the University and determined to be meeting general Title IV eligibility requirements, and
- Have an Emergency Aid Application on-file, completed on or after January 22, 2021

Students had until March 7, 2021 to apply. The award amounts for group two was based on the needs identified by the student on their Emergency Aid Application and the funding model below:

Funding Model: Max of \$2,000 *

Impact Component	Grant amount**
Food Insecurities	\$750
Housing Insecurities	\$1500
Technology needs	\$400
Medical	\$500
Child or Dependent Care	\$500

*** Fully online students will have a max award of \$1,000 due to reduced rate tuition.**

Group 3 (HEERF II amount dependent on student’s needs to assist with the student’s Cost of Attendance)

- **Group 3-A (Up to \$3000)** Students with Spring 21 past due balances between \$501-\$3500, who were enrolled in the Spring 21 term, and have a valid 2020-2021 ISIR on file with the University (determined to be meeting general Title IV eligibility requirements), with an Emergency Aid Application on-file, completed on or after January 22, 2021. Students had until May 21, 2021 to apply.
- **Group 3-B** On-campus students enrolled in six or more hours for the Summer 21 term, with a valid 2020-2021 ISIR on file with the University (determined to be meeting general Title IV eligibility requirements), with an Emergency Aid Application on-file, completed on or after January 22, 2021. Student had until May 26, 2021 to apply. Students were awarded based on enrollment level, see the chart below.

HEERF II Summer Award	
Hours Enrolled	Award Amount
6-8 Hrs	\$2,000
9-11 Hrs	\$3,000
12+ Hrs	\$4,000

Group 4 (\$400-\$2000)

- **Group 4-A** Students who previously applied for COVID-19 emergency relief funds under the CARES act who we were unable to award for the 2020-2021 aid year due to lack of funds; and enrolled in the Spring 21 term, with a valid 2020-2021 ISIR on file with the University and determined to be meeting general Title IV eligibility requirements.
- **Group 4-B:** Students who applied for emergency assistance through the Emergency Aid Application on or after January 22, 2021, enrolled at any point on or after March 13, 2020, with a valid 2020-2021 ISIR on file with the University and determined to be meeting general Title IV eligibility requirements. The award amounts for these two groups is based on the needs identified by the student on their Emergency Aid Application and the funding model below:

Funding Model: Max of \$2,000 *

Impact Component	Grant amount**
Food Insecurities	\$750
Housing Insecurities	\$1500
Technology needs	\$400
Medical	\$500
Child or Dependent Care	\$500

* Fully online students will have a max award of \$1,000 due to reduced rate tuition.

Instructions, directions, and guidance provided by Lamar University to students concerning the CRRSAA HEERF II grants.

- The University emailed students the following:

Email:

Hi {student name},

*Lamar University has received Higher Education Emergency Aid Funds that may be available to students that have been impacted by COVID-19. You have been identified as a student who may be eligible for this funding. **We encourage you to apply for these available funds by clicking [HERE](#) to submit your application. Deadline to apply is Sunday, March 7th.***

Lamar University will review all applications the week of March 8th to determine eligibility and financial consideration. Please note that these funds are limited and are likely to run out.

To learn how to better manage budgets and expenses during this challenging time, students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Money Management Center for assistance. [Click Here](#) to meet with our specialist!

- The following text message was sent out to students in Group 3-A:



LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

Hi <FIRST NAME>, this is Alicia with LU Financial Aid. You may qualify for emergency aid to assist with your Spring 2021 charges. To apply for assistance, complete the application here: <https://www.lamar.edu/forms/lustrong/lu-strong-emergency-funding.html> by May 21st!

- The following text message was sent out to students in Group 3-B:

Hi <FIRST NAME>! Are you enrolled in summer courses at LU and have been affected by COVID? You could qualify for emergency aid for Summer 2021. Make sure to fill out an application by May 26th to qualify. Click here: <https://www.lamar.edu/forms/lustrong/lu-strong-emergency-funding.html>

- Recipients of HEERF II funds were sent the following email:

Emergency Funding Approval



SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Lamar ID: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Based on the information you have provided, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid has approved your application for emergency funding through the *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II section of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021*.

Please visit your [Self-Service Banner Account](#) to view your emergency grant. This funding will be distributed to you or your account based on the options you chose when completing the application. Disbursement will occur within 5-10 business days from the date the funding has been added to your financial aid.

If you have questions about your refund method or Cardinal One Card, please contact CardinalOne@Lamar.edu or (409) 880-2236.

If you have questions about your emergency grant for financial aid, please contact FinancialAid@Lamar.edu or (409) 880-8450.

Sincerely,

The Lamar University Financial Aid Team

LU Scholarships/Financial Aid
noreply@lamar.edu

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act (HEERF III)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARP funds are in addition to funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260 and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 Fund Report

Lamar University has received additional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III) through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, which was signed into law March 11, 2021. The university has been allocated \$21,744,159. through ARP. The university intends to use \$11.38 million of the funds to serve students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Lamar Students: \$11,380,397.00

Third quarter 2021 Reporting Information:

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs:

as of 10/8/21 Lamar University has distributed \$8,853,773.77 in grants to students under the American Rescue Plan (HEERF III).

The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs is **13,311**.

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

as of 10/8/21, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under the ARP (HEERF III) is 10,584.

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

Block grants were awarded to students enrolled in the 2021-2022 academic year. Priority was given to students who applied for financial assistance through a FAFSA, TASFA, or institutional application. The grant amounts were based on residence status (e.g. Domestic, Undocumented Texas Resident, or International) and whether a student is considered to be enrolled in a traditional or accelerated on-line program (AP).

Category	Amount
Online Accelerated Program	\$400
Traditional Program	\$1200
Undocumented Texas Residents	\$1500
International	\$500
TALH	\$3,067



The following instructions, directions, or guidance was provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial aid Grants under ARP:

- The University sent out an email via campus announcement to inform student of the availability of these funds and how to apply.
- The following text messages were sent out:

TEXT: Hi, <FIRST NAME>! 🤝 Did you know that LU has received additional emergency aid to assist students for Fall 2021? Priority will be given to those who have submitted a 2021-2022 FAFSA/TASFA – so make sure to submit your application ASAP! FAFSA filers can submit by going to: fafsa.gov.

TEXT: Hi, <FIRST NAME> ! This is Lamar Financial Aid – did you know that because you filed a FAFSA/TASFA that you may qualify for emergency relief funds for Fall 2021? 💰 The final step is to login to Self Service Banner and answer the terms and conditions questions on the Financial Aid tab!

- Information was made available on the following LU webpage: <https://www.lamar.edu/financial-aid/resources/covid-19-emergency-aid-application.html>

- **Postcards**

Emergency aid is available to assist students enrolled for Fall 21. File a FAFSA at fafsa.gov by September 10th to be eligible.

Due to COVID-19, your current financial situation may have changed. You may be eligible for a financial adjustment on your 21-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Circumstances that may apply to you:

- *Involuntary reduction or loss of income*
- *Death of a dependent student's parent or independent's spouse*
- *Paid medical expenses or long-term medical payment arrangements not covered by insurance*
- *Other extenuating circumstances approved by a financial aid administrator*

Complete your FAFSA today and then visit www.lamar.edu/specialcircumstance for more details.