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## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Emergency Grants to Students

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On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus."

Parker University acknowledges that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement on May 4, 2020, and assures that the institution has used, or intends to use, 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.

The total amount of funds that the institution has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is:

- HEERF I (CARES Act)- \$485,213
- HEERF II (CRRSAA) - \$485,213
- HEERF III (ARP) – \$1,413,421

The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Estimated total number of students for HEERF I: 1,337

Estimated total number of students for HEERF II: 1,747

Estimated total number of students for HEERF III: 1,903

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission.

Period	HEERF Grant	Funds Disbursed	Number of Students	Comment
5/18/2020-6/01/2020	HEERF I	\$119,600	193	
6/05/2020-7/08/2020	HEERF I	\$147,180	264	
7/15/2020-8/21/2020	HEERF I	\$55,019	113	
8/28/2020-9/30/2020	HEERF I	\$60,740	108	
Quarter ending 12/31/2020	HEERF I	\$38,580	62	
Quarter ending 3/31/2021	HEERF I	\$63,660	82	
Quarter ending 3/31/2021	HEERF II	\$175,100	248	
Quarter ending 6/30/2021	HEERF II	\$310,100	425	
Quarter ending 9/30/2021	HEERF I	\$434	1	Final disbursement
Quarter ending 9/30/2021	HEERF II	\$13	1	Final disbursement
Quarter ending 12/31/2021	HEERF III	\$1,346,800	876	

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Parker University's administration took the following approaches to the disbursement of HEERF I.

All potentially eligible students were electronically notified of the application process developed by the university for these funds from Ms. Alaina Mount, Dean of Student Development. A committee reviews the individual application requests as they are received and recommends distributions of this money to newly approved students on a weekly basis.

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The U.S. Department of Education has specified that students must meet certain criteria to qualify for these funds. These include:

Students must be Federal Title IV aid eligible, which has been determined by student's having a completed valid 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file.

Students must meet Title IV aid eligibility criteria including:

- U.S. Citizenship or Eligible noncitizen status
- Be registered with Selective Service (if male)
- Students must have been enrolled at Parker University as of March 13, 2020 (the date at which the national emergency was declared).

Students academic programs must include a requirement to be physically present on campus (i.e., students attending "exclusively" online programs are not eligible for emergency grant funding).

Maximum eligibility tiers were established by the university based upon various student situational experiences. Awards are focused on the six financial categories encouraged by the federal government. These include funding to help students pay for housing, food, childcare, health care, technology and course materials. Distributions to students have ranged between \$300 to \$1,300.

Parker University's administration took the following approaches to the disbursement of HEERF II.

Any Parker student who was actively enrolled in at least one Spring 2021 course was eligible for a HEERF II grant.

- Student must be a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident or Eligible Non-Citizen.
- Student must be enrolled in a degree seeking or certificate program Spring 2021.
- Student must have a 2021 processed FAFSA on file and completed verification (if required).
- Have indicated that they have experienced unexpected financial challenges as a result of the coronavirus pandemic related to any component of their cost of attending school - such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

The HEERF grant is not considered financial aid and will not affect the students' current or future financial aid eligibility.

Parker University's administration took the following approaches to the disbursement of HEERF III.

- Emergency HEERF III ARP grant funds are available to all students regardless of program, including online programs, citizenship status or international student status who were enrolled after March 13, 2020.
- Students must complete the HEERF III application to be considered for funding and attach documentation demonstrating financial need.
- As per HEERF III ARP Grant requirements, Parker prioritizes students with exceptional need and with extraordinary financial circumstances.

Instructions, directions, guidance, and the application provided to students regarding the Cares Act HEERF Emergency Grants may be found: [HERE](#)