

## **Acknowledgement of Certification and Agreement:**

Fort Hays State University (FHSU), on April 23 signed and returned the first half of the Funding Certification and Agreement to the Department of Education. On April 24, FHSU signed and returned the second half of the Funding Certification to the Department of Education. FHSU has allocated 50% of these funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to their students for costs due to the coronavirus and disruption of on-campus operations. FHSU acknowledges and intends to solely use to the funds for the purposes that have been authorized in Section 18004(a)(1) in the CARES Act.

On May 5, 2020, FHSU signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the Department of Education for the additional CARES Act HEERF Strengthening Institutions application for an additional \$124,525. These funds will be awarded and disbursed to students from the original pool of applicants. All of the eligibility criteria will remain the same. Any unused portion of these funds will then go to the institutional share to use for appropriate campus operations and expenses.

On December 27, 2020 the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (HEERF II) was passed. Fort Hays State University received an allocation and intends to provide at least the same amount of funding in financial aid grants to students as was required to provide under sections 18004(a)(1) and (c) of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)(Pub. L. 116-136). Institutions must make financial aid grants to students 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, or child care.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act, passed and provided funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) grant. This is the third round of funding appropriated to institutions to provide emergency grants to students for prevention, preparation, and response to coronavirus. Fort Hays State University's plan includes distribution to students who were enrolled in at least one credit hour at FHSU on or after March 13, 2020 and who can demonstrate exceptional need.

## **Total Funds Received:**

Fort Hays State University has received \$2,524,076 under section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Of these funds, \$1,262,038 (50%) has been allocated to students as financial grants.

FHSU has also received \$124,281 for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Strengthening Institutions fund. An additional \$1,455 was added on October 29, 2020 making a total of \$125,736. On March 4, 2021 an additional \$235,817 was awarded bringing the total Strengthening Institutions funds to \$361,553.

On December 27, 2020, FHSU was awarded \$6,157,168 in HEERF II funds. Of these, 1,370,261 was to be awarded as student grants.

On March 11, 2021 FHSU was awarded \$18,226,383 in HEERF III funds. Of these, \$9,685,909 was to be awarded as student grants

## Total Funds Distributed:

As of June 30, 2020, Fort Hays State University has distributed Emergency Student Grants in the following programs and amounts:

HEERF I: \$1,262,038

Strengthening Institutions Supplemental Grants: \$361,553

HEERF II: \$1,370,261

HEERF III: \$6,863,943

## Eligible Students:

Fort Hays State University has determined that approximately 2,948 students are eligible under Section 484 in the Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. These students are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Among these students who meet the criteria, their financial need is taken into account to determine if they will receive a block grant or must apply for the funding. The eligible students are divided into those that are PELL eligible and other Title IV students who are not PELL eligible. The \$1,262,038 will be divided among these eligible students based on need and expenses accrued due to coronavirus.

The additional \$124,525 will be made available for students who are TIV eligible and who applied for the grants.

## Students Funded:

Cares Act HEERF Direct Grants	
Tier 1 (\$803)	645 Students Funded
Tier 2 (\$649)	651 Students Funded
Applications	592 Students Funded
Strengthening Institutions Grants	
Applications	61 Students Funded
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,949 Students Funded</b>

CRRSAA HEERF II Grants	
HEERF II	2739 Students Funded
Supplemental	180 Students Funded
Supplemental II	394 Students Funded
<b>Total</b>	<b>3313 Students Funded</b>

ARP ACT HEERF III Grants	
HEERF III Direct Grants	3826 Students Funded
Applications	3849 Students Funded
<b>Total</b>	<b>7675 Students Funded</b>

## Distributing Method

**HEERF I:** We recognize that students who were PELL Eligible at the time campus operations ceased on-campus instruction, were impacted greatly since they have the most need. A variety of disruptions occurred, as students were asked to move on short notice, and have incurred extra travel, internet service, and/or other costs associated with the changes and disruptions. For example, many students were also no longer able to utilize the food services at FHSU and would have been required to pay for food for the last six weeks of the academic year. These students would need to have a way to access classes at home and could have been required to purchase a computer or other technology. Due to these factors, and in alignment with the Department of Education's guidance and original allocation formula, PELL students were determined to have been significantly impacted, and the awarding process outlined herein developed.

FHSU awarded and distributed the HEERF student grants with a hybrid approach. Pell eligible students received a block grant and all other eligible students must apply for the funds. The student allocation of \$1,262,038 was split 75% for PELL eligible students and 25% for all other Title IV eligible students who completed a FAFSA prior to the end of the Spring 2020 semester. Students had to be enrolled in at least one on-campus class at the time of the transition of campus operations and have to be Title IV eligible to qualify for the funds.

### **PELL Portion:**

\$940,434

Tier 1 – Expected Family Contribution was less than or equal to \$700 for the 2019-20 academic year = 648 students

$$55\% = \$517,935$$

$$518,738/646 = \$803/ \text{ student}$$

Tier 2 – Expected Family Contribution was between \$701 to \$5576 for the 2019-20 academic year = 651 students

$$45\% = \$422,499$$

$$422,499/651 = \$649/ \text{ student}$$

### **All other TIV Portion:**

\$321,604

An online form has been created. Students who are not PELL eligible can select items (listed below) that they had to pay for or purchase due to the conversion to online instruction and their move from campus. When the completed application is returned FHSU will assign one of four possible awards (\$100, \$300, \$649, \$803) based on the students need, the costs reported, and the number of applications received. Applicants will be considered on a first-come first-serve process, and when funds are depleted the program will then end. The components are as follows:

Travel/Moving Costs:

Food:

Utilities:

Internet Costs:

Computer purchase:

Other:

Rent was not included in the list as students who were living on campus were given a prorated refund of housing. These funds could have been used to pay for housing they needed to secure when moving off campus. If they lived off campus at the time of the transition to online, this cost was not a new cost incurred by the student.

Upon disbursement, eligibility will be reviewed again for any students who dropped all classes for the semester at 100% refund. They would not be eligible for the direct grants.

**Strengthening Institutions Portion:**

\$361,553

Student Grants: \$361,553

*HEERF I Supplemental:* The remaining applications from students who were not Pell eligible were used to award a portion of the Strengthening Institutions funds. When all applications were evaluated and awards had been made, the remaining funds were used by the University to pay for expenses incurred by the disruption to campus operations in compliance with Section 18004(a)(1), 18004(c) and 18006 of the CARES Act. \$124,057

*HEERF II Supplemental:* FHSU added the institutional money back into the pool for awarding in HEERF II. All students awarded had an EFC less than or equal to \$5,711. \$197,000 was awarded to students during the HEERF II awarding cycle.

*HEERF III Supplemental Awarding:* FHSU added the additional \$40,464 into the HEERF III awarding cycle and utilized the remainder of the funds.

**HEERF II:**

In accordance with the regulatory requirements set by the Department of Education, HEERF II funds were prioritized for student with exceptional need. Students had to be enrolled in at least one credit hour on or after March 22, 2021, be eligible to receive Title IV aid, have a FAFSA on file with Fort Hays State University, and have an expected family contribution less than or equal to \$5,711. If all requirements were met, students were awarded a direct grant of \$500.

\$1,370,261

2,739 X \$500

The remaining \$761 was awarded in the HEERF III funding cycle.

### **HEERF III:**

The American Rescue Plan Act, passed March 11, 2021 provided funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) grant. This is the third round of funding appropriated to institutions to provide emergency grants to students for prevention, preparation, and response to coronavirus.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must have been enrolled in at least one credit hour at FHSU on or after March 13, 2020;
- Must have exceptional need.
  - Exceptional need is defined as being Pell eligible or students with extraordinary financial circumstances.
- Must verify or update ACH data in TigerTracks. If check is selected, must have domestic mailing address (permanent address) in TigerTracks.

In accordance with Department of Education guidelines, FHSU will distribute HEERF III Grants in one of two ways:

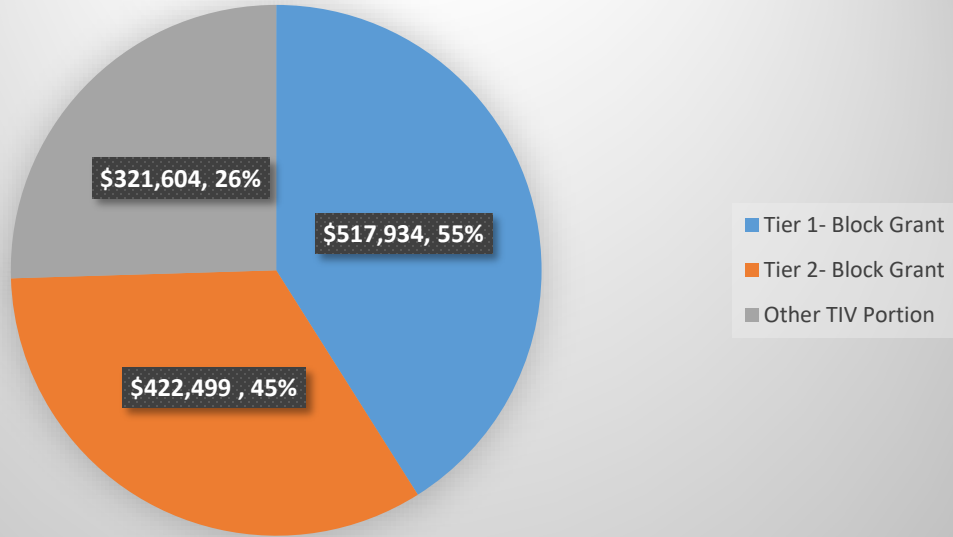
- PELL eligible students will receive a direct grant. Pell eligibility will be determined by the expected family contribution calculated on the FAFSA that Fort Hays State University has on file. In 2020-2021 students with an EFC of 5,711 could have been considered Pell eligible. EFC will be based on the year the student was or is enrolled. All Pell eligible students will receive a direct grant of \$1,000.
- All other eligible students are able to apply for the remaining HEERF III grant funds. Students in this group must meet all the eligibility requirements outlined above. Students in this group will be notified that they are eligible through their FHSU email. **Awarding to this group will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, and when funds are depleted awarding will cease.**

\$6,863,943

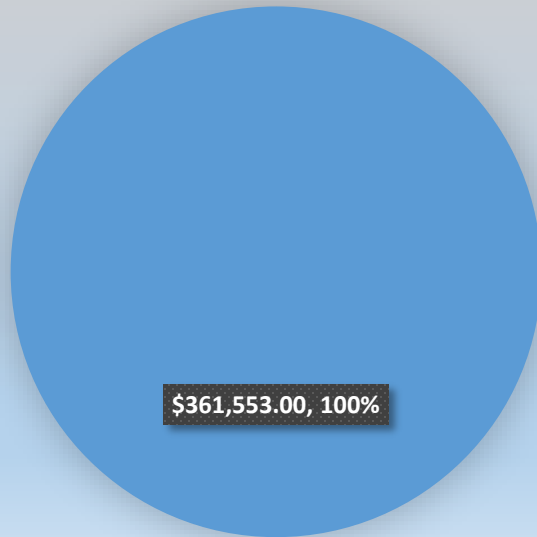
Direct Grants: 3849 X \$1,000

Applications: 3497 X 800

### Student HEERF Direct Grants - \$1,262,038



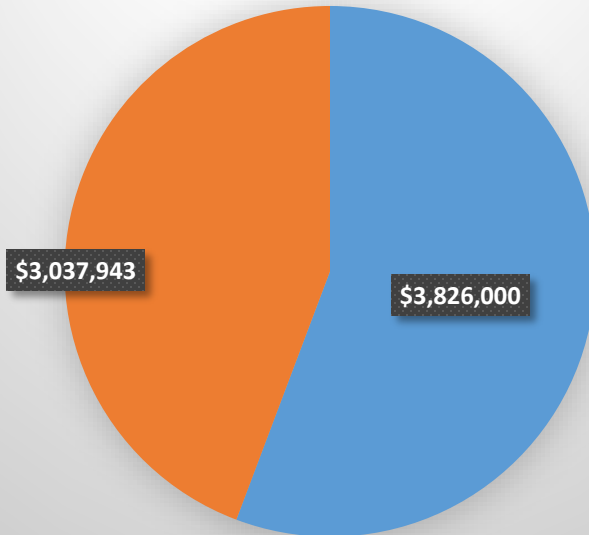
### Strengthening Institutions Grants - \$361,553



**Student HEERF II Grants - \$1,370,261**



**Student HEERF III Grants - \$6,863,943**



## **Guidance:**

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

All eligible students have been notified of the online application by email and on the website. We have also informed students that are Pell eligible by email that they were awarded these funds and are not eligible to apply for additional funds. Additionally, FHSU sent out a social media blast about the funds and The President of FHSU interviewed the Director of Financial Assistance about the funds during a live Facebook event.

## **Webpage:**

<https://fhsu.edu/finaid/cares/index>

## **Application:**

HEERF I

<https://fhsu.edu/finaid/cares/higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-application>

HEERF II

<https://webapps.fhsu.edu/studentrelief/default.aspx>

## **Email Notice to Pell Eligible Students:**

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant was established. As part of this legislation, institutions of higher education were given funds to disburse directly to students to help cover costs that they incurred due to the disruption from on-campus to online instruction. Fort Hays State University's plan of distribution includes distribution to PELL eligible and other Title IV eligible students.

You are receiving this letter as notification that you have been awarded an HEERF direct grant based on your PELL grant status. This grant will be disbursed to you through your student account, using the Valid Refund Option you selected in TigerEnroll/TigerTracks. If you did not select ACH as your Refund Option, a check will be mailed to your permanent address. Current and past due charges cannot be applied to this grant. To view the amount you were awarded you can log into your TigerTracks account under Online Services and choose Financial Aid Eligibility. Because you have received a direct HEERF grant, you are not eligible to apply for the HEERF grant through the application process



By receiving these funds you agree to use these funds to pay for the expenses you incurred due to the disruption of campus operations. These funds will in no way impact financial aid you have already received during the 2019-2020 academic year, and it will not impact your eligibility for future financial aid. If you have any questions, please contact us at [finaid@fhsu.edu](mailto:finaid@fhsu.edu).

The HEERF grant will be reported on your 2020 IRS Form 1098-T, Box 5.

### **Email HEERF Grant Need to Apply:**

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant was established. As part of this legislation, institutions of higher education were given funds to disburse directly to students to help cover costs that they incurred due to the disruption from on campus to online instruction. Fort Hays State University's plan of distribution includes distribution to PELL eligible and other Title IV eligible students.

You are receiving this email because you may have met general eligible requirements to apply for the HEERF grant, but there is additional paperwork to apply. Here is the link to the application <https://fhsu.edu/finaid/cares/higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-application>. It will be awarded on a first come first serve basis, and has a limited amount of funding. The committee will notify you once your application has been reviewed. Please allow 2-3 weeks processing time once you have submitted your application.

These funds will in no way impact financial aid you have already received during the 2019-2020 academic year, and it will not impact your eligibility for future financial aid. If you have any questions, please contact us at [finaid@fhsu.edu](mailto:finaid@fhsu.edu).

The HEERF grant will be reported on your 2020 IRS Form 1098-T, Box 5.

Sincerely,

Financial Assistance Office

### **Email HEERF Grant Awarded:**

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant was established. As part of this

legislation, institutions of higher education were given funds to disburse directly to students to help cover costs that they incurred due to the disruption from on-campus to online instruction. Fort Hays State University's plan of distribution includes distribution to PELL eligible and other Title IV eligible students.

You are receiving this letter as notification that you have been awarded an HEERF direct grant based on your application request. This grant will be disbursed to you through your student account, using the Valid Refund Option you selected in TigerEnroll/TigerTracks. If you did not select ACH as your Refund Option, a check will be mailed to your permanent address. Current and past due charges cannot be applied to this grant. To view the amount you were awarded you can log into your TigerTracks account under Online Services and choose Financial Aid Eligibility.

By receiving these funds you agree to use these funds to pay for the expenses you incurred due to the disruption of campus operations. These funds will in no way impact financial aid you have already received during the 2019-2020 academic year, and it will not impact your eligibility for future financial aid. If you have any questions, please contact us at [finaid@fhsu.edu](mailto:finaid@fhsu.edu).

The HEERF grant will be reported on your 2020 IRS Form 1098-T, Box 5.

Sincerely,

Financial Assistance Office

### **Email HEERF Grant Denied:**

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant was established. As part of this legislation, institutions of higher education were given funds to disburse directly to students to help cover costs that they incurred due to the disruption from on-campus to online instruction. Fort Hays State University's plan of distribution includes distribution to PELL eligible and other Title IV eligible students.

You are receiving this letter as notification that you have been denied an HEERF direct grant based on your application. According to guidance released by the Department of Education HEERF grants can only be awarded to Title IV eligible students. After reviewing your request, it was determined by the committee that you are not Title IV eligible; were not in on-campus classes; have already received a HEERF grant; or you do not meet FHSU eligibility requirements and are not able to be awarded these funds. We are committed to helping all students get through this challenging time and would suggest that you try to apply for the FHSU Emergency Assistance Fund at <https://www.fhsu.edu/sga/student-emergency-fund>.

Sincerely,

Financial Assistance Office

### **Email HEERF II Award Notification:**

On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) was signed into law and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) grant was established. As part of this legislation, institutions of higher education were given funds to disburse directly to students to help cover any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Fort Hays State University's plan of distribution includes distribution to eligible Title IV students with an expected family contribution less than or equal to 5711.

You are receiving this letter as notification that you have been awarded a HEERF grant based on the amount of your expected family contribution. This grant will be disbursed to you through your student account, using the Valid Refund Option you selected in TigerEnroll/TigerTracks. If you did not select ACH as your Refund Option, a check will be mailed to your permanent address. Please allow 2-4 business days before you receive the award in your bank account (or mailing of check). Current and past due charges can be applied to this grant with written consent. To view the amount you were awarded you can log into your TigerTracks account under Online Services and choose Financial Aid Eligibility.

By receiving these funds you agree to use these funds to pay for any component of your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus. These funds will in no way impact financial aid you have already received during the 2020-2021 academic year, and it will not impact your eligibility for future financial aid. If you have any questions, please contact us at [finaid@fhsu.edu](mailto:finaid@fhsu.edu).

CORRECTION: The HEERF II grant will NOT be reported on your 2021 1098T, Box 5.

## **Email HEERF III Application Eligibility Notification:**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act, passed and provided funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) grant. This is the third round of funding appropriated to institutions to provide emergency grants to students for prevention, preparation, and response to coronavirus. Fort Hays State University's plan includes distribution to students who were enrolled in at least one credit hour at FHSU on or after March 13, 2020 and who can demonstrate exceptional need.

You are receiving this letter as notification that you are eligible to apply for a HEERF III grant because you were enrolled in at least one credit hour on or after March 13, 2020. Please go to the following link (insert link here) to complete the application for this grant.

The amount of funds that were appropriated to Fort Hays State University are limited and awarding will occur on a first-come first-serve basis. When funds are exhausted awarding will end.

We appreciate all you have done to work toward your degree at Fort Hays State University during these trying times. Fort Hays State University strives to put our students' well-being at the forefront. We hope that any funds you may be awarded will help to alleviate any exceptional educational expenses and can help you continue to pursue your degree at FHSU

## **Email HEERF III Award Notification:**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act passed and provided funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) grant. This is the third round of funding appropriated to institutions to provide emergency grants to students for prevention, preparation, and response to coronavirus. Fort Hays State University's plan includes distribution to students who were enrolled in at least one credit hour at FHSU on or after March 13, 2020, and who can demonstrate exceptional need.

You are receiving this letter as notification that you have been awarded a HEERF grant. This grant will be disbursed to you through your student account, using the Valid Refund Option you selected in TigerEnroll/TigerTracks. If you did not select ACH as your Refund Option, a check will be mailed to your permanent address. Current and past due charges cannot be applied to this grant without your written permission. To view the amount you were awarded you can log into your TigerTracks account.

These funds will in no way impact financial aid you have already received, and it will not impact your eligibility for future financial aid. If you have any questions, please contact us at [finaid@fhsu.edu](mailto:finaid@fhsu.edu).

We appreciate all you have done to work toward your degree at Fort Hays State University during these trying times. Fort Hays State University strives to put our students' well-being at the forefront. We hope that the funds you have been awarded will help to alleviate any exceptional educational expenses and will help you continue to pursue your degree at FHSU.