

## **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.

## **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 \$124,525 for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Strengthening Institutions fund.

## **Total Funds Distributed:**

Fort Hays State University has distributed \$1,262,038 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of September 30, 2020. Fort Hays State has also distributed \$34,057 of the CARES Act HEERF Strengthening Institutions funds as of September 30, 2020.

## **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:**

As of October 20, 2020, Fort Hays State University has provided 1,947 students with an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. 646 received a grant in the amount of

\$803 and 651 have received a grant in the amount of \$649. 589 students were awarded based on their application and determined eligibility. Additionally, 61 student applicants were awarded funds from the CARES Act HEERF Strengthening Institutions Grant. All eligible students who were either PELL eligible or who applied and were determined to be eligible for TIV aid during the Spring 2020 term have been awarded. FHSU is no longer accepting applications.

Cares Act HEERF Direct Grants	
Tier 1 (\$803)	646 Students Funded
Tier 2 (\$649)	651 Students Funded
Applications	589 Students Funded
Strengthening Institutions Grants	
Applications	61 Students Funded
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,947 Students Funded</b>

## Distributing Method

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/ 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/ 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.

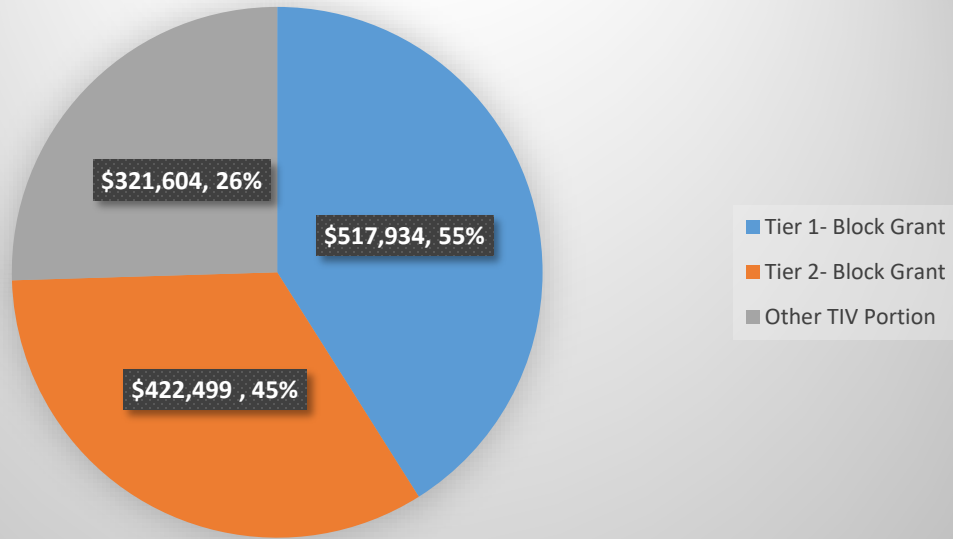
Upon disbursement, eligibility will be reviewed again for any students who dropped all classes for the semester at 100% refund. They would not be eligible for the direct grants.

**Strengthening Institutions Portion:**

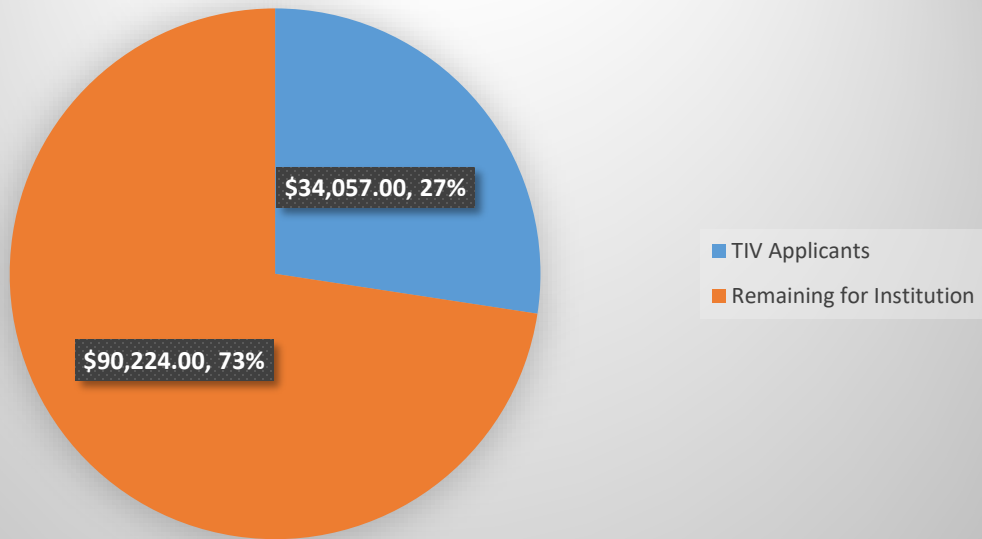
\$124,525

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.

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



### Strengthening Institutions Grants - \$124,525



## **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:**

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

## **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>.

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Sincerely,

Financial Assistance Office