

# SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

## COVID Relief Funds

### What is the CRRSAA/HEERF II program?

Section 314 of the CRRSAA, known as HEERF II, designates an additional \$21.2 billion in higher education support funds under the CRRSAA, which are available to institutions impacted by the Coronavirus. Funds must be used in accordance with Congress and the US Department of Education's stipulations, but these have expanded under the new legislation.

Congress modified the share amount that must be used for financial aid grants to students. Under the CARES Act, recipients of HEERF grants were required to use 50% of the allocation under Section 18004(a)(1) for financial aid grants to students.

The CRRSAA requires an institution receiving HEERF II funding to provide the "same amount" in CRRSAA financial aid grants to students that it was required, or would have been required, to provide under its original CARES Act Student Aid Award portion

### FAQs

#### ***Do the HEERF II/ CRRSAA funds have the same parameters of the COVID-19 relief funds?***

Under CRRSAA, allowable expenses have been expanded to include those "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 (including mental health care) or child care." This characterization, while similar, would appear to offer far more flexibility in what expenses may be covered.

#### ***By receiving CRRSAA funds, will a student's financial aid eligibility be impacted?***

Funds from the HEERF II CRRSAA Emergency Relief Fund are not considered financial aid and do not affect a student's current or future financial aid eligibility. Per guidance from the Federal Government, these grants will be distributed to our students with exceptional need which will be identified by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

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***How may students use their financial aid grants?***

Answer: Financial aid grants for students 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 (including mental health care) or child care.

***Are there requirements for how the institutional portion of HEERF II grants can be used?***

Yes, the following are allowable use under the CRRSAA institutional portion includes:

- Defraying expenses associated with Coronavirus—including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with transitioning to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll
- Carrying out student support activities authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965, that address needs related to coronavirus
- Making additional financial aid grants to students
- Similar to the CARES Act, no supplemental institutional portion may be used to fund the following:
  - Contractors that provide pre-enrollment recruitment activities
  - Marketing or recruitment
  - Endowments
  - Capital outlays associated with facilities related to athletics, sectarian instruction, or religious worship
  - Senior administrator or executive salaries, benefits, bonuses, contracts, or incentives
  - Any other cash or other benefit for a senior administrator or executive

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Item	HEERF I Funds The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT)	HEERF II Funds The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA Act)
<b>Total HEERF Funding Amount</b>	Student Allocation: \$2.73 Million  Institutional Portion: \$1.89 Million  Minority Serving Institution: \$426,608	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Student Aid</b>	50% of an institution's allotment must go to emergency financial aid grants to students	Requires institutions to spend the same dollar amount on student grants as they were required to spend under the CARES Act
<b>Institutional Portion Allowable Uses</b>	Defray expenses due to significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus  Make additional financial aid grants to students	Defray expenses associated with coronavirus including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lost revenue</li> <li>○ Reimbursement for expenses already incurred</li> <li>○ Technology costs associated with a transition to distance Education</li> <li>○ Faculty and staff trainings</li> <li>○ Payroll</li> </ul> Carry out student support activities authorized by the HEA that address needs related to coronavirus  Make additional financial aid grants to students
<b>Institutional Planned Expenditures</b>	Buddies DE PD Program, Tutoring, Software for Online Learning, Student Course Materials and Kits, Spring 20 In progress Courses, Professional Learning for Distance/Remote Services, Counseling, Financial Aid Support, Technology for Remote Working, Additional Student Support	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Deadlines to Spend</b>	All institutions have one calendar year from the date of award in their HEERF Grant Award Notification (GAN) to complete the performance of their HEERF grant	An institution has one year from the date the school's supplemental grant was processed to distribute the HEERF II funds

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## Mesa HEERF fund allocation process:

- Vice Presidents or President's Office will reach out to respective groups to identify larger initiatives
- Just-in-time Needs Form
  - Allowable Expenses more specific than department needs

**Link for HEERF II Request Form:** <https://forms.gle/zbgXm7TPcsQbnN6x5>