

September 30th 2021

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

30-DAY FUND REPORT EMERGENCY GRANTS TO STUDENTS UNDER CRRSAA (HEERF II), ARP (HEERF III)

Simmons University has signed and returned, to the Department of Education, the Certification and Agreement related to both CRRSAA and ARP Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds . The University intends to use no less than the required amount of funds received to provide HEERF grants to students .

As of September 30th, the University has received \$3,821,171 (CRRSAA & ARP) from the Department pursuant to the our Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. As of September 30, 2021 Simmons University distributed \$1,123,521 to students in CRRSAA and ARP Higher Education Emergency Funds

Currently Simmons University has an estimated 7401 students who are eligible to receive Higher Education Emergency Grant Funds and as of December 21, 2020 2,232 students have received Higher Education Emergency Grant Funding from CRRSAA and ARP

METHODOLOGY USED TO AWARD HEERF GRANTS

Methodology for determining which students received Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they will receive under CRRSAA

The second round of Higher Education Emergency Grants, under CRRSAA, allowed us to award to online students as well as students that did not file a FAFSA. There was specific guidance requiring Institutions to prioritize students with exceptional need. Using the Pell EFC as an indication of exceptional need, we provided block grants of \$350 to all enrolled students who had a Pell eligible EFC. We used this same formula for Graduate students as they are not eligible for Pell Grants but this remains a marker of exceptional need. The remaining funds were allocated through the use of an application that was sent through communication to all students.

Methodology for determining which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they will receive under ARP

We are using a similar methodology to the CRRSAA as the ARP also requires the University to prioritize students with exceptional need. We will use an application for any remaining funds that will be open to all students with emergency needs such as for any component of their 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. As required by the law, we are allowing students to determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses stated above.

Instructions, Directions and Guidance provided by Simmons University regarding CRRSAA (HEERF II)

Dear student,

Attached you will find a letter informing you of your eligibility for a direct grant from the Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

To view your award amount, please go to [Simmons Connection](#) > AARC > Access Student Account Center > View Bill/Make a Payment. You will automatically be logged in to the *Student Account Center*. In the middle of the page next to *view account*, select *CARES Emergency Fund* and click *view activity*.

If you do not yet have Direct Deposit set up we would encourage you to do that so that your funds will get to you as quickly as possible.

To set up **direct deposit**, simply click **electronic refunds** on the right hand side of the welcome page under *My Profile Setup* or select the **refunds** option at the top of any page. Click *set up account* and enter in your banking information.

Dear Student,

I am writing to you with information regarding a second allocation of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding that Simmons received from the federal government and that is to be used as emergency grants for students. We acknowledged, upon receipt of these funds, that we would prioritize "grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants." We have determined, based on your FAFSA data, that you meet the criteria of a student with "exceptional need".

We are committed to providing this emergency assistance to you and are reaching out to let you know that we will be pushing a grant refund of \$350, through your student account, to you in the coming week. This grant will not be a credit on your account and if you owe money, it will not go against those charges. We are merely using the student account as a way of getting these funds into your hands as quickly as possible.

If you are not currently set up with direct deposit, through your student account in touch net, please do that as soon as possible otherwise we will be required to send a paper check to you.

Understanding that each student's need is different we have reserved a portion of these funds that will be open to all students. If you have expenses related to your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that have arisen due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care that is greater than \$350, you may submit an [application](#) on our website to request further assistance.

Best wishes to you as you continue to navigate through your studies and this pandemic. If there is anything our office can do to help you as you, please be in touch.

Instructions, Directions and Guidance provided by Simmons University regarding CRRSAA (HEERF III)

We will be communicating with students by the end of October in the same manner as above. We will be providing block grants to our exceptionally needy population at a low base level and let students know the process of requesting more based on their emergency needs. We will then be sending a campus wide communication (similar to the one on the next page) so that all students have the ability to request funding for emergency needs.

Instructions, Directions and Guidance provided by Simmons University regarding CRRSAA (HEERF II) Con't

Dear Student,

Simmons is committed to providing ongoing support to help meet student financial needs and expenses during this pandemic. We want to make sure students are aware of the following funds and grants:

Supporting Our Students (SOS) Fund

Last spring, Simmons created the SOS Fund to help support undergraduate and graduate students cover a variety of expenses. To date we've allocated more than \$200,000 for expenses related to housing and food insecurity, immediate transportation, mental health and medical needs, among other things.

These funds are supplemental to any financial aid and can be used for items such as food, utility expenses, and medical expenses. More detailed information on the use of this fund can be found [here](#). You may apply for the SOS fund using this [application](#).

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding

The ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to create enormous challenges for students and families. In response to this ongoing crisis, the federal government implement the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), which provides additional funding for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

Simmons has received an allocation of HEERF funding that is to be used as emergency grants for students. We acknowledged, upon receipt of these funds, that we would prioritize "grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants."

Understanding that each students need is different we have reserved a portion of these funds that will be open to all students. If you have expenses related to your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that have arisen due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care, you may submit an [application](#) on our website to request assistance.

Simmons 2020 Tech Access Fund

Our technology partner 2U committed \$500,000 to help high-need undergraduate students acquire a laptop and access to high-speed internet, both of which are necessary to experience Simmons' high-quality online education as it was designed.

If you are in need of a laptop and/or high-speed internet, complete the [technology access questionnaire](#). Requests will be reviewed on a rolling basis as long as funds are available.

If you have questions about your bill, financial aid, or any of the grants and programs described in this message, please contact the office at sfs@simmons.edu.