

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II Reporting: Created Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

May 19, 2021 – Final Report

The Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act), 2021, has allocated emergency financial aid grants called the **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II**. The UAMS student portion will target students with exceptional need. These grants can be used by students toward educational costs and other emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

UAMS signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the funding certification and agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 17, 2020. UAMS plans to use no less than 50% of the funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

UAMS has been notified of a total HEERF II allocation of \$1,458,213.00 under the CRRSAA.

Institutional Support

UAMS may utilize up to \$971,725 from its total allocation for institutional support. The use of funds for institutional support has not yet been determined.

Student Support

UAMS will distribute no less than \$486,488 from its total allocation for direct student support in a way that prioritizes eligible students with exceptional need and ensures that funds are distributed per federal guidance. This pool of funding will be awarded to all eligible students who complete the application process. Funds will be awarded based on the following groups:

- Group 1 – Pell Eligible – Enrolled and attending as of March 1, 2021 - \$575.00
- Group 2 – EFC of Zero – Enrolled and attending as of March 1, 2021 - \$400.00
- Group 3 – EFC 1 and up – Enrolled and attending as of March 1, 2021 - \$300.00

Students who meet this eligibility criteria will be electronically notified and will be awarded a grant for the Spring 2021 term. Expected Family Contribution (EFC) range is based on need calculated by the 2020-2021 FAFSA.

Funds Spent - Total number of students who have received HEERF II funds

Date Disbursed	Total Number of Students who Received Funds	Total Amount Disbursed to Students
April 21, 2021	Group 1 – Pell Eligible – 158	\$90,850.00
April 21, 2021	Group 2 – Zero EFC – 596	\$238,400.00
April 22, 2021	Group 3 – EFC 1 and Up - 533	\$159,900.00
Totals	1287	\$489,150.00

Students were notified, via their UAMS email account, of receipt of their application and disbursement of the award. The award was credited to the student's account but bypassed any

university charges. Refunds were issued in the form of an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) per student authorized directive or in the form of a mailed paper check to the student's address on record.

Instructions, direction or guidance to students

UAMS utilized multiple methods to communicate information about HEERF II awards to students, including but not limited to:

- Developed a comprehensive web page with a link to the grant eligibility requirements and application.
- Provost and Student Financial Services sent emails to students notifying them of the application process and grant disbursements.
- Posted the HEERF II Grant application for students online.

Notification Examples

Application Notification



March 17, 2021

Dear Student,

The U.S. Government enacted the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) in response to the global Covid-19 pandemic. Students may use grants for any component of their cost of attendance or emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19 such as food, housing, tuition, health care (including mental health care), and child care. The grant amounts will be determined by the number of eligible applicants and priority will be given to those who have demonstrated exceptional financial need.

To be eligible to receive CRRSAA grants, students must:

- Be actively enrolled and attending class as of March 1, 2021.
- Be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident Alien.
- Have a 2020-21 FAFSA on file with UAMS.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students and international students are excluded from receiving COVID emergency grants.

The deadline to apply is April 02, 2021 at 4:30 PM CST. Students who have applied and are eligible for grants will receive a disbursement notice when funds are being distributed.

Please click [here](#) to access the link to complete the COVID-19 Emergency Grant Application.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please email financialaid@uams.edu.

Sincerely,

UAMS Student Financial Services
Financial Aid
Phone: 501.686.5451
Fax: 501.686.8002
Email: financialaid@uams.edu

Application Approval Notification



April 14, 2021

Dear Student,

Your CRRSAA Grant Application in response to the global Covid-19 pandemic has been approved. Grant disbursement amounts will be prioritized based on financial need and the number of approved applicants. Disbursements will be released within two weeks from the date of this notice.

If you are not already enrolled in direct deposit, please consider enrolling to expedite receipt of your funds. You can enroll on the GUS student portal and follow the link to "My Finances – Account Inquiry." Once you are officially enrolled, you will receive a "Congratulations" message. If you do not elect direct deposit, a refund check will be mailed to the address on file. Please verify or update your address on the GUS student portal.

Please email questions to studentfinancialservices@uams.edu.

Sincerely,

UAMS Student Financial Services
Bursar's Office
Phone: 501.686.6128
Fax: 501.686.8798
Email: studentfinancialservices@uams.edu

Disbursement Notification



April 22, 2021

Dear Student,

In response to the global Covid-19 pandemic, CRRSAA Grant funds in the amount of \$__ have been applied to your student account. It may take up to 24 hours for this information to be reflected on the GUS student portal.

Your refund will automatically be processed within seven business days. If you are enrolled in direct deposit, your refund will be deposited into the account you selected. If you do not elect direct deposit, a refund check will be mailed to the address on file. Please verify or update your address on the GUS student portal.

Please email questions to studentfinancialservices@uams.edu.

Sincerely,
UAMS Student Financial Services
Bursar's Office
Phone: 501.686.6128
Fax: 501.686.8798
Email: studentfinancialservices@uams.edu