

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II)

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The federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020, providing \$22.7 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The act requires that an institution receiving funding under section 314(a)(1) provide the “same amount” in financial aid grants to students from the new CRRSAA funds that it was required or which it would have been required to provide under its original CARES Act Student Aid Portion award.

Lincoln College signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement form under Section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students and assures it has used, or intends to use, the mandated amount of the funds for emergency financial aid grants to students.

Lincoln College has received \$639,754 from the U.S. Department of Education representing its allocation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II), a provision of the CRRSAA, for emergency financial aid grant purposes.

Lincoln College has distributed the following amounts to students pursuant to Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA:

CRRSAA Funding to Date

Date	# of Students	\$ Amount
05/04/2021	414	\$638,036
05/18/2021	<u>6</u>	<u>9,944</u>
Total	420	\$647,980

Lincoln College estimates approximately 1218 of its students are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and, therefore, are eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant. To date, 420 Lincoln College students have received an emergency financial aid grant under the CRRSAA and ARP programs.

Since a significant percentage of the HEERF national funding model is based on each respective higher education institution’s number of Pell Grant recipients, Lincoln College established a Pell Grant recipient-based distribution formula. A Pell Grant recipient-based formula was chosen because Pell Grant recipients are, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education, deemed those with the greatest financial need. Lincoln College distributed the emergency financial aid grants to all Pell Grant recipients that were actually enrolled both during the spring 2021 semester and as of April 19, 2021. The amount of the emergency financial aid grant for each qualifying student is based on the ratio of each

qualifying student's individual spring 2021 semester Pell Grant award as a percentage of total spring 2021 semester Pell Grant awards made to all qualifying Pell Grant recipients times the total emergency financial aid grant funding of \$639,754. Individual emergency financial aid grant amounts ranged from a low of \$38 to a high of \$1,883.

Students who received an emergency financial aid grant received communication informing them their emergency financial aid grant was part of the CRRSAA funding through the U.S. Department of Education. The communication noted the grant funds are to be used for any component of a 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. In addition, students were assured their emergency financial aid grant did not impact their student account balance in any way unless they provided Lincoln College authorization to apply the award to their tuition account.