



CRRSAA (HEERF II) Final Report

Student Portion Expenditures

*As of May 13th, 2021, Millersville University has expended all **\$2,808,651.00** in allocated funds from the CRRSAA (HEERF II) Student Portion. This will be the final report for HEERF II expenditures.*

May 26, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, the CRRSAA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion expeditiously provided last spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. This will be Millersville University's final report for HEERF II Student Portion expenditures.

OVERVIEW

The allocation for the student and institutional funds totaled **\$9,089,274**, with the student share of the funds totaling \$2,808,651. There were two drawdowns, and both were spent in their entirety within 15 days of receiving the funds. The initial drawdown of \$1,500,000.00 was requested on April 12th, 2021 and was completely depleted by April 14th, 2021. The second and only remaining drawdown in the amount of \$1,308,651 occurred on April 30th, 2021 and was depleted by May 13th, 2021.

It should be noted that Millersville University was subject to a cyber attack on February 28th, 2021. All systems and networks were shut down as soon as the intrusion was detected. In an abundance of caution, the network remained unavailable for processing of any type of financial aid, including HEERF grants, until no earlier than March 24th, 2021. During this time, Millersville University was frequently in communication with the Department of Education, and any further details on the outage's effects on the university and subsequent HEERF I & II awards are available if requested.

As of Wednesday, May 26th, 2021, Millersville University has awarded 100% of the HEERF II Student Portion in the amount of **\$2,808,651.00** to a total of **2,057** students.

AGREEMENT & CERTIFICATION

Millersville University originally completed the [Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) on April 13th, 2020. On April 12, 2021, Millersville subsequently completed the [Supplemental Agreement: \(a\)\(1\) Student Aid Portion \(CFDA 84.425E\)](#) in compliance with the guidelines for HEERF II: Student Aid Portion for Public and Nonprofit Institutions (a)(1).

COMMUNICATIONS

While Millersville acknowledges that HEERF II does not fall under the CARES Act, it was decided that the university should refer to HEERF II in a similar manner as HEERF I, which was named the CARES Relief Fund. Therefore, HEERF II has been referred to as the “CARES 2 Relief Fund” to ease potential confusion amongst students.

Limited outreach was needed due to the highly public nature of this legislation. Emails were sent to all currently enrolled students notifying them that the CARES 2 Relief Fund was available and applications were open. These announcements were sent on February 26th, 2021. Due to the cyberattack and extended network outage, only a small number of applications were received on February 26th - 27th, 2021 before our systems were shut down on February 28th, 2021. No applications were able to be completed or processed prior to March 24th, 2021, with processing capabilities still seriously limited into mid-April.

Upon partial network restoration, a notification and application link were posted each weekday in a university email newsletter, the ‘Ville Daily, during the week of April 12th, 2021. No further outreach was conducted, nor was it deemed necessary.

ELIGIBILITY AND AWARDING

In order to establish eligibility for HEERF II funds, Millersville University utilized an application; the application was nearly identical to the application created for HEERF I awarding, with only minor changes including the addition of an optional question regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Once an application was submitted, all of the information was logged to a custom reporting table which could be cross-referenced with additional parameters, and a line item on the student’s account was created named ‘CARES 2’. The status of this item begins in an ‘N’ status, indicating received and awaiting review. Once funds have been allocated to the student, the status of the CARES 2 line item is changed to an ‘S’, indicating the application has been processed and satisfied and the student has been awarded.

A small subset of our applicants was determined to be ineligible for HEERF II funding due to not having a 2020-2021 FAFSA on file and/or the student was not enrolled at the time the award would have posted.

When signing into their Millersville student portal to complete the application, all students were checked automatically for enrollment in at least 1 credit hour during the current term. The two main populations of students who were excluded from eligibility were Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals (DACA) and international students. The only population of students that was completely blocked from completing the application were students who were not enrolled at the time of their attempt to apply. The application included an optional question regarding SNAP benefits, a value that could potentially be used in the event that the university needed an alternate method of assessing extreme financial need, however that data was not a consideration when awarding HEERF II. The EFC-based awarding structure is as follows:

- 0 EFC: \$1,800
- 1 - 5711 EFC: \$1,500
- 5712 – 9,999 EFC: \$1,200
- 10,000 EFC and higher: \$1,000

Initial awarding restricted funds to students with an EFC lower than 10,000, however it was later determined that there were enough funds remaining to extend awards to all other applicants, regardless of EFC. When developing the application and award structure, we were unable to find another verifiable method of determining extreme financial need, so we continued to limit funding to students who had completed a 2020-2021 FAFSA.

The following data was collected for both eligibility and record-keeping purposes:

- *Name*
- *MU ID #*
- *Email address*
- *Mailing address*
- *Phone Number*
- *Enrollment Status as of date of application*
- *Housing Status as of date of application*
- *2020-2021 Expected Family Contribution (EFC)*
- *Satisfactory Academic Progress status*
- *Grade level*
- *Title IV Program Eligibility*
- *Optional: SNAP Benefit Recipient (Y/N)*

Despite collecting this detailed information, we ultimately only assessed eligibility by checking for a valid 2020-2021 FAFSA and EFC, current enrollment in at least 1 credit hour, and ensuring that the recipient was not a DACA or international student. All data remains available for additional reporting purposes.

Award notifications were sent to the students' Millersville University emails with the amount and information regarding how they would receive from their grant. As with HEERF I awarding, the students' Millersville University accounts were used as a pass-through to deliver the funds directly to the students while preventing the award from paying any charges.