

Emergency Relief Fund FAQ (CARES) October 31

What is the CARES Act/HEERF?

The Federal CARES Act establishes and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Institutions of higher education must use at least 50 percent of the funds they receive from the HEERF to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care).

How much HEERF funding did Berkeley College receive?

Berkeley College has been allocated \$2,298,437.00 in New York and \$2,232,129.00 in New Jersey to provide emergency financial aid grants.

Who is eligible for an HEERF emergency grant?

There are three general eligibility criteria for these grants: (1) students must have been enrolled in at least one on-site course at Berkeley College during the Winter 2020 semester and remained enrolled through at least March 13, 2020; (2) students must have been matriculated in a certificate or degree program on March 13, 2020; and (3) students must be eligible to receive federal financial aid. Eligible students include undergraduate and graduate students.

Do I have to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive an emergency grant?

Based on the guidance received from the U.S. Department of Education, students must have completed a 2019-2020 FAFSA and the College must have a valid and clean Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) on file.

Am I eligible for an emergency grant even if I owe the College money?

Yes. If you meet all the other eligibility criteria and certify that you have eligible expenses, you may receive an emergency grant even if you have current open balances with the College.

Do I need to apply for an emergency grant?

Emergency grants require an application and certification of use of funds. The College has identified eligible students based on the criteria established by the Department of Education and will send the application/certification form directly to them. If you think you should be eligible and did not receive the application, contact Financial Aid at studentfinance@BerkeleyCollege.edu.

How much emergency grant money will I receive?

Each student will certify and apply for the amount of their eligible expenses, however, the maximum amount per student is \$1,245.00.

How will I receive my emergency grant?

Emergency grants will be received via BankMobile. If you have any questions about BankMobile, please contact saonline@BerkeleyCollege.edu.

When will I receive my emergency grant?

Application approvals will be made on a rolling basis, as they are received.

What expenses qualify for an emergency grant?

Eligible expenses are those related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care). Applicants must certify the amount of their expenses and that they will use the funds appropriately.

What if I need more money than the emergency grant I receive?

We understand that students have significant needs during this time. The HEERF emergency financial aid grants are meant to help meet your financial needs, but we know the grants may not be enough money for some students. If you are having substantial financial difficulties, please reach out to Financial Aid at studentfinance@BerkeleyCollege.edu.

I have not applied for FAFSA. Is it too late?

Yes, if you did not file a 2019-2020 FAFSA it is too late. However, as stated above, please reach out to Financial Aid if you are having substantial financial difficulties.