

Emergency Relief Fund FAQ (CRRSAA)

What is the CRRSAA/HEERF II?

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. Like HEERF I Berkeley received funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for coronavirus-related expenses (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care).

How much did HEERF II funding did Berkeley College receive?

Berkeley College has been allocated \$2,835,875.00 in New York and \$2,662,317.00 in New Jersey to provide emergency financial aid grants.

Who is eligible for a HEERF II emergency grant?

There are two general eligibility criteria for these grants: (1) students must have been enrolled in at least one course at Berkeley College during the Fall 2020 and/or Winter 2021 semester. (2) students must have a 2020-2021 Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR) on file, which would be the result of filing the 2020-2021 FAFSA. The ISIR must document that the student is a US citizen or an eligible non-citizen.

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

Based on the guidance above, yes. It is not too late to file the 2020-2021 FAFSA.

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. In fact, HEERF II allows the student to apply the award directly to an open balance. You will have the opportunity on the HEERF II Application to choose whether to apply the award towards an open balance and/or to receive it as a refund. This authorization is not required and will not modify your application opportunity.

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. Unlike HEERF I, HEERF II regulations require the institution to prioritize students with exceptional need. As such, students with a ZERO EFC (from the ISIR) will have the opportunity to apply first. The College will then release the application to students with higher EFCs and process them simultaneously. If at any time the College is close to running out of funds, ZERO EFC students will again be given first priority ensuring that their applications are awarded.

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 \$1,400.00.

How will I receive my emergency grant?

Emergency grants will be received via BankMobile or will be applied directly to a student's balance, depending on the student's preference on the application. If you have any questions about BankMobile, please contact SAOnline@BerkeleyCollege.edu.

When will I receive my emergency grant?

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

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

We understand that students have significant needs during this time. The HEERF II 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. If you have further need that can be documented, we may be able to impact your Federal Aid using "Professional Judgement". Note: If you are already receiving full Pell and Loans we will not be able to assist you with Federal Aid.