

# Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act CRRSAA:

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) Information

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), signed into law on December 27, 2020, gave the U.S. Department of Education funds to distribute to institutions of higher education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II). Alaska Career College received funds to distribute to students to help with emergency expenses due to COVID-19.

**Stage 1** of the HEERF II grants is to be awarded to students with exceptional need. We will use the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) EFC calculation to determine the students who will receive initial awards. These grants will provide direct financial support to students impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19). Students can use this grant for any component of their cost of attendance or emergency costs due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, technology, healthcare, or daycare.

While we understand that each student has experienced an upheaval of their day-to-day life as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to ensure that students with the most need are prioritized for these emergency funds. For this reason, students who are currently enrolled and received Federal Pell Grants are being *automatically awarded HEERF II grants*.

**Stage 2** of the HEERF II grants is to be awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional need by submitting a HEERF II Grant Request Application. We will use the application to determine the grant award amount for each individual student. These grants will provide direct financial support to students impacted by the coronavirus. Students can use this grant for any component of their cost of attendance or emergency costs due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, technology, healthcare, or daycare.

**Stage 3 - Emergency Grants** paid by HEERF II grants are to be awarded to students who have exceptional need due to being impacted by the coronavirus. These awards are determined by Alaska Career College at the time of the request. Students who are experiencing dire financial hardships are encouraged to reach out to Monica Matlock, Financial Aid Director, to request additional support beyond Stage 1 and Stage 2. The student must have applied and been approved for Stage 2 to be eligible for the emergency grant. The student may be required to provide proof of hardship. These grants will provide direct financial support to students impacted by the coronavirus. Students can use this grant for any component of their cost of attendance or emergency costs due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, technology, healthcare, or daycare.

HEERF II	Original Budget	Number of Students	Expended amount	Date Expended	Remaining Amount
Updated July 1, 2021					
<b>Stage 1 &amp; Stage 2</b> Grant Disbursement	\$479,963	290	\$472,100	June 10, 2021	\$,7863
<b>Stage 3 - Emergency Grant</b> Disbursements	NA	11	\$7,863	June 23, 2021	\$0
<b>Total</b>	\$479,963	301	\$479,963	NA	\$0.00

## **STAGE 1 Eligibility Requirements**

- Student must have completed a FAFSA to determine need.
- Student must have completed verification for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 FAFSAs, if required
- Federal Pell Grant eligible students will receive priority.
- Student EFC must be less than 5712.
- Student must be US citizen or eligible noncitizen.
- Student must be currently enrolled at Alaska Career College at the time of the award.

**Students who meet the above criteria will receive an automatic \$1,000 HEERF II grant payment.** Instructions will be sent via the student's ACC e-email on picking up the grant check at the ACC Campus. If a student cannot pick up the check, then they will need to notify ACC of their correct mailing address.

## **STAGE 1 Award Summary**

On June 7, 2021 \$230,000 will be awarded to an estimated 230 Alaska Career College students. Students were automatically awarded if they are currently enrolled and have a valid FAFSA on file with an EFC of 5711 or less.

Award amount for all Pell eligible students, who meet the criteria above, is an automatic \$1000. Students awarded in Stage 1 are also eligible to apply for Stage 2 funding. Everyone is encouraged to apply.

*Students who did not receive an automatic award but have exceptional need due to hardship, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, are encouraged to apply for funding as part of the Stage 2 awarding process.*

## **STAGE 2 Eligibility Requirements**

- Student must complete a HEERF II application.
  - This application was emailed to all eligible students to sign electronically.
- Student must be US citizen or eligible noncitizen.
- Student must be currently enrolled at Alaska Career College at the time of the award.
- Stage 1 students are eligible to apply for additional funding.

Students who meet the above criteria will be evaluated for a HEERF II grant payment. If approved, the HEERF II grant payment amount would be \$950. Email instructions will be sent on picking up the grant check at the ACC Campus. If a student cannot pick up the check, then they will need to notify ACC of their correct mailing address. The HEERF II grant funds will be available until all funds are spent.

## **STAGE 2 Award Summary**

Award amounts will be updated monthly. Students will be awarded based on submission and approval of a HEERF II application.

Award amount for all enrolled ACC students, who meet the criteria above, is an automatic \$950. Everyone is encouraged to apply who has experienced financial hardship due to the coronavirus.

*Students who are experiencing dire financial hardship, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, are encouraged to contact Monica Matlock, Director of Financial Aid, to apply for funding as part of the emergency grant funding process.*

## **Emergency Grant Eligibility Requirements**

Award amounts will be updated monthly. Students will be awarded based on demonstration of dire financial hardship due to the coronavirus. Students must have applied and been approved for Stage 2 before applying for an emergency grant. Students must email Monica Matlock, [monica.matlock@alaskacareercollege.edu](mailto:monica.matlock@alaskacareercollege.edu), for consideration. These grants will range based on financial need.

## HEERF II FAQ

### **How will Alaska Career College determine which students will receive the funding and the amount of each grant?**

Under the CRSSA Act, institutions must identify students with exceptional financial need, those that have an expense related to their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental healthcare) or daycare. In Stage 1, enrolled students with an EFC of 5711 or less will receive an automatic payment of \$1000. In Stage 2, all currently enrolled students are given the opportunity to apply for a one-time grant.

In Stage 2 - HEERF II grants will be available on a first-come basis and so long as funds are available. Our intention is to assist as many students as possible while being sensitive to need, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education's guidance. The HEERF II grant funding may be used to cover expenses related to a student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus during spring 2021, such as tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental healthcare), or daycare.

Here are some examples:

- You require assistance to pay your tuition, fees, housing (expenses related to living on campus, off campus or at home or with a relative or friend), meals or meal plan, books, supplies, transportation, healthcare, or daycare.
- You need to purchase Internet access for your home (including a "hotspot" or other equipment).
- You need to seek healthcare treatment that is not covered by your insurance.
- The daycare center your dependent attended is closed and you have had to hire alternative care so that you can continue your coursework.
- You have transportation expenses.

### **If I did not file a FAFSA, may I still do so?**

If you are eligible to file a FAFSA but have not yet filed for the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 academic year you may do so at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Please fill out both available FAFSAs. (You may be required to complete a verification process for your FAFSA application to be valid, please submit any documentation the ACC financial aid office requests as soon as possible.) You must have a valid FAFSA on file before your application will be reviewed for Stage 1 funding.

### **How can students request funding?**

Students who are already eligible for a Pell Grant (with an EFC of 5711 or less) based on their FAFSA are automatically awarded a \$1000 grant payment – called Stage 1.

For Stage 2 - All currently enrolled students, including Stage 1 students, can request the HEERF II grant using the application emailed to ACC student email accounts. The Business Office will notify all students if approved or denied.

### **What documentation is required to be submitted with the application?**

This will depend on the individual request. You should provide any documentation that is relevant to the specific financial need and hardship you experienced. Consider submitting copies of bills/paid invoices/receipts or official notifications.

### **Will receiving this emergency grant reduce my financial aid?**

No, this fund does not negate nor replace financial aid, and it is a one-time grant.

### **How much emergency grant funding can I receive?**

Emergency Grant funding will be determined on a case-by-case basis and relative to available funding at the time of the request. Students will be notified of the exact amount via email from the Business Office.

**When can I expect to receive the funds once I submit my request?**

Requests for HEERF II grants will be reviewed following the posted deadline. Once your request is reviewed you will be notified via your ACC student e-mail regarding approval or denial from the Business Office. The email will include instructions for picking up your paper check.

**Will the funding be applied against an existing balance owed to Alaska Career College?**

No. The grant will be paid directly to you. It will disburse to you as a cash grant without regard to any balance owed to the college. You will receive paper check. If you choose, you may use the funds to pay towards your tuition.

**Other Considerations**

Amounts received are not taxable to the student and will not be reported on the students 1098T according to guidance published by the IRS.

**Who do I contact if I have questions?**

Please contact Monica Matlock, Director of Financial Aid at [monica.matlock@alaskacareercollege.edu](mailto:monica.matlock@alaskacareercollege.edu)

**How did Alaska Career College develop the eligibility criteria?**

Alaska Career College is following [guidance from the U.S. Department of Education](#).