



CARES/HEERF Emergency Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

What is CARES/HEERF and where did the funding for emergency grants come from?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. One aspect of the act was the creation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). HEERF provides funds to institutions for emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

How much HEERF funding did the School Receive?

The School including its affiliated schools has been allocated \$1,367,946 to provide emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds are intended to help with academically related expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare. The School's allocation was determined by the U.S. Department of Education based on the number of Pell Grant-eligible students enrolled on campus (70% of the weight) and the overall enrollment (30% of the weight). Given the weighting, Congress clearly intends the funds to go to students with the most financial need.

Who is eligible for HEERF Emergency Grants?

The general eligibility criteria for receipt of grants from these funds is:

- 1) The student must have been an active enrolled student in good standing in one of the School's programs on March 13, 2020. To be an active enrolled student means that the student was attending classes at the School or was on an approved LOA on March 13, 2020; or
- 2) A student began actively participating in classes in their first module or first course in their program of instruction which was scheduled by the School to start at any time between March 14 and March 31, 2020; or
- 3) Any re-entering student who re-entered their program of study and began actively participating in classes at any time between March 14 and March 31, 2020; and
- 4) Good standing means the student must be meeting the standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (as described in the 2019-2020 Catalog) as of the most recently completed evaluation period, or be eligible to receive federal financial aid in the current term due to a) the student's status of Financial Aid Warning; or b) the student's successful Financial Aid Appeal; and

- 5) Students must have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file and must have no unresolved financial aid eligibility issues noted on the student's most current Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) before a HEERF Grant can be calculated and approved; (Complete the FAFSA Application here: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>) and
- 6) Students must not be enrolled in a completely online program as of March 13, 2020.

How do I apply for a HEERF Emergency Grant?

The School created a simple application for students who need to apply for a HEERF Emergency Grant. A student must fill out, sign, and date the School's HEERF Grant Application and must have a FAFSA on file that is available to the School. The HEERF Grant Application needs to be submitted to the School's Financial Aid Department. The student may submit their HEERF Grant Application via email to heerf@nce.edu or directly to the Financial Aid Department.

When can I apply for a HEERF Emergency Grant?

Applications can be submitted now and will be considered until the funds are exhausted. Students are strongly encouraged to promptly apply before August 28, 2020. However, students may still apply after August 28, 2020 and will be considered for any remaining funds. Complete the HEERF Grant Application here: <https://nce.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NCE-HEERF-Grant-Application-Rev-08.06.2020.pdf>

Who is NOT eligible for HEERF Emergency Grants?

Students who first started their program of instruction after March 31, 2020 or who re-enter after March 31, 2020 are not eligible for HEERF Emergency Grants from the School. Any student who withdrew, dropped, took an unapproved LOA, or is no longer an active student participating in classes at the School at the time of School approval of your HEERF Grant Application for any reason, including graduation from your program of study, is not eligible.

Do I have to fill out a FAFSA to receive the emergency grant?

Yes. Students' emergency financial needs are determined by and through the information that a student will provide on a FAFSA. The School has determined that a student's grant will be based on that student's having on file a current Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) that is generated from that student's FAFSA.

When will I know if my request for a HEERF Emergency Grant has been approved?

Upon receipt of a signed HEERF Grant Application staff of the School's Financial Aid Office will begin the review and approval process. We anticipate the review and approval of applications may take up to 10 business days. A student will receive an email notification from the Financial Aid Office stating the status of the grant's application and the amount of any approved grant. The student will then receive an email notification from the School's Business Office when a check may be picked up by the student from the school's Business Office.

Will I receive the HEERF Emergency Grant even if I owe the School money?

Yes. If you are eligible for receipt of a HEERF Emergency Grant, you will receive the money even if you have current financial holds or owe the School fees or other funds.

I am still not sure if I am eligible for a HEERF Emergency Grant

If you are not sure if you are eligible for a HEERF Emergency Grant, you are encouraged to apply. Just complete the application and submit it to the School's Financial Aid Department. The Financial Aid Department will determine your eligibility and determine the amount of any grant funding you may be eligible to receive.

How much emergency grant money will I receive?

The Grant amount for an approved eligible student is \$2,196.00.

How will I receive my Emergency Grant?

All emergency grant funds will be paid by check. The check is to be picked up by the student from the School's Business Office.

How can I use the money?

The grant should be used for academically related expenses incurred due to COVID-19. Some examples include expenses related to food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

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

We understand that many students are experiencing extreme financial distress right now. The HEERF Emergency Grants are meant to help supplement your financial needs. We know that for many of you, the grants are not enough.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

For basic questions about your eligibility for HEERF Emergency Grants, you can email Maria Duenas at maria.duenas@nce.edu or to Maree Daniels at Maree.Daniels@ibt.edu For questions about the check itself and any general questions you can email Susan Bankosz at sbankosz@mikhailed.com.