

Through the ***Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA / HEERF II)***, Rochester General College of Health Careers (RGCCHC) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a second round of funds by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to make emergency financial aid awards to assist students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to continue their education.

Section 314(1)(a) of the Coronavirus, Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), enacted on December 27, 2020, allows higher education institutions to use certain funds allocated by the DOE to support students and higher education institutions with expenses and financial needs related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

***CRRSAA emergency financial aid awards*** are prioritized for students with exceptional financial need. These one-time emergency grants to students may be used for “any component of the student’s cost that arise due to coronavirus”. These grants may cover costs, such as tuition and fees, food assistance, housing assistance, health care (including mental health care) emergencies, childcare emergencies, and other educational-related expenses as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

RGCCHC received \$114,632.00 under this program for emergency financial grants to students.

All enrolled active students as of April, 26<sup>th</sup> including students participating through a component of zoom classes as part of the program course structure, were eligible for consideration of a grant.

The main criterion for a HEERF II Grant is the demonstration of a genuine need and that the capacity for continued study may be in jeopardy due to financial hardship.

HEERF II Criteria:

- Must be a student currently enrolled for the August 2021 PN Program; a student currently enrolled for the January 2021 PN Program.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Must have filed a 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that confirms your citizenship status. (Students who are eligible for Title IV federal aid, but did not accept this aid, are eligible for the HEERF grant.) Please note that the FAFSA EFC will be used to determine the amount of the HEERF II Grant.

Following the parameters of DOE guidance, RGCOHC finalized inclusion and eligibility at the time funding was projected to be disbursed to students who were currently active as of April 26, 2021 using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data as an eligibility calculation and to measure socioeconomic status. Grants were provided to students through a stratified approach using the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Grants ranged from \$215.50 to \$485.00.

As authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260 was signed into law on Dec. 27, 2021. Based on this law on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, the total award amount of 114,632.00 for the Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds will be distributed to students under CRRSAA (HEERF II).

Grant notification occurred the week of May 10, 2021 and distribution, the week of May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. All students received an email notice on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regarding how the CRRSSA program impacted them. All students will receive their grant by check in the US postal mail.

**Please keep an eye out for an email to your personal email account that you have provided to Rochester General College of Health for more information and contact [CollegeFinancialAid@rochesterregional.org](mailto:CollegeFinancialAid@rochesterregional.org) for any questions not answered below.**

## **HEERF II FAQs**

[Who is eligible?](#)

*Students that have shown an exceptional need.*

[How much money is available for students?](#)

*In total, the Department of education awarded the school \$114,632.00 in grant funds to award to our student body.*

[Can I file a FAFSA now to be considered for the HEERF funds?](#)

*No. Currently, we have concluded the calculation for disbursements to all of our students. All students at our institution satisfied the fafsa application request. .*

[How will I be notified if I am approved for funding?](#)

*Students are notified by their personal email addresses supplied to the school upon admission to the program.*

[If I qualify for a HEERF II Grant, how much money will I receive?](#)

*Funds available to students vary based on need. We used the students FAFSA and Expected Family Contribution to determine the range of need. Grant disbursements range from \$215 to \$485.00*

[If I am approved for funding, how can I claim my grant?](#)

*The Grants to our students are disbursed automatically. Payments will appear as a direct deposit if you are a team member. All other student payments will be in the form of a check and will be sent through the US Postal Service.*

[Can I receive a HEERF II Grant if I already received a HEERF I Grant?](#)

*Yes.*

[Will receiving this emergency grant reduce my financial aid?](#)

*No. This grant will not reduce your financial aid. It is a federal emergency grant as a result of the Novel Coronavirus, COVID – 19.*

[Is Rochester General College of Health itself receiving any HEERF Grant II funding?](#)

*Yes. RGCCHC received an equal amount to be used for the institutional costs.*

[I have already graduated and incurred expenses due to the COVID-19 disruptions. Am I eligible?](#)

*Students who have graduated at our institution have received funding from*

[Are any groups of students excluded?](#)

*Yes. International, undocumented and DACA students are ineligible for this emergency grant.*

[Do I need to report HEERF I or II Grants on my federal tax return?](#)

*These funds are emergency relief grants provided by the federal government and are not considered to be part of a student's typical financial aid package. Additionally, per the Internal Revenue Service, these funds are categorized as disaster relief payments under section 130 of the Internal Revenue Code and are excluded from taxable income.*

[If I didn't complete a FAFSA for 2020-2021, will I still receive an aid payment?](#)

*We would utilize your fafsa from the prior year, 2019-2020, to make a determination based on your expected family contribution.*

[How was my aid amount determined?](#)

*All student emergency grants were determined by using the free application for federal student aid. The expected family contribution was to determine the students with the most need.*

Do I need to repay this?

*No. This is a federal grant. There are no students that are required to repay this grant.*