

Office of Student Financial Services

HEERF Grant II (CRRSAA) Reporting

CRRSAA Act – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II Grants to Students Required 30-day Report (posted 4/7/2021)

On 12/27/2020, the President of the United States signed the Coronavirus, Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. This Act provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II), found in Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act, allows higher education institutions to use certain funds allocated by the Department of Education to support students and higher education institutions with expenses and financial needs related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The following information is provided by Brandeis University as required by the Department of Education ("ED") in order to comply with the reporting requirements under the CRRSAA Act. The first report is required to be posted within 30 days of the first disbursement of the funds, which occurred on 3/9/2021; subsequent updates are required no more than ten days after each quarter thereafter, ending with the date on which all funds are expended.

- 1. An acknowledgement that the institution has used, or intends to use, the same amount of HEERF II funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students as offered to students for HEERF I under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.**

Institutions who received HEERF I Grant funds under the CARES Act were not required to submit an application for the HEERF II Grant. Brandeis University received its HEERF II Grant award notification on 1/21/2021. In keeping with the terms of acceptance of these funds, Brandeis University will use no less than \$1,599,233, as stated under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act, to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

- 2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act.**

Brandeis University is slated to receive a total of \$4,452,457 under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act, of which \$1,599,233 will be provided directly to students with expenses related to the COVID-19 crisis. On 3/26/2021, the University received \$1,400,000 of the student portion of this award and \$1,400,000 of the institutional portion of this award.

- 3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the 30-day Report and every quarter thereafter).**

As of 4/7/2021, Brandeis University had 2,334 HEERF-eligible students. All enrolled students were notified of the availability of this grant via e-mail on 3/8/2021. Students were notified that they could apply for these funds by filing a FAFSA no later than 4/1/2021 and that eligible students could request the Grant via the Sage until 4/9/2021. Eligible students who had not yet requested the funds were sent weekly reminder e-mails with instructions.

As of 4/7/2021, 2,334 awards were offered, in an amount of \$1,200, \$600 or \$300, depending on the student's FAFSA EFC; 2,065 awards were requested and distributed as of this date.

- 4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act.**



QUESTIONS? ASK LOUIS

Brandeis University determined that 2,334 students were eligible for the HEERF II Grant as of 4/7/2021.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act.

As of the date of the initial 30-day Disclosure, the total number of students who have been offered an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act is 2,334; 2,065 grants were distributed as of 4/7/2021.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 314(1)(a) of the CRRSAA Act.

Brandeis University is using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as the application to apply for a HEERF II Grant. Any currently enrolled student, enrolled in a degree program during the spring 2021 semester (for exclusively online degree programs, students must be enrolled full time), with a 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 FAFSA filed by April 1, 2021 that confirmed their U.S. Citizen or permanent resident status, was determined to be eligible for a HEERF II Grant. As of 4/8/2021, 2,334 students met the criteria for the grant. Students with a FAFSA EFC of \$10,000 or below qualified for a grant of \$1,200, students with an EFC between \$10,001 and \$25,000 qualified for a grant of \$600, and students with an EFC above \$25,000 qualified for a grant of \$300. If all students eligible for a grant request distribution of these funds, the entirety of the \$1,599,233 allotment will be expended by 4/9/2021. As of 4/7/2021, \$12,833 in funds were remaining.

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

An email was sent to all enrolled students on 3/8/2021, explaining the eligibility requirements and indicating the 4/1/2021 deadline to submit the FAFSA and the 4/9/2021 deadline to request the funds via Sage. The e-mail also directed students to the University's [HEERF II website](#). This website includes eligibility requirements for the grant, deadlines and timelines, and FAQs.

Eligible students who had not yet requested the funds were sent weekly reminder e-mails with instructions.



QUESTIONS? ASK LOUIS