

The US Department of Education's Certification and Agreement directs each institution applying for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to comply with Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and submit an initial report (the "30-day Fund Report") to the Secretary thirty (30) days from the date of the institution's Certification and Agreement to the Department. In addition to reporting to the Secretary, each HEERF participating institution must post the information listed below on the institution's primary website. The Department would like to receive the most current information from the date when the institution received its allocation for emergency financial aid grants to students, and the institution should have received its allocation within a few days after submitting the Certification and Agreement. Accordingly, the following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public every quarter after the date when the institution received its allocation under 18004(a)(1):

SSC's Certification and Agreement date: 4/15/2020

Date of first report: 5/15/2020

Date of last report: 7/10/2021

1. Seminole State College acknowledges that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and assures that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. The total amount of funds that the institution has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is:
  - Cares Act/HEERF I - \$581,663
  - HEERF II - \$581,663
  - ARP/HEERF III – \$2,058,277
3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission.
  - As of 5/8/2020, \$172,825 of the funds have been disbursed to students
  - As of 6/29/2020, \$317,355 of the funds have been disbursed to students
  - As of 8/13/2020, \$394,900 of the funds have been disbursed to students
  - As of 9/30/2020, \$526,790 of the funds have been disbursed to students
  - As of 11/13/2020, \$581,663 of the funds have been disbursed to students
  - As of 7/10/2021, \$956,263 of the funds have been disbursed to students
4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

- Estimated total number of students for HEERF I: 1,003
  - Estimated total number of students for HEERF II: 912
  - Estimated total number of students for HEERF III: TBD
5. The total number of students (unduplicated) who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
- As of 5/8/2020, 300 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant
  - As of 6/29/2020, 556 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant
  - As of 8/13/2020, 612 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant
  - As of 9/30/2020, 642 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant
  - As of 11/13/2020, 656 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant
  - As of 7/20/2021, 691 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant
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 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Seminole State College's administration took the following approaches to the disbursement of HEERF I.

- A. SSC students who had been employed (not federal work study students) by SSC prior to the closure of campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic were identified as a group who fit the criteria to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants. While the grants awarded to them are not a replacement of wages, the set amount awarded to them is for expenses that were caused by the disruption of the pandemic.
- B. It was determined that \$50,000 would be "set aside" to be awarded for the summer semester and upcoming award year based on need. An application process is being developed and will be overseen by a committee of seven (7) campus leaders.
- C. Any SSC student who was actively enrolled in at least one face-to-face Spring 2020 course as of March 23, 2020 was made eligible for a grant in the amount of \$45 per enrolled credit hour between 3 – 15 credit hours. To receive the funds, each student had to meet 3 eligibility components:
  - i. Basic Title IV eligibility – established by completing a FAFSA or by completing a CARES Act Self-certification application made available through the SSC online student portal
  - ii. Document the student had a disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic – established by completing a CARES Act funding application made available through the SSC online student portal

- iii. Document the student would apply the funds to eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare - established by completing a CARES Act funding application made available through the SSC online student portal

The students were given until June 30, 2020 to complete the FAFSA and/or applications. Upon completion, the students were awarded the funds. The first disbursement of funds to students, who had completed the requirements, was made 5 business days after the information was sent to students. SSC has scheduled subsequent disbursements approximately every two weeks to disburse funds to students as they complete their documents.

Any funds unclaimed will be added to the funding mentioned in section B.

- D. Any SSC student who was actively enrolled in at least one Fall 2020 course was eligible to apply for additional HEERF I grant. To receive the funds, each student had to submit an application to document their need for additional pandemic related expenses. The application was made available to all students via student email and by being posted on the SSC website. Additionally, students could submit their application electronically or in person. A committee comprised of campus representatives reviewed each application anonymously and objectively determined the amounts of each award based on the information submitted.

Seminole State College's administration took the following approaches to the disbursement of HEERF II.

- A. Any SSC student who was actively enrolled in at least one Spring 2021 course was eligible for a HEERF II grant. To give priority to low-income students, it was determined to pay Pell eligible students in the amount of \$50 per enrolled credit hour and non-Pell students in the amount of \$40 per credit hour. To receive the funds, each student had to complete an electronic, three question application:
  - i. Verified U.S. Citizenship
  - ii. Confirmed the category in which they experienced the most increase due to Covid-19 pandemic
  - iii. Students chose to have funds paid directly to them or through their SSC student account

Seminole State College's administration will determine the approach to the disbursement of HEERF III in the near future.

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

A webpage was created on the Seminole State website to serve as a point of information for all students.

<http://www.sscok.edu/covid19/covid.html>

A link to the HEERF II electronic application was placed on SSC's website homepage.

Multiple Facebook postings directing students to HEERF fund information via various SSC Department Facebook accounts.

The following files are posted on this page for public viewing:

[HEERF I Files](#) (Information was replaced with HEERF II Files below)

[CARES Act FAQ](#)

[Video of instruction on how to complete the CARES Act Funding Application\(s\)](#)

[SSC Campus CARES Scholarship Application](#)

[SSC Campus CARES Scholarship FAQ](#)

[HEERF II Files](#)

[HEERF II Funds FAQs](#)

[How to Apply for HEERF II Funds - Video](#)

The following emails were sent to the campus community concerning HEERF I and II:

Date	Email sent to:	Email sent from:		
4/22/20	Entire campus community	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	Development of CARES Act Funding	<a href="#">Click here</a>
5/1/20	Entire campus community	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	CARES Act Funding available	<a href="#">Click here</a>
5/4/20	SSS/STEM students	Janna Wilson-Byrd, Director of SSS/STEM program	CARES Act Money	<a href="#">Click here</a>
5/4/20	SSS/STEM students	Janna Wilson-Byrd, Director of SSS/STEM program	CARES Act Video	<a href="#">Click here</a>
5/4/20	All Faculty (to pass info to students)	Dr. Linda Goeller, Interim VP of Academic Affairs	Help our students	<a href="#">Click here</a>
5/7/20	Student Wage Workers	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	CARES Act Award	<a href="#">Click here</a>
5/13/20	Students who had not completed app	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	Don't miss out on your CARES Act	<a href="#">Click here</a>
6/23/20	Students who had not completed app	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	URGENT! CARES Act Money Deadline	<a href="#">Click here</a>
6/30/20	All SSC Faculty and Staff	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	SSC Campus Cares Scholarship	<a href="#">Click here</a>
7/6/20	All SSC Students	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	SSC Campus Cares Scholarship Info	<a href="#">Click here</a>
8/17/20	All SSC Students	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	SSC Campus Cares Scholarship Info	<a href="#">Click here</a>
8/24/20	All SSC Students and Staff	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	Continued Relief for Student Loans	<a href="#">Click here</a>
12/7/20	All SSC Students and Staff	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	Update on Student Loan Relief	<a href="#">Click here</a>
3/9/21	All SSC Students	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	HEERF II Funds Announcement	<a href="#">Click here</a>
3/3/21	SSS/STEM Students	Janna Wilson-Byrd, Director of SSS/STEM program	HEERF II Funds Announcement	<a href="#">Click here</a>
3/25/21	HS Counselors	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	HEERF II Funds Announcement	<a href="#">Click here</a>
3/31/21	All SSC Students	Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance	Reminder of HEERF App. Deadline	<a href="#">Click here</a>
6/22/2021	All SSC Students	Edith Cathey, Director of Financial Assistance	Summer HEERF II Funds Application	<a href="#">Click here</a>

