

University of Houston System

COVID-19
Emergency Grant Programs

DSAES Leadership Conference 2021

HEERF I/CARES Act

- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I), part of the CARES Act, passed March 27, 2020
- Institutions received allocations through the Department of Ed (ED), based on 77% of Pell eligible students, 23% non-Pell eligible
 - required to spend one-half on emergency grants
 - one-half on institutional expenses
- Emergency grants had to go directly to students; couldn't use to pay balances
- Language in the law was highly restrictive:
 - “due to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19”

HEERF I/CARES Act

- UH: \$18,351,642
 - Combination of blanket grants and applications
- UH – Downtown: \$4,728,325
 - Combination of blanket grants and applications
- UH – Clear Lake: \$2,777,685
 - Combination of blanket grants and applications
- UH – Victoria: \$1,116,503
 - Awarded through an application process

HEERF II/CRRSAA

- Law was signed on December 27, 2020
 - Removed language limiting funds to “disruption of campus operations”
 - Emphasis on students with extreme need
- Received ongoing guidance through April, 2021
 - Hard to award when rules change along the way
- Schools received the same allocation as for HEERF I
 - Same requirements for 50/50: emergency grants/institutional funds
- Emergency grants can now be used for past due balances, as long as the student authorizes school to pay toward the balance

HEERF II/CRRSAA

- UH: \$18,351,642
 - Combination of blanket grants and applications
 - Applications still in progress
- UH – Downtown: \$4,728,325
 - Combination of blanket grants and applications
 - Applications still in progress
- UH – Clear Lake: \$2,777,685
 - Combination of blanket grants and applications
 - All disbursed
- UH – Victoria: \$1,116,503
 - Awarded through an application process
 - Applications still in progress

HEERF III/ARP

- Substantially higher allocations for HEERF III
 - Slightly more required to go to emergency grants versus institutional expenses
 - Acceptable institutional expenses are lost revenue, reimbursement for incurred expenses, technology costs for distance education, faculty and staff trainings, payroll
 - International, DACA and undocumented students now eligible
- Focus is on students with extreme need
 - Distribution plans still in progress
- One year to spend

HEERF III/ARP

- UH: \$54,713,989
 - Will be distributed through an application process
 - Not yet begun
- UH – Downtown: \$16,500,000
 - Disbursement plan in development
- UH – Clear Lake: \$9,010,174
 - Disbursement plan in development
- UH – Victoria: \$3,668,435
 - Disbursement plan in development

GEER Emergency Grants

- Through CARES Act, institutions also received money from the Governors Emergency Education Relief Funds for grants to students
- Some awarded as emergency grants, some awarded as additional TEXAS Grant allocations

GEER Emergency Grants

- UH:
 - Emergency Grants: \$3,178,456
 - TEXAS Grants: \$3,094,632
- UH – Downtown
 - Emergency Grants: \$1,094,498
 - TEXAS Grants: \$1,131,303
- UH – Clear Lake
 - Emergency Grants: \$624,431
 - TEXAS Grants: \$645,428
- UH – Victoria
 - Emergency Grants: \$300,178
 - TEXAS Grants: None

MSI Funds

- Schools designated by ED as Minority Serving Institutions received additional funding
- Not required to spend on emergency grants to students, but some institutions allocated a portion for this

MSI Emergency Grants

- UH:
 - Emergency Grants: \$1,032,527
- UH – Downtown
 - Emergency Grants: \$397,657
- UH – Clear Lake
 - Emergency Grants: \$406,754
- UH – Victoria
 - Emergency Grants: None

Institutional Emergency Funds

What institutional options, if any, exist for students at each campus?

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QUESTIONS?