

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Reporting – Student Aid Funds (Quarter ending June 30, 2021)

Update to Final Quarterly Report Covering CARES Act (HEERF I) Student Aid Fund Expenditures¹

Quarterly Report Covering CRRSAA (HEERF II) Student Aid Fund Expenditures²

The Federal Government has provided emergency relief funds to colleges, including Suffolk County Community College, through legislation such as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan (ARP). These relief funds are categorized as the HEERF I (under the Cares Act), HEERF II (under CRRSAA), and HEERF III (under ARP) to continue support for institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. A portion of these funds are to be used to provide emergency financial assistance to students.

Suffolk County Community College has been allocated HEERF Student Aid Funds to provide emergency grants to students experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic for expenses related to any component of the student's cost of attendance and/or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus.

As a recipient of HEERF Student Aid Funds, Suffolk County Community College is required by the U.S. Department of Education to report the following elements on a quarterly basis:

1. An acknowledgment that the certification agreement was signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. The total amount of funds the institution will receive or has received from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Financial Aid Grants to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs.
3. The total amount of emergency grants distributed to students.
4. The estimated total number of students eligible to receive an emergency grant.
5. The total number of students who received an emergency grant.
6. The method the institution used to determine which students will receive emergency grants and how much funding they will receive.
7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the emergency grants.

¹ The quarterly report covering the period ending March 31, 2021 was noted as a Final Quarterly Report due to the award of all remaining HEERF I funds during that reporting period. However, subsequent to that period, a small amount of emergency grants previously reported remained unclaimed and were redistributed during this period.

² This report reflects receipt of HEERF III Student Aid Funds under the American Rescue Plan (ARP). However, No HEERF III Student Aid Funds were expended during the quarter covered by this report.

CARES Act HEERF I Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Suffolk County Community College acknowledges an authorized representative of the institution has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and 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.

Suffolk County Community College has received \$6,589,770 from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement [for] CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Suffolk County Community College has distributed \$6,589,770 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of June 30, 2021.³ \$22,725 of this was distributed between April 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.

Suffolk County Community College has determined that approximately 14,000 students, based on the number of students who submitted a FAFSA in the 2018-2019 academic year, at the institution are potentially 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.

23 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act between March 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021 with remaining redistributed funds from unclaimed awards.

Suffolk County Community College has prioritized awarding of Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to its students in the following manner (methodology):

Priority 1: Pell Grant recipients during the Spring 2020 semester will receive an award, upon request and certification that they have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the Spring 2020 semester, in an amount corresponding to the number of credits they were taking during the Spring 2020 semester.

Priority 2: All Title IV eligible students during the Spring 2020 semester who have unexpected expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 were eligible to submit an application for a CARES Act emergency grant. This application asked students to explain how their expenses have unexpectedly increased as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

Priority 3: Block grants were awarded to all Title IV eligible students enrolled during the Fall 2020 semester as of the end of November 2020 and who otherwise met the general eligibility criteria to receive a CARES Act emergency grant. Students did not have to

³ Please note: The reported disbursements may include redistributions of unclaimed emergency grants previously reported.

apply for these funds, and the funds awarded were based on the number of credits they were taking: Pell grant recipients (\$100 if enrolled less than half-time; \$125 if enrolled half-time; \$200 if enrolled $\frac{3}{4}$ time; \$350 if enrolled full-time), Title IV aid recipients (\$75 if enrolled less than half-time; \$125 if enrolled half-time; \$250 if enrolled $\frac{3}{4}$ time; \$350 if enrolled full-time).

Priority 4: \$73,715 was awarded between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021. The following methodologies were used to identify recipients: The Suffolk Community College Foundation provided a list of students who had requested emergency financial assistance as a result of COVID-19 through the Foundation's emergency and hardship funding. From that list, 34 students were identified as Title IV aid eligible, and these students each received awards of \$1,000, for a total of \$34,000 in awards. The College's Director of the NYS Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at SUNY Suffolk, which provides support to eligible students who are economically disadvantaged, among other criteria, also identified EOP students impacted by COVID-19 for consideration for an award if Title IV eligible. 36 EOP students were awarded \$500 each for a total of \$18,000 in awards. Nursing students who had additional expenses related to their program due to COVID-19 were reviewed to identify Title IV aid eligibility. 125 Nursing students received \$150 each for a total of \$18,700 in awards. Lastly, College personnel identified additional students in need due to COVID-19, who were reviewed for Title IV aid eligibility, and additional students received awards. \$22,725 was awarded between April 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021 with remaining redistributed funds from unclaimed awards.

Under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, students thus far have received awards ranging from \$75 to \$3,000.

Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act has been posted on Suffolk County Community College's CARES Act Emergency Funds webpage: <https://sunysuffolk.edu/coronavirus/cares-act-emergency-funds.jsp>.

Spring 2020 Pell Grant Recipients began receiving email communications on June 3, 2020 informing them they were eligible to request their priority CARES Act emergency grant, with instructions on how to submit their request and certification through the MySCCC student portal. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student acknowledges that he/she has or will have incurred allowable expenses of food, housing, technology, course materials, health care, childcare, and/or transportation as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student further understands that it is his/her responsibility to immediately notify the Financial Aid office immediately if he/she will not incur expenses during the Spring 2020 semester that meet or exceed the amount of any award. Any CARES Act emergency grant funding students receive are required to be used toward the expenses for which they were approved.

The application for all Title IV eligible students to apply for and receive CARES Act emergency grant funds in connection with the Spring 2020 semester was made available and announced to students on July 7, 2020. Via this application, students request funds in specific amounts corresponding to identified expenses in their applications; once their applications are reviewed, they are awarded funds if eligible or are informed if they are not eligible. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student acknowledges that he/she has or will have incurred allowable expenses of food, housing, technology, course materials, health care, childcare, and/or transportation as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. By requesting and accepting CARES Act emergency grant funding, the student further understands that it is his/her responsibility to immediately notify the Financial Aid office immediately if he/she will not incur expenses during the Spring 2020 semester that meet or exceed the amount of any award. Any CARES Act emergency grant funding students receive are required to be used toward the expenses for which they were approved.

Students were emailed about the Phase 1 and Phase 2 application process four times.

Students who received Priority III awards in connection with block grants to students in the Fall 2020 semester were notified of their award and instructed as follows: “In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), funds have been made available through the CARES Act to award emergency grants to Title IV eligible students for expenses related to the disruption due to COVID-19. Suffolk County Community College has deemed you eligible to receive a CARES Act award of \$ ___ as part of our Phase III Fall 2020 distribution of emergency financial aid grants to students. This is not a loan and will not need to be paid back. These funds can be used for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and/or transportation). Please click [here](#) for more information on what is included in a student’s cost of attendance.”

Students receiving Priority 4 awards with remaining CARES Act funds were notified of their award and instructed as follows: “In response to the coronavirus pandemic, funds have been made available through the CARES Act to award emergency grants to students for expenses related to the any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses include tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare. The Campus has deemed you eligible to receive an emergency grant in the amount of \$ ___. This is not a loan and will not need to be paid back and will not affect your financial aid award amounts for academic year 2021-2022. Students must understand it is their responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office immediately if they will not incur expenses that meet or exceed the amount of their emergency grant.”

CRRSAA HEERF II Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Suffolk County Community College received Student Aid funding under the CRRSAA Section 314(a)(1) program. This program, with some changes, provides supplemental funds to the CARES Act Section 18004(a)(1) program. Suffolk County Community College signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education a Certification and Agreement as required under the CARES Act Section 18004(a)(1) program. We acknowledge that by drawing down the CRRSAA funds, our institution agrees to be bound by the conditions set forth in the CRRSAA

Supplemental Agreement, including using 100% of these funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

Suffolk County Community College has received or will receive \$6,589,770 from the Department of Education in Student Aid funding under the CRRSAA Section 314(a)(1) program.

Suffolk County Community College has distributed \$6,540,691 under the CRRSAA Section 314(a)(1) (HEERF II) program as of June 30, 2021. \$6,540,691 of this was distributed between March 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.

Suffolk County Community College determined that approximately 5,143 students, based on the number of students enrolled in the Spring 2021 semester with Pell-eligible expected family contributions, were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSAA Section 314(a)(1) program, utilizing the State University of New York (SUNY)'s formula for prioritizing students with demonstrated exceptional need. Other students are potentially eligible for award with remaining funds, if they have demonstrated need.

5,242 students have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under the CRRSAA Section 314(a)(1) program as of June 30, 2021. 5,143 students received Emergency Financial Aid Priority 1 grants utilizing SUNY's formula for prioritizing students with Pell-eligible expected family contributions who were enrolled during the Spring 2021 semester. 99 students received Emergency Financial Aid grants with remaining HEERF II funds based on exceptional need.

Suffolk County Community College has prioritized awarding of Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSAA Section 314(a)(1) program to its students in the following manner (awarding methodology):

Priority 1 (Pell-eligible expected family contributions): Students enrolled during the Spring 2021 semester with Pell-eligible expected family contributions were identified to receive Priority 1 grants utilizing SUNY's formula. Award amount was based on the EFC range and the student's full-time / part-time status, as delineated below:

		Student Award Chart			
		Award Amount Per EFC Range and FT/PT Status			
		100%	75%	50%	25%
Base Grant		EFC Range 0 - 1,500	EFC Range 1,501 - 2,900	EFC Range 2,901 - 4,300	EFC Range 4,301 - 5,711
\$740.00	FT	\$1,480.00	\$1,295.00	\$1,110.00	\$925.00
\$370.00	PT	\$1,110.00	\$925.00	\$740.00	\$555.00

Additional Grants: Thereafter, additional students who did not receive Priority 1 grants but who were otherwise eligible under the CRRSAA Section 314(a) program and who were identified as having exceptional need by Financial Aid (including based on NYS need-based aid eligibility) received awards. This included DACA students who were not eligible for CARES Act grants. Awards were based upon enrollment status and demonstrated need.

Under the CRRSAA Section 314(a) program, students thus far have received awards ranging from \$244 to \$2,766.

Instructions, directions, and guidance provide by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSAA Section 314(a) program were as follows:

Students receiving Priority 1 grants were notified via email of their award and provided with the following information:

To: Eligible Students
Subject: Award of Emergency Grant under the
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II)
Date: April 1, 2021

We hope you and your loved ones are remaining healthy and safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of the challenges and changes that you have had to face during this period, we hope you are able to successfully meet the academic expectations associated with your educational goals.

As part of the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II), we are able to advise you that Suffolk County Community College has received federal grant funding to distribute to eligible students in the form of emergency financial aid grants. This funding is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA).

CRRSAA and SUNY require that institutions making these disbursements prioritize students with demonstrated exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants and students with Pell-eligible expected family contributions (EFCs). You are receiving this email because you have been deemed eligible to receive a priority emergency grant from the College.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, funds have been made available through CRRSAA to award emergency grants to students for expenses related to any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses include tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), and childcare. Please click [here](#) for more information on what is included in a student's cost of attendance.

The College has deemed you eligible to receive an emergency grant in the amount of \$XXX. This is not a loan, will not need to be paid back, and will not affect your financial aid award amounts for academic year 2021-2022. Students must understand it is their responsibility to notify the

Office of Financial Aid immediately if they will not incur expenses that meet or exceed the amount of their emergency grant.

You do not need to complete an application to receive these funds. The Office of Financial Aid will distribute HEERF II student grants directly to the College's eligible students.

For more detailed information on the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) please visit the College's [Coronavirus microsite](#). You may also email your campus Financial Aid office with any questions you may have.

Students receiving awards from additional funds were informed of their award and instructed as follows via email:

Dear Student:

In response to the coronavirus, funds have been made available through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)'s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to award emergency grants to students for expenses relate to any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses include tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), and childcare. You have been deemed eligible to receive an emergency grant in the amount of \$__ from available remaining funds. This is not a loan and will not need to be paid back and will not affect your financial aid award amounts for the 2021-2022 academic year. Students must understand it is their responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office immediately if they will not incur expenses that meet or exceed the amount of their emergency grant. For additional information about this grant or if you have questions, please email your campus Financial Aid Office. You can find more information on the College's [Coronavirus microsite](#).

ARP HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Suffolk County Community College received Student Aid funding under Section 2003(7) of the ARP. This program, with some changes, provides supplemental funds to the CARES Act Section 18004(a)(1) program. Suffolk County Community College signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education a Certification and Agreement as required under the CARES Act Section 18004(a)(1) program. We acknowledge that by drawing down the ARP funds, our institution agrees to be bound by the conditions set forth in the ARP Supplemental Agreement, including using 100% of these funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

Suffolk County Community College has received or will receive \$22,747,465 from the Department of Education in Student Aid funding under the ARP Section 2003(7) program.

Suffolk County Community College has distributed \$0 under the ARP Section 2003(7) program as of June 30, 2021.

As of June 30, 2021, the number of students potentially eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the ARP Section 2003(7) program has not yet been determined.

As of June 30, 2021, the awarding methodology for the ARP Section 2003(7) program has not yet been determined.

As of June 30, 2021, students have not received awards in any amount under the ARP Section 2003(7) program.

No instructions, directions, or guidance have been provided to students as of June 30, 2021 under the ARP Section 2003(7) program, as no awards have been issued as of this date.