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## **CRRSAA / HEERF II Emergency Financial Aid Grants**

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In response to the unprecedented crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), which established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”) to provide relief funding to institutions of higher education. Congress supplemented this funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (“CRRSAA” or “HEERF II”), so that institutions can provide additional Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students impacted by the coronavirus national emergency.

As directed by the U.S. Department of Education (“ED”)<sup>1</sup>, institutions receiving CRRSAA funds must publicly report the following information:

**1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA Section 314(a)(4) program (“(a)(4) program”) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.**

University of Phoenix acknowledges that it signed and returned its “Certification and Agreement” to the U.S. Department of Education on February 11, 2021. The University has used, or intends to use, funds received under the CRRSAA (a)(4) program solely for the purposes of providing Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

**2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from ED pursuant to the institution’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA (a)(4) program.**

University of Phoenix was allocated CRRSAA (a)(4) program funding in the amount of \$7,443,930.

**3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA (a)(4) program as of the date of the quarterly report.**

As of September 30, 2021, University of Phoenix distributed \$7,443,930 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

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

University of Phoenix estimates 22,763 students were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

**5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to Students under the CRRSAA (a)(4) program.**

As of September 30, 2021, University of Phoenix distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 22,235 students.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Register notice (86 FR 26213) May 13, 2021: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-13/pdf/2021-10196.pdf>

**6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA (a)(4) program.**

In accordance with the CRRSAA guidance provided by ED<sup>2</sup>, University of Phoenix prioritized students with exceptional need by identifying undergraduate Pell-eligible students with unmet need and who were enrolled (“active”) or on an approved leave of absence. The University then contacted these students to offer an Emergency Financial Aid Grant.

Students are not required to complete a separate application for the Emergency Financial Aid Grant but must accept the Grant offer by August 11, 2021 in order to receive a Grant award.

All students will receive the same Grant amount. The actual Grant award will be determined by dividing the University’s CRRSAA allocation by the number of students who accept the Grant.


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

The University identified the population of eligible students as described above. Notifications were sent to eligible students via email and campus account alerts advising them of the offer for an Emergency Financial Aid Grant. Each notification instructed the student to accept or decline the Grant by the stated deadline, advised the student that failure to accept the Grant by the deadline would result in reallocation of grant funds to other eligible students, and encouraged the student to ensure that banking information (for direct deposit/ACH) and permanent address (for paper check) was accurate for prompt delivery of Grant funds. The University launched an outreach campaign to contact eligible students who did not respond within one week of the initial communications.

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<sup>2</sup> HEERF II Proprietary Institution Grant Funds for Students FAQs published 1/14/21, updated 3/19/21, FAQ #4:

Copy of initial email notification to eligible students



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Dear Students:

As part of the federal economic aid made available during the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Phoenix was allocated Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds II (HEERF II) to support, first and foremost, our students with exceptional need.


Under the federal parameters of this program, you are eligible for approximately **\$325** in HEERF II funds; please **accept or deny** these funds no later than **August 11, 2021**. Failure to accept or deny the funds by **August 11, 2021** will automatically terminate your eligibility for the HEERF II funds. Unclaimed funds will be allocated to other eligible students.

To ensure you receive emergency funds as quickly as possible, please ensure that your banking information (direct deposit/ACH) and permanent address (for payment via a paper check) are current; you can update, if needed, via [this link](#). The University's goal is to provide these funds as quickly as possible, so ensuring your banking information is accurate is critical – please take a moment to check via the shared above. You can expect to receive the funds within 60 days of the notification deadline.

Thank you, stay well!

Bronson Ledbetter  
Vice President, Student Financial Services and Operations  
University of Phoenix

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