

Grand Rapids Community College  
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II

Second Quarter Report for the time period of April 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

Final Report

July 10, 2021

**Acknowledgments of Signed Certification and Agreement Forms**

Following the December 27, 2020 passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) received notice on January 17, 2021 that it would receive an additional \$3,403,086 from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II) for the purpose of providing financial awards to students affected by the COVID pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) provided a Grant Award notification to GRCC on January 17, 2021.

On April 13, 2020, Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Certification and Agreement. An unsigned copy is available for review at the Office of Postsecondary Education website. ED approved the signed agreement on April 22, 2020. ED did not require additional certifications for subsequent HEERF funding.

GRCC has received a total of \$39,335,395 in HEERF funding through the CARES Act, CRRSAA, and ARP. A minimum of \$19,863,657 was designated for student grants. As of June 30, 2021, GRCC has disbursed \$18,855,086 of these funds to students and will be disbursing the remaining funding in the coming months.

**Total HEERF funding for student grants**

The HEERF funding as established by the three federal funding laws for student grants is as follows:

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| HEERF I (CARES Act)                   | \$3,403,086  |
| HEERF II (CRRSAA)                     | \$3,403,086  |
| HEERF III (ARP: American Rescue Plan) | \$13,057,485 |

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Total available for student grants</b> | <b>\$19,863,657</b> |
|---|---------------------|

### **Total HEERF awarded to students**

As of June 30, 2021, GRCC has disbursed \$18,855,086 in HEERF funding to students.

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| HEERF I                                | \$3,403,086         |
| HEERF II                               | \$3,403,086         |
| HEERF III                              | \$12,048,914        |
| <b>Total HEERF awarded to students</b> | <b>\$18,855,086</b> |

The remainder of this report focuses on HEERF II awarding. HEERF I and HEERF III reports are available on the GRCC website at: <https://www.grcc.edu/coronavirus-information/cares-act-reporting>.

### **Number of Students**

Throughout the awarding of HEERF II, GRCC identified 16,029 unique students as potentially eligible for HEERF II awards (correction: previous report had listed the total as 16,040). As of June 30, 2021, GRCC disbursed HEERF II grants to 3,264 students. GRCC has fully disbursed the HEERF II funds of \$3,403,086.

### **Determination of eligible students**

GRCC established four different rounds of awarding HEERF II grants based on updated guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education. The first two rounds were based on guidelines provided under CRRSAA. The third and fourth rounds were based on guidance provided by the Department of Education under ARP

First round of awards: The method of determining eligible students during the first round of HEERF II is noted in the first quarterly report for HEERF II.

Second round of awards: Because of remaining funding available, on April 19, 2021, GRCC expanded the eligibility to include students who may have been eligible for HEERF I funding under the CARES Act. The full criteria are as follows:

- Students needed to be enrolled during the Winter 2021 semester. This includes students enrolled in credit-bearing courses, apprenticeships, workforce (non-credit), and clock-hour courses (as long as the clock-hour course had a start date between January 1, 2021 and April 1, 2021).
- Students were included even if they have CARES Act eligibility in a prior semester.
- GRCC excluded the following students from eligibility: DACA, undocumented students, International students, guest students, consortium students, and dual enrolled students, including middle college or concurrently enrolled high school students.
- Additionally, the HEERF application for students indicated that DACA and undocumented students were not eligible for HEERF grants.

Based on the expanded criteria, an additional 3,886 students became eligible for HEERF II funding. GRCC established two awarding amounts - either \$500 or \$1,000 per student - based on the level of need identified through the application process. Students who identify one to three of the above barriers would be awarded \$500. Those identifying four or more barriers would receive awards of \$1,000. On May, 11, 2021, the application was closed so that GRCC could reassess the criteria and remaining funds.

#### Third Round of Awards:

The American Rescue Plan expanded student criteria to include DACA, undocumented, and international students. The Department of Education subsequently released updated guidelines. Based on those guidelines, GRCC adjusted the criteria to include DACA, undocumented, and international students. Additionally, for this round of awarding, GRCC excluded students who had not received a HEERF II award or had been eligible for HEERF I. The full criteria are as follows:

- Students needed to be enrolled during the Winter 2021 semester. This includes students enrolled in credit-bearing courses, apprenticeships, and job training courses (as long as the job training course had a start date between January 1, 2021 and April 29, 2021).
- DACA, Undocumented, and International students were included, and the student application form was updated to indicate that these students were now eligible.
- GRCC excluded the following students from eligibility: guest students, consortium students, and dual enrolled students, including middle college or concurrently enrolled high school students.
- Also excluded were students who previously received a HEERF award or if they had previously been eligible for a CARES Act (HEERF I) grant. The reason for this exclusion was to make funds available first to students who were not previously eligible.

A total of 4,952 students were identified as meeting these criteria. On May 26, 2021, GRCC opened the HEERF II application to these students. GRCC established two awarding amounts - either \$500 or \$1,000 per student - based on the level of need identified through the application process. Students who identify one to three of the above barriers would be awarded \$500. Those identifying four or more barriers would receive awards of \$1,000. This application was open until June 6, 2021.

Fourth Round of Awards: For this final round of awarding HEERF II grants to students, GRCC determined that students would be awarded a \$3,000 grant as long as they answered “Yes” to at least one of the exceptional need categories on the HEERF application. Students in non-credit healthcare and other workforce programs longer than 6 weeks will be considered for \$1,500. Those enrolled in non-credit programs shorter than 6 weeks will receive \$1,000.

Additionally, GRCC adjusted the eligibility criteria to the following:

- Students needed to be enrolled at GRCC at any time on or after March 13, 2020, up to and including Summer semester 2021.
- DACA, Undocumented, and International students were included.
- GRCC excluded the following students from eligibility: guest students, consortium students, and dual enrolled students, including middle college or concurrently enrolled high school students.
- Also excluded were students who were previously eligible for a HEERF grant under either the CARES Act (HEERF I) or CRRSSA (HEERF II).

A total of 6,080 students were identified as meeting these criteria. The application became available to these students on June 9, 2021. The application closed on June 22, 2021, because the HEERF II funds had been fully awarded to students.

### **Exceptional Need & Student Application**

The HEERF guidelines state that institutions must prioritize HEERF awarding to students who have exceptional need. GRCC defined exceptional need as follows:

- *Students with exceptional need have encountered significant barriers to their academic success as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic.*

Additionally, students with exceptional need have encountered significant barriers to their academic success as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Such barriers include one or more of the following:

- Loss or reduction of income
- Housing
- Utilities
- Food
- Transportation
- Textbooks and/or required class supplies
- Outstanding tuition bills
- Technology (Internet service, computer, etc.)
- Physical/mental health care
- Child care
- Household family care

From March 30, 2021, through June 28, 2021, students submitted applications. As of June 28, 2021, a total of 3,301 applications were submitted. The following table shows the number and percentage of students who attested to having an expense within an eligible category during their enrollment at GRCC.

| <b>Expenses</b>     | <b>Students</b> | <b>Percentage*</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Childcare           | 502             | 15%                |
| Course Material     | 1,714           | 52%                |
| Food                | 1,323           | 40%                |
| Health Care         | 1,577           | 48%                |
| Household           | 782             | 24%                |
| Housing             | 876             | 27%                |
| Loss of Income      | 2,323           | 70%                |
| Technology          | 1,637           | 50%                |
| Transportation      | 1,008           | 31%                |
| Outstanding Tuition | 783             | 24%                |
| Utilities           | 1,068           | 32%                |

\* Note: The chart above is based on 3,301 applications submitted.

**Communication:**

GRCC sent both email and text messages to students to encourage them to apply for HEERF II. The email content provided instructions to students as to how to apply for HEERF II funds. The content of those emails and texts are listed below.

April 11 [email to student and personal]

Dear \${Contacts.First Name},

We are pleased to notify you that you may be eligible for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), if you have experienced exceptional need, defined as having encountered significant barriers to your academic success as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

To determine your eligibility:

- Sign into MyGRCC and select the Online Center

- Select the Higher Ed Emergency Relief tile
- Review general information about the GRCC Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Application

Click the Complete Application button, if you wish to be considered for funding

Confirm you meet the eligibility requirements listed

Select all barriers to academic success you experienced as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic

- Click the Submit Application button
- Update your BankMobile refund preference, if desired, following the instructions provided
- Confirm your contact information and update it, if necessary, in your Online Center

You will receive a separate email notification from BankMobile, if higher education emergency relief funds are disbursed to you.

If you have questions, the GRCC CARES Team can help. Please review our Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds FAQs, email us at [GRCC\\_CARES@grcc.edu](mailto:GRCC_CARES@grcc.edu).

These are difficult times. GRCC has other resources available to help with a variety of challenges. Visit our GET HELP webpage – [grcc.edu/gethelp](http://grcc.edu/gethelp) – listing college and community resources for food and housing insecurity and other challenges.

We hope this will bring some relief to you during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Stay Well.

Best,

President Pink

April 12 text

Hello, this message is from Grand Rapids Community College. Check your email for the email with the subject line - Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Are Available. Please let us know if you have any questions.

April 20[email to student and personal]

Dear \${Contacts.First Name},

We are pleased to notify you that you may be eligible for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), if you have experienced exceptional need, defined as having encountered significant barriers to your academic success as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

To determine your eligibility:

- Sign into [MyGRCC](#) and select the Online Center
- Select the Higher Ed Emergency Relief tile
- Review general information about the GRCC Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Application
  - Click the Complete Application button, if you wish to be considered for funding
  - Confirm you meet the eligibility requirements listed
  - Select all barriers to academic success you experienced as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic
- Click the Submit Application button
- Update your BankMobile refund preference, if desired, following the instructions provided
- Confirm your contact information and update it, if necessary, in your Online Center

You will receive a separate email notification from BankMobile, if higher education emergency relief funds are disbursed to you.

If you have questions, the GRCC CARES Team can help. Please review our [Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds FAQs](#), email us at [GRCC\\_CARES@grcc.edu](mailto:GRCC_CARES@grcc.edu).

These are difficult times. GRCC has other resources available to help with a variety of challenges. Visit our GET HELP webpage – [grcc.edu/gethelp](http://grcc.edu/gethelp) – listing college and community resources for food and housing insecurity and other challenges.

We hope this will bring some relief to you during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Stay Well.

Best,

President Pink

April 21 text

Hello, this message is from Grand Rapids Community College. Check your email for the email with the subject line - Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Are Available. Please let us know if you have any questions.

May 26[email to student and personal]

Dear \${Contacts.First Name},

Grand Rapids Community College is pleased to notify you that you may be eligible for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), if you have experienced exceptional need, defined as having encountered significant barriers to your academic success as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The federal government also has now expanded eligibility to include DACA, undocumented, and international students.

To determine your eligibility, start by signing into [MyGRCC](#). If you are unable to sign in, contact IT Student Support at (616) 234-4357.

Next:

- Sign into [MyGRCC](#) and select the Online Center
- Select the Higher Ed Emergency Relief tile
- Review general information about the GRCC Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Application
  - Click the Complete Application button, if you wish to be considered for funding
  - Confirm you meet the eligibility requirements listed
  - Select all barriers to academic success you experienced as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic
- Click the Submit Application button
- Update your BankMobile refund preference, if desired, following the instructions provided
- Confirm your contact information and update it, if necessary, in your Online Center

You will receive a separate email notification from BankMobile, if higher education emergency relief funds are disbursed to you.

If you have questions, the GRCC CARES Team can help. Please review our [Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds FAQs](#), email us at [GRCC\\_CARES@grcc.edu](mailto:GRCC_CARES@grcc.edu).

These are difficult times. GRCC has other resources available to help with a variety of challenges. Visit our GET HELP webpage – [grcc.edu/gethelp](http://grcc.edu/gethelp) – listing college and community resources for food and housing insecurity and other challenges.

We hope this will bring some relief to you during this unprecedented public health crisis.



May 26 text

Hello, this message is from Grand Rapids Community College. Check your email for the email with the subject line - Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Are Available. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Email to Workforce students

Dear Workforce Training Student,

We are pleased to notify you that you may be eligible for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), if you have experienced exceptional need, defined as having encountered significant barriers to your academic success as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

To determine your eligibility, you must have been enrolled and attended a workforce training class/program sometime between December 1, 2020 and April 29, 2021.

Please go to this link: [Care Act 2 for MTEC Students](#)

1. Fill in your contact information
2. Select all barriers to academic success you experienced as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic
3. Click the Submit Application button.

You will receive a separate email notification if you are approved for higher education emergency relief funds. If so, a check will be mailed to you within 14 business days of your application.

If you have questions, the GRCC CARES Team can help. Please review our Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds FAQs, email us at [workforcetraining@grcc.edu](mailto:workforcetraining@grcc.edu), or call (616) 234-4000.

These are difficult times. GRCC has other resources available to help with a variety of challenges. Visit our GET HELP webpage – [grcc.edu/gethelp](http://grcc.edu/gethelp) – listing college and community resources for food and housing insecurity and other challenges.

We hope this will bring some relief to you during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Stay Well.

Best,

President Pink

**Summary:**

This is the final report for HEERF II because GRCC has fully expended its student portion of HEERF II, as allocated under CRRSAA. GRCC received and has fully awarded to students \$,3403,086.

Updated on April 13, 2022