

**CARES and CRRSAA Grant Frequently
Asked Questions**

<https://pmi.edu/pdf/covid-19/cares-act-faqs>

Please note that CARES Grant program ended on June 1, 2021; however, CRRSA/HEERF II Grant remains available until January 14, 2022 or while funding remains available

Q: What is the CRRSAA/HEERF II Grant and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund?

A: On December 27, 2020, the President signed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (P.L. 116-260). This new law gives the U.S. Department of Education (Department) approximately \$22.7 billion to distribute to institutions of higher education in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus through the HEERF. This law has some similarities—as well as important differences—from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (P.L. 116–136) that was enacted on March 27, 2020. These FAQs provide an overview of those similarities and differences and describe the differences between the funds allocated under section 314(a)(4) of the CRRSAA. The grant program authorized under section 314(a)(4) of the CRRSAA is referred to below as the “(a)(4) program” and its funds as “(a)(4) funds.”

Q: What amount of (a)(4) funds must institutions devote to financial aid grants to students?

A: The CRRSAA requires that proprietary institutions receiving funding under the (a)(4) program to use all their grant funds to provide financial aid grants to students.

Q: What amount of the CRRSAA (HEERF II) funds do students qualify for at Pima Medical Institute (PMI)?

A: Phase I – Students who were actively enrolled and attending school on July 1, 2021 and demonstrated *exceptional need* based on the student Estimated Family Contribution (EFC – located on Student Aid Report (SAR)) from either 2020/2021 or 2021/2022 FAFSA award year.

Attending OPE ID 02217100 or 01477100*

EFC	Award Value
0 – 5,846	\$1,400.00
5,847 – 20,000	\$700.00
20,001+	\$0.00

Attending OPE ID 03678300*

EFC	Award Value
0 – 5,846	\$200.00
5,847 – 20,000	\$150.00
20,001+	\$0.00

*See last page for list of campuses by OPE ID

Phase II - All active students enrolled between July 1, 2021, and January 14, 2022, who are experiencing expenses related to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under the student's cost of attendance as stated above) and demonstrate *exceptional need* (determined by EFC, must be 5,846 or less to qualify) will have an opportunity to apply for a \$500.00 emergency grant. The application will be available on the PMI student portal beginning August 30, 2021.

Students that receive CRRSAA Grant-Phase I are eligible to apply for the Phase II emergency grant provided they still have unmet need. However, students can only apply for Phase II one time, and subsequent applications will not be processed.

All OPE IDs

EFC	Award Value
0 – 5,846	\$500.00

Q: How is exceptional need determined by the institution?

A: PMI will use the lowest EFF on file for the 2020/2021 or the 2021/2022 award year to determine exceptional need. Students can apply for federal aid and receive an EFC by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Q: How do I apply for Phase II HEERF grant?

A: First, verify that student SAR report indicates an EFC of 5,846 or less. If yes, then complete and submit the application found on the PMI Student Portal. Allow 14-21 days for processing of application and an additional 14 days to process payment. **NOTE:** Please confirm and update all address and contact information prior to submitting the application to ensure checks are mailed to the correct location.

Q: What are the requirements for making financial aid grants to students?

A: Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants. In addition, the CRRSAA explicitly provides that financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. Institutions may not (1) condition the receipt of financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the institution, (2) use the financial aid grants to satisfy a student’s outstanding account balance, unless it has obtained the student’s written (or electronic), affirmative consent, or (3) require such consent as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for the financial aid grant. 3 Institutions should carefully document how they prioritize students with exceptional need in distributing financial aid grants to students, as the Department intends to establish reporting requirements regarding the distribution of financial aid grants to students consistent with section 314(e) of CRRSAA.

Q: How may students use their financial aid grants?

A: Financial aid grants for students may be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing,

health care (including mental health care) or child care. See Question 19 of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Rollup Document for more details as to how institutions may pay the financial aid grants to students, if not applying it to a student's account after obtaining the student's written (or electronic), affirmative consent. However, please note that PMI only posted funds to student account as a pass through. All HEERF II grant funds were distributed directly to the student.

Q: What is the CARES Grant and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund?

A: Sections 3504, 18004, and 18008 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enacted on March 27, 2020, allow higher education institutions to use certain funds allocated by the Department of Education (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund "HEERF" – CARES Grant) to support students and higher education institutions with expenses and financial needs related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic.

Q: Am I eligible to receive the CARES Grant?

A: Students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (e.g., Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loans, etc.) are eligible for the CARES Grant, according to U.S. Department of Education guidance provided April 21, 2020. Additionally, the CARES Act requires that the emergency funding goes to students who have incurred additional expenses due to campus disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 global pandemic, such as food, housing, technology, course materials, health care, and child care.

If a student has filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484, the HEA. Students who have not filed a FAFSA but who are eligible to file a FAFSA may also receive the CARES Grant. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen and have a valid Social Security number;
- 2) Must be registered with Selective Service (if the student is male);
- 3) Must have a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting;
- 4) Must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP);
- 5) May not be in default or have a grant overpayment; and
- 6) May not have been convicted of, or pled nolo contendere or guilty to, a crime involving Title IV funds or for possession or sale of a controlled substance while receiving Title IV funds.

Q: Am I required to have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file to be eligible for the CARES Grant?

A: Maybe. Students eligible for the CARES Grant must demonstrate their eligibility for Title IV federal student aid. To do so, the Institute requires the student to complete a FAFSA application, meet the other related student eligibility requirements, or to attest to eligibility criteria. In addition, the student must have qualifying expenses and be an active status (Active or on an approved LOA). However, after confirming a student meets these requirements, the Institution retains discretion to request additional documentation to verify eligibility.

Q: How did the Institute calculate the amount of the CARES Grant?

A: The Institute established award amounts based on the estimated number of eligible students and the total amount of grant funds made available to the Institute. All eligible students will receive equal amounts.

Q: How will the CARES Grant be disbursed?

A: The Institute will disburse the CARES Grant in two disbursements:

Disbursement 1: The Institute used the following criteria to identify the cohort of eligible students:

- 1) An active student who was attending courses on campus as of 03/13/2020, the date the COVID-19 national emergency was declared, and who are active or on an approved leave of absence at the time of application;
- 2) A student with established eligibility for Title IV funds with a valid ISIR with an official EFC on file with the Institute OR can attest to eligibility, and
- 3) A student who has returned a complete Certification and Acknowledgement form that indicates the student has qualifying expenses due to the disruption of campus operations.

Disbursement 2: The Institute will make subsequent equal disbursements to all students who received disbursement 1. Disbursement 2 will not require an additional attestation from the student. Disbursement 2 will occur on or before August 3, 2020.

Students applying after August 3, 2020 will receive both disbursements at the same time.

Q: How much will I receive from the CARES Grant, and when will it be disbursed? A:

There will be two disbursements of the CARES Grant. The first disbursement will occur on or about June 30, 2020, and the second disbursement will occur on or about July 31, 2020. Each disbursement will be:

\$850.00 (Total of \$1,700.00) for all campuses except;

West Albuquerque, NM, Dillion, MT, Aurora, CO, and Phoenix, AZ will receive \$800 per disbursement (Total of \$1,600.00); and

Each recipient must meet the criteria discussed above to receive the CARES Grant.

Students in the above group that were still in an active status on December 15, 2020 become eligible for an additional disbursement of either \$850.00 or \$800.00 depending on the campus location as outlined above.

Q: How will I receive the funds?

A: Once the Institute receives the completed Certification and Acknowledgement form and determines the student is eligible, a check will be mailed to the student's address provided, or the funds will be delivered ACH. The delivery method is based on the document on file with the Institution regarding refund/stipend returns. The check must be endorsed by the student and cashed within 90 days of the check's date. If a check is not cashed in 90 days, the check will be canceled, and the student would need to request a re-issuance of the grant in writing. Reissuance request will be granted based on availability of funds.

Q: What does the phrase “disruption of campus operations” mean?

A: This refers to any change in the way the Institute operates that resulted from its response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to, the campus's closure and the move to online instruction. It also includes the resulting lack of services available to students due to the campus closure.

Q: Which students are not eligible to receive CARES Grant?

A: Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, issued on April 21, 2020, the following students are not eligible for emergency funds under the CARES Act:

International and Undocumented Students: In order to receive the CARES Grant, the Department of Education states students must meet Title IV federal student aid eligibility requirements. Therefore, international and undocumented students are not eligible to receive CARES Grant.

Distance Education/Online Students: Students who were enrolled exclusively in online programs on March 13, 2020 (the date the COVID-19 national emergency was declared) are not eligible for CARES Grant, according to the Department of Education's guidance.

Non-degree or Non-certificate Seeking Students: In order to receive the CARES Grant, the Department of Education states students must be pursuing a degree or certificate in a Title IV eligible program. (Programs not Title IV eligible are: *Nursing Assistant/Nurse Aid*)

Q: What expenses qualify me for the CARES Grant?

A: CARES Grant provides monetary assistance to students whose education has been disrupted due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The U.S. Department of Education has made the emergency grant aid available to students of institutions who need financial support for additional expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, including course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare. For example, because the Institute changed to online courses, a student may have incurred expenses to purchase a web camera, printer, computer software, or faster internet service.

Q: What do I need to do to participate in the CARES Grant?

A: If a student meets the initial eligibility requirements (active on 3/13/2020), the Institute will email a notification to the student, along with instructions for completing the Certification and

Acknowledgement form. The student must review, complete, and electronically sign the form. The completed form confirms the Institute's assumption that the student had the additional qualifying expenses due to the campus disruptions caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic and could be eligible for Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Q: What do you need to do if you have not received the email providing instructions to complete the Certification and Acknowledgement form?

A: If a student meets the eligibility requirements, but has not received the Certification and Acknowledgement form, he or she should submit a request at <https://pmi.edu/fshelp> to have eligibility reviewed.

Q: Is a student on an approved leave of absence eligible to receive the CARESCRRSAA (HEERF II) Grant?

A: It depends. The student would be eligible if the student was an active student on March 13, 2020 (CARES) or July 1, 2021 (HEERF II), and otherwise eligible, and went on an approved leave of absence because of the COVID19 global pandemic. If a student started a leave of absence before March 13, 2020 or July 1, 2021, the student would not be eligible for the CARES Grant.

Q: What if I am scheduled to re-enter, but am currently withdrawn, am I eligible?

A: Maybe. The student must have been active on March 13, 2020 and have withdrawn due to issues related to COVID-19 on or after March 13, 2020. Students should submit a request an inquiry at <https://pmi.edu/fshelp> to have eligibility reviewed.

Q: I am not financially responsible for the expenses because I am unemployed, and my significant other is responsible for the expenses. Will I be able to receive the grant?

A: If you have incurred additional expenses due to the disruption of campus operations and someone in your household (spouse or parents) pays those expenses, consider yourself financially responsible for those expenses. You may not consider yourself financially responsible for the expenses if someone pays them outside of your household or another entity.

Q: Does the CARES or CRRSA (HEERF II) Grant have to be repaid?

A: No. The grants do not have to be repaid.

Q: I am a student who received an emergency financial aid grant under section 3504, 18004, or 18008 of the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. Is this grant includible in my gross income?

A: No. Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not included in your gross income.

Q: I received an emergency financial aid grant under the CARES Act and used some of it to pay for course materials that are now required for online learning because my college or university campus is closed. Can I claim a tuition and fees deduction for the cost of these materials, or treat the cost of these materials as a qualifying education expense for purposes of claiming the American Opportunity Credit or the Lifetime Learning Credit?

A: No. Because the emergency financial aid grant is not includible in your gross income, you cannot claim any deduction or credit for expenses paid with the grant including the tuition and fees deduction, the American Opportunity Credit, or the Lifetime Learning Credit. See section 139(h) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Q: Where can a student locate additional resources and information related to CARES Grant?

A: Additional CARES Act grant resources and guidance are located on the Office of Postsecondary Education’s webpage: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.

Q: Where can a student locate additional resources and information related to CRRSAA (HEERF II) Grant?

A: Additional CARES Act grant resources and guidance are located on the Office of Postsecondary Education’s webpage: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/crrsaa.html>

Q: Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

A: You may submit an inquiry at <https://pmi.edu/fshelp> or contact your campus financial services staff with additional questions.

Campus location by OPE ID:

Campus Location	OPE ID
Chula Vista	02217100
Colorado Springs	02217100
Denver	02217100
East Valley	02217100
El Paso	02217100
Houston	02217100
Las Vegas	02217100
Mesa	02217100
Online	02217100
Renton	02217100
San Antonio	02217100
San Marcos	02217100
Seattle	02217100
Tucson	02217100
Albuquerque	03678300
Dillon	03678300
Aurora	04177100
Phoenix	04177100