

CRRSA ACT / HEERF II FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated 3/9/21 for Spring 2021 Semester

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act), signed into law by President Trump on December 27, 2020, provides broad-based economic relief in response to the COVID-19 national pandemic. As part of the CRRSA Act, institutions of higher education have been provided funds to assist them and their students. Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions.

What is the CRRSA Act?

The [CRRSA Act](#) is federal legislation which provides a variety of financial support to individuals and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CRRSA Act established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) to provide emergency financial aid grants. One part of this federal program allocates money to Joliet Junior College, and a portion of that allocation will be awarded to students.

Who is eligible for a HEERF II Grant?

Spring 2021: Students who are 1) enrolled in Spring 2021 undergraduate course(s) (excluding dual credit), 2) have completed a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), 3) have a valid Estimated Financial Contribution (EFC) assigned by the Department of Education, and 4) are a U.S. citizen, or eligible noncitizen, as defined by the Department of Education.

Who is not eligible for HEERF II funds?

Unfortunately, the CRRSA Act does not allow these funds to be used for international students, DACA students, or undocumented students. Students who have not completed a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), do not have a valid Estimated Financial Contribution (EFC) assigned by the Department of Education, or who have unresolved Social Security Number (SSN) or Citizenship issues on the FAFSA are also not eligible. Emergency funds may be available for these students through the JJC Student Emergency Fund instead.

[JJC Student Emergency Fund](#)

How do I apply for the HEERF II Grant?

Students do NOT need to apply for HEERF II. If you meet all eligibility requirements, you will automatically be considered for the award.

I am not enrolled at JJC during the Spring 2021 semester. Am I eligible?

No. You must be enrolled for Spring 2021 to be eligible for this round of HEERF II awards.

There will be a 2nd round of HEERF II awards during the Fall 2021 semester.

I was enrolled in Spring 2021, but I have now withdrawn from all of my courses. Am I eligible?

No. You must be enrolled for Spring 2021 semester at the time of awarding to qualify for HEERF II funds.

What constitutes eligible expenses to qualify for HEERF II emergency funding?

Unlike HEERF I funds, HEERF II awards do not have to relate to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus.

Eligible expenses include:

- Any component of the student's cost of attendance (COA); or
- Emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as but not limited to tuition, food, housing, health care, mental health care, or child care.

How do I find out if I received a HEERF II grant?

Spring 2021: Eligibility will be evaluated after April 1. Notifications of awards will be emailed beginning in early April. The email will instruct you how to view your 2020-2021 award letter on Financial Aid Self-Service.

Do I have to repay a HEERF II Grant?

The Federal Emergency Aid Grant funds are designed to be a grant, not a loan. Therefore, repayment is not required.

How will JJC disburse the HEERF II funds?

Enrolled students will automatically be considered for the grant. Enrollment, eligibility, and need will be evaluated at the time of awarding. Students will be notified by their JJC student email if they are awarded. Awards will be viewable through Financial Aid Self-Service. Funds will be issued by the Student Accounts & Payments Office.

Direct deposit is encouraged – [click here for instructions on how to enroll](#).

If you would like to request that the HEERF II funds be applied to your outstanding balance, additional authorization is required. [Complete the Opt-In Form](#)

Would HEERF II funding reduce my financial aid?

No, this fund does not negate nor replace financial aid.

How much money is available for each applicant?

The amount of HEERF II funding that institutions received varied based on the Department of Education's allocation formula. That means the amount of the emergency grants at Joliet Junior College will not be the same as at other colleges. Each institution is required to prioritize grants to students demonstrating exceptional financial need and must develop its own strategy for disbursing the funds to eligible students enrolled at their campus. Please be aware that these funds are limited and are not guaranteed.

At JJC, HEERF II eligible students will be categorized into three Need Priority Groups.

- Need Priority Group #1: Students who have a \$0 EFC and a Pell award. Students in this group will receive the highest HEERF II award.
- Need Priority Group #2: Students who have greater than \$0 EFC and a Pell award. Students in this group will receive a lower HEERF II award.
- Need Priority Group #3: Students who do not have a Pell award. Students in this group will receive the lowest HEERF II award.
 - A student may not have a Pell award for a variety of reasons, such as they never completed the verification process, they have too high of an EFC to qualify for Pell, or they've exhausted their Pell lifetime eligibility.

Final HEERF II award amounts for each Need Priority Group will be determined based on the number of students in each group and the total allocation of HEERF II funds for the semester.

I already received the HEERF I grant or HEERF II grant in a previous semester. Am I still eligible?

Yes, students who were already awarded a HEERF I grant or HEERF II grant in a previous semester may be eligible to receive additional HEERF II funds. Eligibility and enrollment for the current semester will be reviewed at the time of awarding.

How can I use the money?

The HEERF II grant should be used for:

- Any component of the student's cost of attendance (COA); or
- Emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as but not limited to tuition, food, housing, health care, mental health care, or child care.

Can I apply funds I received from the HEERF II grant to outstanding charges on my student account?

If you would like to request that the HEERF II funds be applied to your outstanding balance, additional authorization is required. [Complete the Opt-In Form](#)

When will I receive my HEERF II grant?

Spring 2021: Eligibility will be evaluated after April 1. Disbursements will begin in early April.

Direct deposit is encouraged – [click here for instructions on how to enroll](#).

Will I receive the HEERF II grant even if I owe JJC money?

Yes. If you are eligible for these emergency grants, you will receive the money even if you have current financial holds or owe JJC money.

If you would like to request that the HEERF II funds be applied to your outstanding balance, additional authorization is required. [Complete the Opt-In Form](#)

I completed my 2020-2021 FAFSA, but was not eligible to receive the Pell grant. Am I still eligible for HEERF II grant funds in Spring 2021?

Yes, assuming you meet all other eligibility criteria as well. Just because you were not eligible for the Pell grant does not mean that you will not be eligible for HEERF II funds.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

For general questions about the emergency grants, email comcenter@jjc.edu

For questions about your eligibility for HEERF II Grants, email finaid@jjc.edu

For questions about the disbursement itself, or direct deposit, email account.payments@jjc.edu