

**CRRSAA: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF II)
FOR UCR STUDENTS**

SUMMARY OF CRRSAA FUNDING AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was passed by Congress and signed by President Trump on December 27, 2020 which authorized an additional \$81.88 billion to the \$30.75 billion approved by the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CRARES) Act. Of this amount, \$21.2 billion is now available to higher education institutions. This information may be found on the Department of Education’s CRRSAA website located at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/crrsaa.html>. Allocation amounts are also found on this website by clicking on the appropriate links. UC Office of the President (UCOP) provided a summary of allocations for the 10 campuses (see below):

	Total Award	Minimum Amount for Student Aid Portion
Berkeley	\$45,429,825	\$15,220,314
Davis	51,521,569	16,935,882
Irvine	54,737,221	18,365,815
Los Angeles	52,623,807	17,953,435
Merced	20,217,509	6,518,949
Riverside	46,440,300	14,867,313
San Diego	52,015,747	17,444,885
San Francisco	1,133,080	433,978
Santa Barbara	38,078,709	12,602,098
Santa Cruz	28,784,842	9,663,601
TOTAL	\$390,982,609	\$130,006,270

UC Riverside was allocated a total of \$46.4 million of which at least \$14.9 million must be designated for student aid emergency grants. This amount equates to the student portion allocated under the first HEERF funds provided by the CARES Act signed on March 21, 2020.

Per the [press release](#) of January 14, 2021, we are encouraged to use this additional funding “as former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos suggested during the first round of relief – to support students who are struggling financially in the wake of this pandemic and to built IT and distance learning capacity for now and in preparation for the future” (press release 1/14/21). In addition, the Supplemental Grant Funds for Students Agreement stipulates the following:

- The minimum amount that must be used for financial aid grants to students is at least the same amount of funding used under the CARES Act. For UCR, this amount is \$14,867,313.
- The second round of HEERF funds allows institutions to include students who are exclusively enrolled in distance education.
- Financial aid grants to students may be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus.
- The institution must prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. However, students do not need to be Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants in order to receive a financial aid grant.
- These emergency grants should not be considered as Estimated Financial Assistance.

In addition to the above guidance, UCOP issued guidance to UC campuses concerning CRRSAA funds (see Attachment A at the end of this document).

**CRRSAA: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF II)
FOR UCR STUDENTS**

Using the guidance from the Department of Education and guidance from UCOP (see Attachment A), here is UCR’s proposal on awarding the HEERF II funds under the CRRSAA act to eligible students:

The URC CARES Act proposal is based on following guiding principles and methodologies:

- ❖ COVID continues to impact UCR students
- ❖ More funding should go to neediest populations
- ❖ Dollar amounts set based on available funds and number of students in each population
- ❖ Undergraduate students are required to file a [2020-21 FAFSA](#)
- ❖ Graduate students may file a [2020-21 FAFSA](#) or an [Affidavit](#)
- ❖ International students will need to file an Affidavit for International Students indicating they have need due to the COVID Pandemic and ensuring that receipt of this funds will not affect their student visa status

Here is a proposed plan for the awarding of CRRSAA’s HEERF II Emergency Grants to UCR student. Please note that student populations are exclusive. Students who fall into more than one population will awarded under the population where they can receive the most benefit.

CRRSAA – FEDERAL EMERGENCY GRANTS

Undergraduate Dependent Students with:

- EFC¹ of \$0 to \$2,000 (lowest family contribution) **\$1,000**
- EFC¹ of \$2,001 to \$5,711 (up to Pell Grant-eligible) **\$900**
- EFC¹ of \$5,712 to \$20,000 **\$600**

Undergraduate Independent Students

- Students with children (student parents) **\$1,600**
- EFC¹ of \$0 to \$2,000 (lowest family income) **\$1,200**
- EFC¹ of \$2,001 to \$5,711 (up to Pell Grant eligible) **\$1,000**
- EFC¹ of \$5,712 to \$20,000 **\$800**

Graduate Students²

- Students with children (student parents) **\$1,600**
- All other graduate students **\$800**

¹EFC is the Expected Family Contribution derived using the 2020-21 FAFSA application. Undergraduate students will need to file a 2020-21 FAFSA to be consider for these awards.

² A 2020-21 ([FAFSA](#)) or an [affidavit](#) is required for graduate students to receive these funds

International Students

Based on additional information, the Department of Education is exploring additional opportunities for international students for institutions to support these students, including reaching out to other agencies. International students may reach out to the Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT) managed by Basic Needs. For more information, students can visit the Basic Needs website at <https://basicneeds.ucr.edu/>.

CRRSAA: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF II) FOR UCR STUDENTS

Undocumented Students

Based on additional information, the Department of Education is exploring additional opportunities for undocumented students for institutions to support these students, including reaching out to other agencies. Per UCOP guidance, UCR will use institutional funds to offer emergency grants to undocumented students. The Financial Aid Office will set aside institutional funding (using USAP funding) to award emergency grants to undocumented students using the same grant levels used for the federal eligible students.

Below is the award distribution for institutional emergency grants for undocumented students, which mirrors the federal funds process.

INSTITUTIONAL EMERGENCY GRANTS (for undocumented students)

Undergraduate Dependent Students with:

- EFC¹ of \$0 to \$2,000 (lowest family contribution) **\$1,000**
- EFC¹ of \$2,001 to \$5,711 (up to Pell Grant-eligible) **\$900**
- EFC¹ of \$5,712 to \$20,000 **\$600**

Undergraduate Independent Students

- Students with children (student parents) **\$1,600**
- EFC¹ of \$0 to \$2,000 (lowest family income) **\$1,200**
- EFC¹ of \$2,001 to \$5,711 (up to Pell Grant eligible) **\$1,000**
- EFC¹ of \$5,712 to \$20,000 **\$800**

Graduate Students²

- Students with children (student parents) **\$1,600**
- All other graduate students **\$800**

¹EFC is the Expected Family Contribution derived using the 2020-21 CA DREAM Act application ([CADAA](#)) application. Undergraduate students will need to file a 2020-21 [CADAA](#) to be consider for these awards.

² A 2020-21 CA DREAM Act application ([CADAA](#)) or an [affidavit](#) is required for graduate students to receive these funds

ALLOCATIONS

UCR was allocated a total of \$46,440,300 of which at least the same amount used under CARES Act must be used for student emergency grant aid. Under CARESA we awarded \$14,867,313 as emergency grants that went directly to students. The student allocation for CRRSAA Emergency Grant funds is allocated based on the number of students enrolled at least half-time status during the winter 2021 quarter. The graduate and undergraduate allocations were set based on the percent of enrollment in each population.

Here's summary of the allocated dollars and the distribution based on graduate and undergraduate status and based on UCR's allocation of \$14,867,313. Please note that since the funds will be awarded to students enrolled in at least half-time status during the winter 2021 quarter, the counts below only include students enrolled in at least half-time status.

**CRRSAA: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF II)
FOR UCR STUDENTS**

Student Type	Count	Pct of Total Enrolled	Allocation
Students Enrolled (at least 1/2 time status)	23,385		\$14,867,313.00
Undergraduate Students	21,091	90.2%	\$13,408,873.00
Graduate Students	2,294	9.8%	\$1,458,440.00

UCR received notification on 2/16/2021 that the funding is available for withdrawal. The goal is to disburse the student emergency grant portion before the end of the winter 2021 quarter.

Communication to Students

We will provide the following communications to students regarding CRRSAA funds:

- Email notification to undergraduate students awarded the CRRSAA Emergency Grant.
- Email notification to graduate students awarded the CRRSAA Emergency Grant.
- Email notice to graduate students who did not submit a 2020-21 FAFSA
- Email notification to undergraduate students awarded the Institutional Emergency Grant.
- Email notification to graduate students awarded the Institutional Emergency Grant.
- Email notice to graduate students who did not submit a 2020-21 CA DREAM Act application
- Will post Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ) on our Financial Aid websites.

Revised: 3/9/2021

CRRSAA: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF II)
FOR UCR STUDENTS

Attachment A:



Graduate, Undergraduate
and Equity Affairs

CRRSAA Student Emergency
Grant Guidance, Feb 5, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), 2021 provided \$22B in financial support for colleges and universities. UC campuses qualified for \$391M in support, \$130M of which must be used for emergency grants to students. This is the same level of support required under the CARES Act of 2020. See Table 1 below.

Table 1: Shares of CRRSAA Funding

	Total Award	Minimum Amount for Student Aid Portion
Berkeley	\$45,429,825	\$15,220,314
Davis	51,521,569	16,935,882
Irvine	54,737,221	18,365,815
Los Angeles	52,623,807	17,953,435
Merced	20,217,509	6,518,949
Riverside	46,440,300	14,867,313
San Diego	52,015,747	17,444,885
San Francisco	1,133,080	433,978
Santa Barbara	38,078,709	12,602,098
Santa Cruz	28,784,842	9,663,601
TOTAL	\$390,982,609	\$130,006,270

The Department of Education established a CRRSAA [website](#) with a [Q & A](#). Guidance differs somewhat from the CARES Act emergency grants, but the delivery method will be the same.

University of California Office of the President Guidance as of February 5, 2021

The UC Office of the President issued the following guidance for the financial aid portion of the CRRSAA. This document reflects the University’s current understanding of federal intent and is separated into sections: Guidance which mirrors the CARES Act and that which differs.

The UC Office of the President will help coordinate the sharing of information between campuses and with outside stakeholders. UCOP will not be involved in the allocation of the funding, which will come from the US Department of Education. Campuses are encouraged to work with the Office of the President on summarizing their plans, as well as on future reporting requirements to ensure systemwide coordination for both state and federal policymakers.

Guidance Similar to CARES Act

- Ensuring that students can continue to make progress towards graduation despite financial and other challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic should be the overarching goal of campuses’ plans.

CRRSAA: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF II) FOR UCR STUDENTS

- As with CARES Act, the campus Financial Aid Office will be in the best position to administer in compliance with existing and forthcoming regulations.
- UC Financial Aid Offices are requested to consult with other key leaders on campus, including the Graduate Division, Basic Needs Centers and campus Associated Students, as they develop their process and plans, although not on individual awarding decisions.
- Campuses continue to make myriad decisions about COVID-19 and therefore need flexibility as they develop their local emergency grant funding to meet the needs of their students. In general, the plans should reflect the following principles:
 - Efficient Delivery: Campuses should prioritize delivery in Spring and, if necessary, Summer 2021. Additional funding is anticipated for future terms.
 - Equity: Campuses may provide broad-based support (e.g., a base award to all students), but are also encouraged to provide additional support to groups that may require additional assistance (e.g., low-income, parenting students).
 - Direct Emergency Grant Payments: The Department's guidance is clear that funds should be delivered directly to students, not to pay for past due bills, to reimburse prior expenditures by the campus (e.g., to pay back the campus for purchased laptops), or to replace lost wages.
 - Beyond the Cost of Attendance: The Department also has made it clear that this funding can be made available to students without regard to the normal total cost of attendance limits.
 - Disaster Emergency Relief: The IRS released guidance in late 2020 clarifying that the payments of disaster relief are not reportable on the 1098-T.

Guidance Unique to CRRSAA: Emphasis on Exceptional Financial Need

The CRRSAA guidance from the Department of Education places much more emphasis on the needs faced by recipients. Below is a quote from Question 8, Page 5 of the Q & 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... 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.

UC campuses awarded CARES Act funding to undergraduate students in a way that is consistent with the “exceptional need” above, providing tiered awards based on their Expected Family Contribution or status as parenting students.

However, some campuses provided CARES funds to graduate students without a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as long as they signed an affidavit that they would otherwise have qualified as Title IV eligible.

CRRSAA: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF II) FOR UCR STUDENTS

The Office of the President does not recommend that campuses require all CRRSAA recipients to file a FAFSA, but strongly recommends that an alternative means of confirming that a student has extraordinary financial need be established.

Guidance Unique to CRRSAA: Undocumented Students

The CARES Act specifically excluded undocumented students, so the Office of the President recommended that campuses identify campus funding to provide equivalent emergency grants for AB 540 undocumented students. In general, campuses were able to achieve this goal.

The CRRSAA appears to eliminate the requirement that students be Title IV eligible to receive emergency grants, but the new Department of Education has yet to issue guidance.

Therefore, UCOP strongly recommends that campuses use campus funds instead of CRRSAA funds to provide emergency grants to AB 540 undocumented.

Guidance Unique to CRRSAA: International Students

As with undocumented students, the new Department of Education has not released guidance on whether or not the CRRSAA emergency grants can be issued to international students.

Therefore, UCOP strongly recommends that campuses not issue CRRSAA funds to international students at this time. However, campuses may consider setting aside some CRRSAA funding for international students, taking into consideration the following:

- As described above, students would need to demonstrate “exceptional need” in the absence of a FAFSA.
- It remains unclear if receipt of these funds would constitute a “public charge” affecting a student’s visa status.