

The College of Wooster
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to
Students Report #7 (03/31/21)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by Section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260. The CRRSAA/HEERF II program provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. For institutions of higher education, funding is provided “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the second award The College of Wooster received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E203012 – 20A.

Certification and Agreement

The College of Wooster signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education and received the grant award notification on January 17, 2021.

Award

The College of Wooster has received a total of \$2,064,878.00 under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA from the Department of Education. Pursuant to the College’s Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, \$708,898.00 will be distributed directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the novel coronavirus.

Funds Distributed

As of the close of business on March 31, 2021, The College of Wooster has distributed \$617,400.00 to students in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA.

Student Eligibility

The estimated total number of students at The College of Wooster eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA is 1550. As of March 31, 2021, 441 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA.

Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much

The College of Wooster identified the neediest population of students, which included all Pell Grant recipients as well as those individuals with Expected Family Contributions (EFC), as determined by the FAFSA, of below a certain level. These students who were deemed to be part of the neediest population were awarded emergency financial aid grants of \$1,400. Awarded students were sent an e-mail notifying them of their award and a link to a brief online secure survey to determine how the student would prefer to receive their funding. The options were to have the funding sent directly to the student, applied to their student account, or split between the two previous options. Students were provided several weeks to respond to the survey, if they did not respond, the funds were sent directly to the student.

In addition to the students identified as the neediest population, students were able to submit a request for emergency funding. The Director of Financial Aid, in collaboration with the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Senior Dean of Students, then evaluated each application individually and awarded emergency financial aid grants to those students who identified such expenses in amounts between \$500 and \$2,000, depending on need. Once awarded, students were sent the same survey as the other population to determine how to disburse the funds.

Instructions or Directions Given to Students

Students awarded funding were sent an e-mail notifying them of their award and a link to a brief online secure survey to determine how the student would prefer to receive their funding. The options were to have the funding sent directly to the student, applied to their student account, or split between the two previous options.

If a student reached out with financial concerns, they were directed to complete the request for emergency funding through the Dean of Students Office. If awarded, they received the same e-mail notification as above.

Copies of the instructional/informational materials given to the students include the following:

1. Email from the Director of Financial Aid asking students to fill out the online survey;
2. Online survey accessed from the online student portal;
3. The College of Wooster CRRSAA Informational Page.