

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Required Reporting

Document date: January 6, 2022

(Note: Reporting components were previously posted to the University at Buffalo Financial Aid Website in accordance with the Department of Education deadlines. This PDF report has been compiled as of the Document Date above per guidance provided by the Department of Education in January 2022. No changes were made to prior reports).

CARES Act (HEERF I)

The University at Buffalo acknowledges an authorized representative of the institution has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The University at Buffalo has received or will receive \$11,976,450 from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

The University at Buffalo has determined 14,838 students at the institution are 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 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Required Reporting

30 Day Report (July 3, 2020)

- The University at Buffalo has distributed \$6,471,004.29 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of July 3, 2020.
- 8,994 (unduplicated) students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of July 3, 2020.

45 Day Report (Aug. 14, 2020)

- The University at Buffalo has distributed \$7,273,837.58 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of Aug. 14, 2020.
- 9,998 (unduplicated) students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of Aug. 14, 2020.
- Since our prior reporting date of July 3, 2020 through Aug. 14, 1,054 students received a HEERF Grant totaling \$802,833.29.

Quarterly Report (Sept. 30, 2020)

- The University at Buffalo has distributed \$7,561,446.58 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of September 30, 2020.
- 10,154 (unduplicated) students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of September 30, 2020.
- Since our prior reporting date of Aug. 14, 2020 through Sept. 30, 262 students received a HEERF Grant totaling \$287,609.00.

Quarterly Report (December 31, 2020)

- The University at Buffalo has distributed \$11,278,443.58 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of December 31, 2020.
- 13,338 (unduplicated) students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of December 31, 2020.
- Since our prior reporting date of Sept. 30, 2020 through Dec. 31, 9,069 students received a HEERF Grant totaling \$3,716,997.00.

Reported disbursements may include redistributions of unclaimed emergency grants previously reported and/or additional funds granted to prior recipients.

Quarterly Report (March 31, 2021) – Final Report

- The University at Buffalo has distributed \$11,976,450.00 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021.
- 20,269 (unduplicated) students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of March 31, 2021.
- Since our prior reporting date of Dec. 31, 2020 through March 31, 6,802 students received a HEERF Grant totaling \$698,006.42.

Reported disbursements may include redistributions of unclaimed emergency grants previously reported and/or additional funds granted to prior recipients.

Funds from the student portion of the CARES Act HEERF Grant program (HEERF I) have been exhausted as of this report. This will be the final report for the HEERF I student portion program.

Grant Distribution Methodology

The University at Buffalo auto-offered HEERF I grants to students identified as high-need based on an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$16,000 or less based on information provided in the FAFSA or participation in a high-need program. The university offered HEERF I funds to Title IV-eligible undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in on-campus courses in accordance with our campus population. Title IV eligibility requires that students:

- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- be enrolled in an eligible, degree-seeking program
- meet all Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements
- must not be in default

Auto-offered students had the opportunity to accept, reduce or decline funds. Students were invited to apply for additional funding if the expenses they incurred due to COVID-19 exceeded the grant they were offered.

An application for funding was made available for potentially eligible students who were not automatically offered a HEERF I grant. Applications and supporting documentation are carefully reviewed by the university. Eligibility guidelines are available under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) section of UB's [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\) Grant, Emergency Financial Aid Assistance and COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#). The application was made available through the [UB Scholarship Portal](#).

Application dates and deadlines:

- Spring 2020: Application opened on June 11, 2020. Deadline to apply was July 5, 2020.
- Summer 2020: Application opened on July 10, 2020. Deadline to apply was Aug. 14, 2020.
- Fall 2020: Application opened on Sept. 7, 2020. Deadline to apply was Dec. 7, 2020.

Students submitting an application were required to certify that they:

- have or will incur allowable expenses of food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and/or transportation as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.
- understand it is their responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office immediately if they will not incur expenses that meet or exceed the amount of any funds offered.

Instructions and Guidance Provided to Students

Students who were automatically offered a HEERF I grant received an email notifying them of the grant availability with instructions to accept, reduce or decline the funding.

Students who were not automatically offered a HEERF I grant received an email notifying them of the opportunity to apply for emergency funding. The email contained a link to the HEERF grant application and instructions. Applicants are asked to provide documentation of their expenses and to certify their agreement to the terms and conditions of the grant. Subsequent application periods for HEERF I funds were added to the [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\) Grant, Emergency Financial Aid Assistance and COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#) and UB Scholarship Portal. Additional information on how to apply for HEERF funds was added to the Student Accounts eBill notifications and UB's [Emergency Funds webpage](#).

UB's Financial Aid Office conducted follow-up outreach by email and phone to eligible students who did not take action upon receipt of the first notification.

Information regarding HEERF grants was made available on UB's Financial Aid website (financialaid.buffalo.edu). Several other university webpages added the availability of HEERF funding and linked to the Financial Aid page for more information. Webpages included but were not limited to:

- 1Capen - <https://www.buffalo.edu/1capen.html#resources.html>
- Student Life Emergency Funds - <https://www.buffalo.edu/studentlife/help/emergency/emergency-funds.html>
- Student Resources - <http://www.buffalo.edu/grad/succeed/current-students.personal-support.html>
- Various academic department webpages

Information regarding availability of funds and contact information was also included in the [UBNow news article](#) and on student billing statements issued by the Student Accounts Office.