

2020-21 CRRSAA HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (March 1st, 2021 to February 28th, 2022)

On January 14th, 2021, the US Department of Education released information to the higher education community that schools would be able to receive an allocation of funds from the CRRSAA Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) with instructions, policies, and requirements to remain compliant, along with a Certification and Agreement assuring that Gnomon will use all the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

On January 22nd, 2021, Gnomon submitted their signed Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424), and our \$240,015.00 allocation was made available to us in G5 on March 19th, 2021.

To the \$240,015.00, Gnomon's Financial Aid Office (FAO) added unawarded 2020-21 FSEOG funds (\$345.00) and the entire 2020-21 FWS allocation in the amount of \$15,413.00 (all work-study positions were halted on campus due to physical closure as of Noon on March 19th, 2020) for a total of \$255,773.00 to provide to students exclusively.

The US Department of Education released information to the higher education community which limited grant recipients to only students who certified that they "had incurred additional expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus," and have filed or would be eligible to file a FAFSA, prioritizing those with exceptional need (Pell/SEOG recipients) first during awarding.

The FAO learned from the Registrar's Office that the number of domestic program students enrolled for Spring 2021 was one-hundred seventy-six (176). Students classified as international would not be eligible, as with CARES Act HEERF in 2020. Another eleven (11) of the remaining students were removed from the eligibility list based on citizenship, Selective Service and DACA issues.

The FAO reviewed the list of one-hundred sixty-five (165) students and selected those who had already received a Pell grant to be the priority group to receive grants. These sixty-three (63) students -- Tier 1 -- were sent an email on April 29th, 2021, with a confirmation form giving them the option to forfeit the grant or accept it by certifying that they had incurred additional expenses due to the pandemic. They were also asked to list anything specific that changed their per-usual expenditures, incurred fees, or other. The deadline to submit the form to the FAO was initially May 7th, 2021, but due to poor response numbers, the deadline was extended to May 12th, 2021.

Students who had received other types of Federal Aid or had completed a FAFSA totaled eighty-one (81) students, and this Tier 2 cohort were sent an email on April 29th, 2021, with a confirmation form and given until May 14th, 2021 to submit. Due to poor response numbers, the deadline was extended to May 19th, 2021.

Students who were determined to be eligible but had not completed a FAFSA totaled twenty-one (21) students, and this Tier 3 cohort were sent an email on April 29th, 2021, with a confirmation form and instructions to complete a FAFSA and were given until May 14th, 2021, to submit. There were no responses from any students in this group.

The total amount Gnomon could provide to students was divided in half with one half reserved for students with exceptional need (Pell Grant recipients) and the other half divided among the remaining respondents.

\$255,773.00 divided by 2 = \$127,886.50

G N O M O N

If all sixty-three (63) Tier 1 students responded and confirmed, they would each receive roughly \$2,030.00. If all Tier 2 & 3 students responded and confirmed, they would each receive about \$1,254.00. The FAO used these estimates to begin sending out grants.

Of the sixty-three (63) students in Tier 1, two (2) forfeited the grant, and four (4) did not respond by the deadline, leaving fifty-seven (57) students, each given \$2,000.00 on May 14th, 2021.

On the deadline of May 19th, 2021, fifty-four (54) out of eighty-one (81) students in Tier 2 had confirmed the award, eleven (11) forfeited, sixteen (16) did not respond. The grants earmarked for the sixteen (16) no-response students were redistributed, with the students in Tier 1 given an additional amount to make up for the fact that HEERF recipients in Tier 2 would have received a greater amount than students in Tier 1 based on the original grant allocation model.

After the deadline, and after all the original awards had been made, one (1) of the sixteen (16) Tier 2 students that did not respond during the first communications, responded late. There was some additional unawarded FSEOG funds available by that point, thus the student received the remaining amount of \$412.50 as an Emergency Grant on June 18th, 2021.

On May 17th, 2021, the FAO notified Tier 1 students that they had been given \$2,000.00 on May 14th, 2021 (either by mailed check or direct deposit) and would be given another \$547.00-548.00 on May 21st, 2021. One (1) of the four (4) Tier 1 students that did not respond by the deadline responded late and was given \$2,547.00 on May 21st, 2021.

\$2,547.00 for one (1) student = \$2,547.00
\$547.00 for ten (10) students \$5,470.00
\$548.00 each for forty-seven (47) students = \$25,756.00

While the grants were credited directly to the student accounts in Gnomon's FAMS (Empower) on May 12th, 2021, the funds were not used to cover any school charges, tuition or other, on the account; and once the payment was delivered to the students' personal bank account (that each student confirmed), the effect for the Institution was money in, money out.

Since this was a reasonable response overall compared to CARES Act HEERF I in 2020 and given the fact that there would be a HEERF III within a few months, funds were not held back for future awards.

Out of a possible one-hundred forty-four (144) students, thirteen (13) forfeited, eighteen (18) did not respond, and one-hundred thirteen (113) were awarded.

\$2,547.00 for eleven (11) students = \$28,017.00
\$2,548.00 for forty-seven (47) students = \$119,756.00
\$2,000.00 for fifty-four (54) students in Tier 2 = \$108,000.00
\$412.50 for one (1) student in Tier 2 = \$412.50
TOTAL: \$256,185.50