

UC Hastings Law
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Required Reporting
Updated December 1, 2021

On May 13, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (the “Department”) [published an electronic announcement](#) (the “Notice”) that described the public reporting requirements for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (“CRRSAA”) and American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (“ARP”) section (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

The Notice requires that institutions that received CRRSAA and/or ARP funding must report the following information in a format and location that are easily accessible to the public no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter (September 30, and December 31, March 31, June 30), unless the Secretary specifies an alternative method of reporting:

- (1) UC Hastings Law acknowledges that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and assures that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
- (2) The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs: On April 28, 2020, UC Hastings Law received \$138,309 from G5.gov for HEERF I student grants through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). On January 21, 2021, UC Hastings Law received \$138,309 from G5.gov for HEERF II student grants through the CRRSAA. On July 8, 2021, UC Hastings Law received \$342,990 from G5.gov for HEERF III student grants through the CRRSAA.
- (3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter): As of December 1, 2021, UC Hastings Law has distributed all \$138,309 of the HEERF I funds it received for student grants, all \$138,309 of the HEERF II funds it received, and all \$342,990 of the HEERF III funds it received.
- (4) The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) program: The estimated total number of students at the institution that were eligible to receive HEERF I grants during our May 2020 distribution was 813. The estimated total number of students at the institution that were eligible to receive HEERF I and II grants during our March 2021 distribution was 1007. The estimated total number of students at the institution that were eligible to receive HEERF II grants during our April 2021 distribution was 1007. The estimated total number of students at the institution that were eligible to receive HEERF III grants during our November 2021 distribution was 1136.
- (5) The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs: The total number of students who received a HEERF I grant during the May 2020 distribution was 813. The total number of students who received a HEERF I or II grant during our March 2021 distribution was 964. The total number of students who received a HEERF II grant during our April 2021 distribution was 74. The total number of students who received a HEERF II or III grant during our November 2021 distribution was 1109.
- (6) The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs:

In March 2020, the Chancellor & Dean of UC Hastings Law convened an Emergency Grant task force comprised of UC Hastings staff members to determine the most expeditious and effective means by which to distribute the HEERF I emergency grants to our students. In the 2019-20 academic year, the task force decided to distribute a \$100 grant to each eligible student based on our knowledge of the widespread financial impact across our student body due to COVID-19 disruptions to campus operations.

In March 2021, the task force met again to determine the most expeditious and effective means by which to distribute the unspent balance of the HEERF I student grants and the new HEERF II students grants. The task force decided to distribute a \$100 grant to each eligible student who did not self-certify that they had not experienced exceptional need due to the pandemic. In addition, the task force decided to allow students to request funds above \$100 if they believed they had (a) incurred emergency costs due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care and/or (b) experienced significant difficulty meeting educational costs due to the coronavirus pandemic, such as tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

In April 2021, the task force met again to determine how we could distribute unspent HEERF II funds to students within the requirement that we prioritize students with exceptional need. The task force decided to distribute \$150 to any student who was facing emergency costs related to food insecurity.

In September 2021, the task force met again to determine how we could best distribute unspent balance of the HEERF II funds and the HEERF III funds. The task force decided to distribute a grant to each eligible student who did not opt-out in a survey of receiving funds and also an extra grant to those eligible students who self-certified in the survey that they had (a) incurred emergency costs due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care and/or (b) experienced significant difficulty meeting educational costs due to the coronavirus pandemic, such as tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. The actual grant amounts were determined after reviewing all survey results.

- (7) Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants:

On April 28, 2020, all students received the following instructions from our Fiscal Office:

Dear Students,

We hope you are well. As you may know, the CARES Act authorized funding to institutions of higher education "to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care)." H.R. 748 § 18004(c). **We are writing to let you know that today, UC Hastings received \$138,309, which is specifically designated for our students from the Department of Education, and we have a plan to distribute that money to you as soon as practicable.**

Per the CARES Act grant funding cover letter instructions from Secretary DeVos dated April 9, 2020, institutions of higher education are afforded significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance, as long as funds are used to cover *expenses* related to the *disruption of campus operations* due to coronavirus, per the CARES Act statutory requirements.

We believe that all of our enrolled students this spring semester incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. As such, the College has decided to distribute the

bulk of these funds as \$100 grants to every student who was enrolled as a JD, LLM, MSL, Foreign Exchange, or visiting JD student as of March 13, 2020. The College is not requiring students to produce proof of their expenses in order to receive the \$100 grant; however, the expectation is that students will use these grants towards past or future qualifying education expenses such as books, supplies, and equipment required for their studies at UC Hastings. The remainder of these funds will be distributed through our Student Emergency Fund process for eligible expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Although the use of CARES Act funds is limited to students who are eligible for Title IV federal loans, we believe that all of our current students should receive a \$100 grant, regardless of Title IV eligibility. Students who are Title IV eligible will receive their grants from the CARES Act funding we received. All other students will receive their grants from non-federal funds raised to assist students during this pandemic.

There are 2 steps that you **must** follow to receive your grant:

STEP 1: Confirmation of TITLE IV Eligibility: You must complete this survey by no later than **3pm on May 1, 2020**. (The information collected on this survey will be used solely to determine proper grant funding sources. The survey does not ask for personally identifiable information, but does ask for your Student ID number.)

STEP 2: Confirmation of Bank Account Information: You **MUST** complete one of the following steps **by no later than 3pm on May 1, 2020**:

- Most students will receive their funds through e-check through their student account. As soon as possible, make sure that your banking information and current address in WebAdvisor are correct.
- If you are not able to receive an e-check and must receive a paper check, then you must email fiscal@uchastings.edu with "CARES Act Grant" in the subject line, and your request to receive a paper check and your current mailing address in the body of the email.
- If you are an international student who is attending UC Hastings on an F-1 or J-1 visa, you have returned to your home country, and would like your grant to be wired to your overseas bank account, then you must email fiscal@uchastings.edu with "CARES Act Grant" in the subject line, and your request to receive information about the wire process in the body of the email.

If you **do not** believe that you have incurred or will incur at least \$100 of expenses in any of the categories below, please reply to this email **by 3pm on May 1, 2020** with the estimated expenses under \$100 that you have incurred or will incur as a result of our campus disruption this spring. The difference between your smaller grant amount and \$100 will be added to the funds available through our Student Emergency Fund. Eligible expenses include the following and similar expenses:

- Expenses relating to purchasing or renting books required for class or school-related extracurricular research, due to the closure of the Law Library.
- Increased cost of utilities, including electricity, heating, or water, now that students are no longer able to spend time on campus due to our campus closure.
- Expenses relating to the purchase or upgrade of technology in order to take remote classes, take remote final exams, complete final papers, or complete campus-related extracurricular assignments in a remote environment, including the purchase of a computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse, bigger internet or data plan, stronger router, webcam, computer cables, headphones, printer, printer ink or toner, or scanner, due to our move to a fully remote environment and our students' inability to utilize the school's technology and the school's business center.

- Expenses relating to furniture needs, including the purchase of a desk or a chair, due to the need to take all classes in a remote environment.
- Expenses relating to the inability to work on-campus due to the closure of campus.
- Expenses related to increased food costs due to the closure of the Law Café or inability to access the Student Services Food Pantry.
- Expenses relating to moving in order to have a quiet space adequate for taking all classes in a remote environment, due to the move from in-residence classes to remote classes.
- Expenses relating to renting a quiet space to take final exams away from distractions like family members sheltering-in-place with the student, due to the change to take-home finals and the closure of campus.

We know that \$100 likely does not cover the full extent of the expenses you have incurred this spring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because funding provided through the CARES Act can only be used for expenses that are directly related to the disruption of campus operations, we hope that students will continue to apply for additional assistance through our Student Emergency Fund program to help with other expenses related to COVID-19, including unanticipated travel costs, loss of income from non-campus employment, and unanticipated medical costs.

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On March 17, 2021, all students received the following instructions from our Fiscal Office:

Dear Students,

We are very happy to be able to let you know that UC Hastings has received \$138,309 of funding from the Department of Education through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of December 27, 2020 to assist our students with pandemic-related costs you may have incurred this academic year.

As we did in the spring of 2020 with the CARES Act funding we received in the same amount, the College has decided to distribute the bulk of these funds as \$100 grants to every JD, LLM, or MSL student enrolled as of March 15, 2021 who wishes to receive the aid. **Unlike the CARES Act funds we received in the spring of 2020, however, the CRRSAA requires that we prioritize students with *exceptional need*.** As such, for this spring distribution of these CRRSAA funds, we are offering students three options:

1. Students may opt out of receiving CRRSAA this spring semester to allow us to re-distribute your portion to other students who have experienced exceptional need due to the pandemic this academic year.
2. Students may opt to receive \$100 of CRRSAA aid this spring.
3. In addition to receiving \$100 of CRRSAA aid this spring, students who believe they have (a) incurred emergency costs due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care and/or (b) experienced significant difficulty meeting educational costs due to the coronavirus pandemic, such as tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation may provide details of their exceptional need for consideration to receive funds above \$100. (Please note that given the limited funding we have to support our entire student body, it is unlikely that the College will be able to meet all of our students' full need in this category.)

You must complete this survey by no later than **12pm on Wednesday, March 24, 2021**. (The information collected on this survey will be used solely to determine proper grant funding sources. The survey does not ask for personally identifiable information, but does ask for your Student ID number.)

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On May 5, 2021, all students received the following instructions from our Student Services Office:

Dear students,

Please excuse the message during finals. If you are facing emergency costs related to food insecurity, the College has funding available to provide you with a card redeemable at a local grocery store.

If you would benefit from this emergency aid, please complete this survey by May 12.

Students will be notified beginning May 14, with details on how to access the emergency aid.

Please respond to this email, if you have any questions.

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On October 11, 2021, all students received the following instructions from our Fiscal Office:

Dear Students,

We are very happy to be able to let you know that UC Hastings has received \$342,990 of funding from the Department of Education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (“HEERF III”) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 of March 11, 2021 to assist our students with pandemic-related costs you may have incurred this academic year.

As we did in the Spring of 2020 and 2021, the College has decided to distribute the bulk of these funds as grants to every JD, LLM, MSL, CSL, FX, and visiting JD student enrolled as of October 1, 2021 who wishes to receive the aid. We expect to be able to fund every student who does not opt out a lump sum of approximately \$150 per student. **Like the funds we received from the Department of Education in the Spring of 2021, we are required to prioritize students with *exceptional need*.** As such, for this distribution of these HEERF III funds, we are offering students three options:

1. Students may opt out of receiving HEERF III this Fall semester to allow us to re-distribute your portion to other students who have experienced exceptional need due to the pandemic this academic year.
2. Students may opt to receive approximately \$150 of HEERF III aid this Fall.
3. In addition to receiving approximately \$150 of HEERF III aid this Fall, students who believe they have (a) incurred emergency costs due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care and/or (b) experienced significant difficulty meeting educational costs due to the coronavirus pandemic, such as tuition, fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation may opt to receive an additional allocation of HEERF III aid. The amount of the additional allocation depends on the number of students who opt in, but we expect the additional allocation to be somewhere between \$100 and \$500.

You must complete this survey by no later than **12pm on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.**

[end of report]