

CRRSAA, 2021 – HEERF II
Quarterly and FINAL Report
March 31, 2021

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA, 2021) signed into law in December 2020, provides direct emergency assistance to students via the Higher Education Emergency Fund II (HEERF II). Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education Christopher J. McCaghren indicated that these funds are to provide students with financial aid grants, which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care, or child care.

Berry College received a supplemental CRRSAA HEERF II grant award on 2/9/2021. Through this supplemental award, Berry College received \$794,906 under Section 314 (a)(1) of the CRRSAA to provide emergency financial aid grants to students. This report is being provided to meet the quarterly and final federal reporting requirement for CRRSAA, 2021 – HEERF II.

The CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. To meet this requirement Berry College developed a strategy for the distribution of HEERF II funds that emphasized the need of families and to provide funds to the neediest undergraduate students.

Undergraduate students who were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and who were confirmed as enrolled during spring semester 2021, were considered for the distribution of these funds. Additionally, to be eligible for funds, recipients must have filed a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), not be under financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) suspension, and not have outstanding Verification or C-Flags in their records. Approximately 1,600 students were eligible and 959 (60%) received a grant.

Berry College used professional judgement to reason that all undergraduate students may experience financial hardship due to coronavirus. The primary factor used to determine the amount of each emergency grant was the student's expected family contribution (EFC), followed by the amount of debt accumulated (annual average) and any student's work earnings during the fall 2020 semester.

In order to document the prioritization of students with exceptional need, Berry College:

1. Considered students with a reported EFC on the 2020-21 FAFSA less than \$25,000.
2. Allocated a base HEERF II amount according to the EFC of the student. Students with the lowest EFCs received a larger base amount.
3. Allocated an additional HEERF II amount according to the amount of debt incurred by students. The total debt accumulated by each student was divided by the number of years of enrollment at Berry College to conclude the average debt used per year of education. Those with higher reliance on debt received a larger allocation.

4. Allocated a final HEERF II amount according to the student work earnings recorded during fall semester 2020. Students with no or minimal work earnings did not receive an allocation.

By following the college’s distribution strategy, Berry College distributed \$794,906 (the full HEERF II student allocation) among 959 eligible undergraduate students. The average payment was \$828.89 and the range was \$200 to \$1,475. Checks were mailed directly to student recipients during the first week of April 2021.

Undergraduate Recipients:	959	CRRSAA - HEERF II
Full Time Pell Grant Recipients	424	463,575.00
Part Time Pell Grant Recipients	1	1,275.00
Total Pell Grant Recipients	425	464,850.00
Full Time Non-Pell Grant Recipients	532	329,456.00
Part Time Non-Pell Grant Recipients	2	600.00
Total Non-Pell Grant Recipients	534	330,056.00
Total Distributed		794,906.00

The following message concerning HEERF funds and their distribution to students was sent to all Berry College students on March 26, 2021.



Dear Parents/Students,

Three separate bills have now been approved by the federal government providing funds to distribute as emergency grants to students affected by the COVID disruption. These programs include *The CARES Act*, passed in late March 2020, the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2021* (CRRSAA) approved in January 2021, and the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, recently approved in March 2021.

The purpose of this message is to update you on Berry’s distribution of these grants. More detailed information about each federal program is listed below. For grants received so far, the Department of Education asked each institution to establish a distribution process that prioritized students with the greatest financial need, including those who are eligible for Pell grants. To achieve this, Berry College has chosen to provide grants to students who have an estimated family contribution (EFC) on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

between \$0 and \$24,999 and who are eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs (as defined by Section 484 in the Higher Education Act of 1965).

CARES Act Funding

In May 2020, Berry distributed \$688,600 among 919 undergraduate students. A small portion of this grant was held for additional student aid requests. This week we will distribute the remaining \$88,710.42 in CARES Act funds among 153 students. This remaining funding will go to currently enrolled students with the greatest need (those with Pell Grant eligibility) who joined the college in Fall 2020. Checks will be mailed directly to the students at their campus addresses within the next ten days. The average grant is approximately \$579 with a range between \$350 and \$648. **While Federal guidelines dictate that funds must be distributed directly to the students, we encourage parents and students to discuss how best to use these funds.** Funds received through this grant are not considered taxable income.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act

Berry is preparing to distribute \$794,906 in emergency assistance from this program. Approximately 959 students, (half of the students enrolled during the spring 2021 semester) qualify to receive assistance using the criteria stated above. The average grant is approximately \$829 with a range between \$200 and \$1,475. Checks will be mailed to students at their campus address beginning April 5. **While the Federal guidelines dictate that funds must be distributed directly to the students, we encourage parents and students to discuss how best to use these funds.** Funds received through this grant are not considered taxable income.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes additional funding to provide emergency assistance to students. Once the guidelines have been established, we will update parents and students on the allocation of these funds.

We understand that many of our families have been impacted and are still facing challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. **To assist you, we invite all families experiencing hardship, including those caused by COVID-19, to complete the short online [Request for Supplemental Aid form](#).**

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid by calling 706.236.1714 or via email at financialaid@berry.edu.

Thank you,

Financial Aid Office
Berry College