

## CARES HEERF Reporting

### BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by the U.S. government in March to allocate financial support through several areas. As part of the CARES Act, the Department of Education created the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

California State University, Long Beach is a beneficiary of \$41,729,439 in funding from HEERF. At least \$20,864,720 will be used to give payments to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare).

### CERTIFICATION

On April 17, 2020, CSULB signed and returned to the Department of Education the CARES HEERF Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement.

### FUNDING OVERVIEW

**Table 1: Funding amounts and number of eligible students**

Name	Amount
Total funding received from CARES Act	\$41,729,439
Reserved for direct payments to students	\$20,864,720
Reserved for institutional support	\$20,864,719
Total funding provided to students from CARES (as of September 30, 2020)	\$20,864,720
Estimated total number of students eligible to receive Title IV aid	30,017
Total number of students who received funding from CARES Act	29,815

### DISBURSEMENT OF AUTOMATIC GRANTS

To promptly make available emergency financial aid grants from the HEERF fund to students, aid payments were processed automatically to students who met the following conditions:

- Enrolled in a degree program at CSULB
- Eligible for Title IV aid
- Registered in at least 1 unit in the Spring 2020 semester as of March 27, 2020

For students whose eligibility we verified using existing financial aid information (27,779 students), we processed aid payments on May 8, 2020. We sent aid payments by direct deposit for students who had direct deposit information on file. On May 11, 2020, we mailed paper checks to students who did not have direct deposit information on file.

On May 8, 2020, we emailed an online verification form to students whose eligibility we could not verify with existing financial aid information (5,450 students). The deadline to complete the

verification form was May 13, 2020. On May 18, 2020, we processed aid payments to the students whose eligibility we verified using the online form (1,870 students).

On May 21, 2020, the Department of Education clarified that Title IV eligibility was not an enforceable stipulation for CARES grant funding. As a result, on June 9, 2020, we processed automatic grants for an additional 138 students that met CARES funding eligibility requirements under this new guidance.

## DETERMINATION OF AUTOMATIC AID AMOUNTS

California State University issued guidance on April 24, 2020 that HEERF grants be based on each student's documented financial need and in proportion to the financial difficulty faced as a result of COVID-19. The three primary categories included:

- Students with the lowest income status who received maximum state and/or federal aid
- Students with some financial need prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Students without regard to prior state and/or federal aid received

Additionally, per the Department of Education's April 9, 2020 guidance for each institution to prioritize students with the greatest need, CSULB identified students with the highest financial need based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) in the 2019-2020 FAFSA.

CSULB recognized that all students had additional expenses as a result of the switch to remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. All students in the above three groups were provided an automatic aid payment with amounts based on financial need and enrollment status (Table 2: Automatic aid payments by financial need and enrollment status).

**Table 2: Automatic aid payments by financial need and enrollment status**

	Aid amount	# of students	Total
<b>Students with the most financial need (\$0 Expected Family Contribution)</b>			
<i>Half-time or greater</i>	\$1,000	10,143	\$10,143,000
<i>Less than half-time</i>	\$500	152	\$76,000
<b>Students with some financial need (Expected Family Contribution below Cost of Attendance)</b>			
<i>Half-time or greater</i>	\$500	13,759	\$6,874,100
<i>Less than half-time</i>	\$250	204	\$51,000
<b>All other qualified students</b>	\$250	5,529	\$1,382,250
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,787</b>	<b>\$18,526,350</b>

## ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY GRANTS BY APPLICATION

\$2,332,970 of the HEERF grant not distributed in automatic aid payments was reserved for additional emergency funding by application. Students were invited to apply for additional funding using an online application May 18–29, 2020, and payments were processed to students June 17–24, 2020. This was for students who needed additional funding, above and beyond any automatic grant, to help pay for emergency expenses — such as housing, food,

course materials, technology, healthcare, and childcare expenses — incurred as a result of the switch to remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 19, 2020, we processed emergency grants from HEERF to students who applied for additional funding and who were eligible to receive Title IV aid. We sent aid payments by direct deposit for students who had direct deposit information on file. On June 23, 2020, we mailed paper checks to students who did not have direct deposit information on file. The final remaining balance of HEERF funds were awarded on July 10, 2020, to students that had submitted an application during our May 18–29, 2020, period, but were not initially selected for payments made on June 19, 2020.

**Table 3: Funding amounts and number of additional emergency grants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Total funding reserved from CARES direct payments allocation for emergency grants by application	\$2,332,970
Total CARES funding provided to students by application	\$2,332,970
Total number of students who received additional emergency grants from CARES by application*	2,736

---

\* Payments made through the application process included 27 students that were eligible for CARES funding but did not receive an automatic grant.