

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)
Pub. L. No. 116-260
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF II”)
Quarter 1 Report: January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021

Simpson College is eligible to receive funds under Section 314(a)(1) (CFDA 84.425E) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act signed by the President of the United States on December 27, 2020 (CRRSAA, P.L. 116-260). This law gives the U.S. Department of Education funds to distribute to institutions of higher education in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

CRRSAA requires institutions to use the allocated funds to provide financial aid grants to students, which can be used for any component of the students’ cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care, or childcare. Institutions must prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants.

On January 17, 2021, Simpson College was notified that a supplemental award had been made in the amount of \$726,525 pursuant to section 314(a)(1). Simpson College has complied with the requirements of the CRRSA Act, as follows:

- 1) By drawing down the awarded funds, Simpson College agreed to provide at least the same amount of funding in financial aid grants to students as was required to provide under section 18004(a)(1) (CARES Act).
- 2) Simpson College agreed to make financial aid grants to students, which may be used for any component of the students’ cost of attendance. Simpson College retained discretion to determine the amount and availability of each individual financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws and agreed to prioritize students with exceptional need.
- 3) Simpson College distributed a block grant for all Pell eligible students that was equivalent to 30% of the Pell Grant the student received in 2020/2021. Maximum CRRSAA Grant was \$1,904 (Pell Grant maximum of \$6,345 x 30%). We set a minimum grant of \$500 for the block grant portion. Simpson College then sent an email to all students who had not received the full \$1,904 in CRRSAA Grant funds AND had an expected family contribution of \$15,000 or below to solicit applications for the remaining CRRSAA Funds. Applications were due on May 14 and were reviewed on May 17 and 18. Simpson College did not condition the receipt of financial aid grants on students’ continued or future enrollment at the institution and did not require students to consent to the application of the financial aid grants to outstanding account balances.
- 4) In the quarter covering the calendar period from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, Simpson College distributed a total of \$569,110.00 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.

- 5) An estimated total number of 671 students at Simpson College are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act by definition of “exceptional need” as defined Simpson College.
- 6) As of March 31, 2021, the total number of Simpson College students who received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act was 413.
- 7) Simpson College utilized the following method to determine which students would receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.
 - a) We first distributed a block grant for all Pell eligible students that was equivalent to 30% of the Pell Grant the student received in 2020/2021. Maximum CRRSAA Grant was \$1,904 (Pell Grant maximum of \$6,345 x 30%). We set a minimum grant of \$500 for the block grant portion. This portion was packaged to students and issued with a check directly to the student, unless the student requested that it post to their student account in writing via their SC Connect student portal. We used two separate award codes. HRFSAs posted to the student account, only with written confirmation from the student saying they wanted it to post to their student account. HRFCV posted directly to the COVID account, which means a check is cut and mailed to the student immediately following.
 - b) We sent an email to all students who had not received the full \$1,904 in CRRSAA Grant funds AND had an expected family contribution of \$15,000 or below to solicit applications for the remaining CRRSAA Funds. Applications were due on May 14 and were reviewed on May 17 and 18. Again, students were required to tell us if they wanted a check mailed directly to them or if they wanted their funds to post to their student account to pay their balance.
 - c) Simpson College determined that we would define “extreme need” as students with an expected family contribution of \$15,000 or less to determine eligibility for application for funds.
 - d) Starting on May 17, 2021, a review committee (comprised of the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment and Financial Assistance, the Associate Director of Financial Aid and the Director of Foundation and Government Support Programs evaluated each application to determine whether expenses reported by the student were allowable and the amount of the grant each student would receive, if any. Emergency Financial Aid Grants applications were reviewed and prioritized by student EFC, with the lowest being funded first.
 - e) Following evaluation of the applications, CRRSAA funds were disbursed to the appropriate student accounts the week of May 17 and checks were issued and mailed on May 21. Funds were passed through a new account that was initially created only for CARES Grant Funds. All disbursements were issued to students via a check payment or credit to the student account with the written request to do so, with the following instructions given to students at the time of check delivery.

- f) Student athletes were tested prior to every NCAA Division III competition by a local pharmacy in town, HyVee, free of charge. At times, a test was either lost or “inconclusive”. We decided that when a test was returned as “inclusive” or lost, we would reimburse students for a rapid test to keep the student engaged in their competition, in order to help with student retention as retention had already suffered due to the coronavirus. The student had to be Pell eligible to qualify for this reimbursement via the student portion. We only had one student who was eligible according to this policy.

- 8) All students enrolled at Simpson College as of March 25, 2021 who had an EFC of \$15,000 or below received email communication with instructions on how to apply for the CRRSAA Grants. The application for the CRRSAA Grants was made available in electronic form on the students’ campus portal. Students were informed by email regarding the outcome of their applications’ review, whether they received funds, and in which amount, if any.