

**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental  
Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)/  
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)  
Quarterly Report - April 22, 2021**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, the CRRSAA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion expeditiously provided last spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136.

Each HEERF participating institution is required to make public the following information:

**Certification and Agreement**

Glen Oaks Community College has signed and returned the HEERF Certification and Agreement forms to the Department of Education. The College intends to use the student portion of HEER funds to make emergency financial aid grants available to students.

**Total Amount of Funds**

The total amount of funds received by the college for the student portion of the CRRSAA/HEER funds was \$288,341.

**Amount of Emergency Aid Distributed**

The total amount of awarded grant funds for the Winter 2021 term was \$240,850, leaving \$47,491 for future disbursements.

**Estimated Total Number of Students Eligible**

Five hundred and fifty-one (551) students were eligible to receive emergency grant aid during the Winter 2021 semester.

**Number of Students Awarded Emergency Grants**

As of April 22, 2021, 377 unduplicated, enrolled students received HEER funds.

**Methods for Determining Eligibility and Distribution of Funds**

The college followed the U.S. Department of Education (ED) guidelines to determine student eligibility for HEER funds. According to the ED, colleges and universities were required to

prioritize grant funding to students with exceptional financial need, such as students who receive Pell grants. However, students who did not receive Pell were still eligible for funding.

Based on the ED guidance, the committee elected to automatically block award grants for all Pell recipients. Pell students who did not apply for a grant received a block award amount (\$100-500) based upon their Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) level and enrollment intensity (number of contact hours enrolled). Pell recipients who completed the application process had the opportunity to receive funds (\$150-1000) in addition to the block award. The combined award was based upon three categories: financial need on the FAFSA (EFC), financial need described on the student's application, and enrollment intensity. Applicants who did not file a FAFSA and/or who did not qualify for Pell were awarded grants (\$150-1000) based upon application information and enrollment intensity.

Students had the option on the application to elect whether they wanted the emergency grants to be directly applied to their student account balance or whether they wanted a grant check mailed to the address on file with the college's Registrar's Office. Awards were transmitted to student account balances on March 17 and April 12, and grant checks were mailed the week of March 29 and April 12.

### **Guidance Provided to Students**

On February 1, the Vice President of Student Services notified all students via their college email of the availability of, and eligibility requirements of, the CRRSAA/HEERF. Included in this email was a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to address the application process, award amounts, eligibility requirements, prioritization of funds, etc. Students were also notified that the HEER funds could be used toward any expenses associated with their cost of attendance, including tuition, textbooks, course materials, food, technology, housing, healthcare, transportation, childcare, etc. This communication was also posted on the [glenoaks.edu/coronavirus](http://glenoaks.edu/coronavirus) web page created specifically for COVID-19 related updates. Information was provided to local media outlets and was also posted on the college's social media accounts. Additionally, Academic Advisors sent text messages to students to notify them of available emergency grants.

The VP of Student Service informed students that, after applications were reviewed, students could view the award amounts in My Awards in the Financial Aid tile in MyGOCC, the student portal. An email was sent to students when the awards were posted onto students' accounts.

A letter accompanied grant checks with an overview of the HEERF and a list of eligible expenditures for the funds. The Business Office encouraged students, in this letter , to contact their local tax advisor for information on any tax implications regarding emergency funding. Pell recipients who did not apply but were block awarded grants were notified in this letter that the college determined, based upon information from their FAFSA, they would benefit from emergency grant funds.

Each grant recipient's situation was evaluated individually based on the information provided in the student's application, on the FAFSA, and by enrollment intensity. GOCC maintained flexibility to determine the amount awarded to each student on a case-by-case basis.