

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF) Reporting

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (Southwest Tech) acknowledges that the college signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement, and intends to use no less than 50 percent of the funds (\$391,815) received under the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Southwest Tech estimates that for the Spring 2021 there were 1226 students enrolled in at least one credit in a financial aid eligible programs and were eligible for HEERF II funds if they are a US Citizen or eligible non-citizen. As of March 31, 2021, Southwest Tech distributed \$221,440 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 637 students.

In determining Emergency Financial Aid Grants, Southwest Tech did not require students to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but uses it to confirm U.S. Citizenship and determining exceptional need. Students who do not complete a FAFSA application must self-certify their citizenship status on the application for funds.

As required under the CRRSAA Act, funding can 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 (including mental health care), or child care. Institutions who receive HEERF II funds must prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. For the Spring 20-21 semester, to identify students with exceptional need, as required in Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund regulations, Southwest Tech uses the Pell Grant eligibility as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All students who completed the FAFSA and are Pell Grant eligible will receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant automatically if they meet the following criteria at the time of disbursement: Enrolled in a financial aid eligible program; Enrolled in at least six credits as of the date the funds are disbursed; Be a U.S citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen. Grant amounts are as follows: 12 semester credits or more – \$250; 6 - 11 semester credits – \$125.

Non-Pell Grant eligible and non-FAFSA filing students who are experiencing an emergency related situation due to the coronavirus can apply for up to \$500 by completing the Emergency Financial Aid Grant application. Additionally, Pell Grant students with additional need can apply for funds through the application process. The following award limits have been established: Pell Grant eligible students can receive a maximum of \$750.00 per semester; Non-Pell Grant eligible and non-FAFSA filing students can receive a maximum of \$500.00 per semester.

Communications via email, website and student portal presence, and presenting in student meetings assisted in educating students about this opportunity.

Reporting Updated: March 31, 2021