

CRRSA Act Reporting (HEERF III)

Quarterly Reporting for March 31, 2022

Certification

Illinois State University has signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and intends to use all of funds allocated for Emergency Financial Aid Grants received under the CRRSA Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Funds Distributed and Student Eligibility

As of March 31, 2022, Illinois State University received \$22,062,690 of Emergency Financial Aid funds under the CRRSA Act (HEERF III) and has distributed \$994,198 of federal funds in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 575 students during the third quarter (January 1 – March 31). Illinois State University has an estimated 21,139 students eligible to participate in programs under the CRRSA Act.

Method Used to Determine Student Eligibility

Illinois State University prioritized funds to students with extenuating financial need based on the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Assistance. During this quarterly reporting period, block grants were awarded to students enrolled in the spring term of the 2021-2022 academic year that had not yet received their eligible block grant for the academic year.

Awarding criteria was as follows:

EFC 0-6,000: \$2,250 grant

EFC 6,001-10,000 \$1,500 grant

EFC 10,001-15,000 \$1,000 grant

EFC 15,001-30,000 \$500 grant

Eligible students that experienced extenuating financial hardship and did not meet the block grant selection criteria could submit an application to the Financial Aid Office for committee review and consideration of grant funds. Students that met the block grant criteria but still had extenuating financial need could also submit an application to the Financial Aid office for committee review and consideration of grant funds. The maximum amount a student can receive within an academic year is \$6,000. Funds were distributed directly to students unless students provided consent to apply funds to outstanding balance.

Notification to Students

During this quarterly reporting period, the institution issued a letter to recipients including information about the grant, intended use of the funds, how to view the amount of their grant, and how the funds are disbursed to them.

During the fall semester, the university produced a video explained how the university identified eligible students and that students could contact the Financial Aid Office if they were experiencing extenuating hardship. The institutional video was communicated was posted to the Illinois State University YouTube page.

In addition to the letter and video, information regarding emergency grants is available to all students on the Illinois State University Student Emergency Grant Funds web page.

The Financial Aid Office also conducted phone outreach to students with outstanding balances, sent out communication about the change in financial situation process during the fall semester and posted the information online at <https://financialaid.illinoisstate.edu/process/changes/>.