

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF)

Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act created the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) for distribution to colleges and universities, intended to help offset students' costs resulting from campus disruptions due to the coronavirus. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) provided additional HEERF allocations.

Bennington College received funds as authorized under both CARES and ARP. The College made a number of grants to students for emergency financial assistance related to the coronavirus pandemic during Spring 2020 (HEERF I) and Spring 2021 (HEERF II). HEERF III grants have not been distributed.

Emergency Grants to Students - Required Reports and Disclosures

CARES Act

The CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides the first round of HEERF funding. The CARES Act allowed schools to consider students for federal financial aid grants for expenses related to the discussion of campus operations due to COVID. Eligible expenses under the CARES Act include students' cost of attendance, food, housing, course materials, and technology.

Federal funding for the grants to students was limited and awarded to students meeting eligibility criteria.

Bennington College signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education a Certification and Agreement with the Department of Education giving assurance that the institution has used, or intended to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students.

Bennington College is eligible to receive \$592,764 from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) as part of the CARES Act pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, of which no less than 50% (\$296,382) must be used to provide emergency grants to students.

As of May 31, 2020, \$296,382 has been distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

CARES Act 30-Day and Final Report

The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) provides funding to institutions for emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. Below is Bennington College's 30-Day and final report.

With regard to the CARES Act Section 18004(a) (1), Bennington College acknowledges and assures that:

1. A signed Certification and Agreement was returned to the Department of Education on April 16, 2020, with the intention of using 50% of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. The total amount of funds Bennington College received for the benefit of students is \$296,382.
3. \$296,382 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants have been provided to students as of May 25, 2020.
4. The estimated number of students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 399.
5. 328 students have received funding as of May 25, 2020.
6. Bennington College staff developed the methods used to determine which students will receive the emergency funding and how much they receive.

Method:

- Students must be Title IV eligible and making satisfactory academic progress as required by the CARES Act.
- Students with the greatest documented need using the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) from the 2019-20 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be prioritized.

Awards to each student were determined by the following chart:

Criteria	Award Amount
Students with a federally verified FAFSA showing an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$5,500 or less and a Pell recipient	\$1,250
Students with a federally confirmed EFC greater than \$5,500 but less than \$20,000	\$800
Remaining eligible students with federally demonstrated financial need of \$20,000 or more	\$500

7. Students received an email from Bennington College with instructions and guidance regarding CARES Act funding. Eligible students received a certification form to request funding.

CARES ACT UPDATE

\$296,832 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants have been provided to 337 students as of June 19, 2020. All CARES Act funds have been distributed.

This will be the final update for CARES Funding.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was signed into law on December 27, 2020, and provided the second round of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II).

CRRSAA 30 Day and Final Report

In compliance with 86 FR 26213, Bennington College acknowledges and assures that:

1. A signed Certification and Agreement was returned to the Department of Education on February 2, 2021, with the intention of using 50% of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. The total amount of funds Bennington College received for the benefit of students is \$296,382.
3. \$296,382 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants have been provided to students as of April 30, 2021.
4. The estimated number of students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSAA (a)(1) program is 406.
5. 252 students have received funding as of April 30, 2021.

Awards to each student were determined by the following chart:

Criteria	Award Amount
Students with a federally verified FAFSA and a Pell recipient, or has expressed financial hardship.	\$1,420
High need students, but not a pell recipient or has expressed financial hardship.	\$1,000

Remaining eligible students with federally demonstrated financial need who declined loans and/or are studying at home.	\$505
--	-------

Note: All tiers meet the eligibility requirements of domestic or permanent resident who is eligible for federal student aid.

Students received an email from Bennington College with instructions and guidance regarding CARES Act funding. Eligible students received a certification form to request funding.

This will be the final update for CRRSSA funding.

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and provided the third round of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III).

Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ending 9/30/2021

In compliance with 86 FR 26213, Bennington College acknowledges and assures that:

1. A signed Certification and Agreement was returned to the Department of Education acknowledging the requirement of using, no less than the required amount of funds received under section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. Bennington College received \$771,753 from the Department pursuant to the Institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergence Financial Aid Grant to Students under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP.
3. As of September 30, 2021, there have been no distributions to students under Section 2003(a)(1).

Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ending 12/31/2021

As of December 31, 2021, there have been no distributions to students under Section 2003(a)(1).

Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ending 3/31/2022

During the quarter ending 3/31/2022, A College advisory group comprised of personnel from Financial Aid, Student Accounts and Enrollment convened to determine the criteria and priorities for distribution based on updated federal guidelines that include the inclusion of domestic, international, DACA, and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) students and gives priority to those with demonstrated need.

Funds will be awarded using the following criteria:

Criteria	Award Amounts
Students with federally verified FAFSA and a Pell recipient	\$ 2000
Students with federally confirmed family contributions (EFC) greater than \$5846 but less than \$20,000	\$ 1750
Students with federally confirmed EFC's greater than \$20,000 but less than \$40,000	\$ 1500
International student with institutionally confirmed family contributions less than \$20,000 with total awards less than \$70,000	\$ 1250
International students with institutionally confirmed family m contributions greater than \$20,000 but less than \$40,000, total awards less than \$70,000	\$ 1000

The Financial Aid office conducted outreach to eligible students informing them of their award and informing them of options for appeals. 63 students chose to have HEERF III funds applied to their student bill, \$106,875. 310 students chose to receive their HEERF III funds as a direct distribution totaling \$530,750. The direct distributions will be distributed to students during April 2022. The remaining funds have been held for appeals.

Institutional Portion: Quarterly Reports

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

First and Final Institutional Quarterly Report

Bennington College allocated the institutional port of these funds towards the expense related to issuing Spring 2020 room and board refunds to students due to the shift to remote instruction as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

First and Final Institutional Quarterly Report

Bennington College allocated the institutional port of these funds towards the expense related to issuing Spring 2020 room and board refunds to students due to the shift to remote instruction as a result of the COVID pandemic.

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Institutional Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ending 9/30/2021

As of this report, Bennington College has not determined how these funds will be allocated and no funds have been drawn down.

Institutional Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ending 12/31/2021

As of this report, Bennington College has not determined how these funds will be allocated and no funds have been drawn down.

Institutional Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ending 3/31/2022

As of this report, Bennington College has not determined how these funds will be allocated and no funds have been drawn down.