

Fall 2021 HEERF III Reporting

BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by the U.S. Congress and then signed into law by the president on December 27, 2020 to allocate financial emergency relief to several sectors including higher education. As part of the CARES Act, the Department of Education created the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III).

At least 50% of the funds awarded to an institution of higher education must be distributed as emergency aid to students who have had their semester disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency aid can include anything under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care.

San Jose State University (SJSU) is a beneficiary of \$81,892,143 in funding from HEERF. At least \$41,061,201 will be used to give payments to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare).

CERTIFICATION

On May 11, 2021, the Department of Education announced the CARES HEERF III funding would be made available to institutions. Funding for the program was drawn down on June 28, 2021 by the institution indicating our agreement to the new terms.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Table 1: Funding amounts and number of eligible students

Name	Amount
Total funding received from HEERF III	\$81,982,143
Reserved for direct payments to students	\$41,061,201
Reserved for institutional support	\$40,920,942
Total funding provided to students from HEERF III (Summer 2021)	\$548,470
Total funding provided to students from HEERF III (Fall 2021)	\$15,628,282

Fall 2021 DISBURSEMENT OF AUTOMATIC GRANTS

To promptly make available emergency financial aid grants from the HEERF III fund to students, aid payments were processed automatically to students who met the following conditions:

- Filed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act and awarded
- Have an annual Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$10,000 or lower, as calculated through the 2021 - 2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act forms EFC is based on academic year calculation.
- Received a Financial Aid Award for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- If you did not attend the entire academic year, your cost of attendance, EFC and financial aid were adjusted to reflect one semester eligibility
- Are currently enrolled and matriculated (degree-seeking) SJSU undergraduate or graduate students
- Enrolled at least 1 unit
- Are participating in in-person or fully on-line programs

For students whose eligibility we verified using existing financial aid information, we processed aid payments in November. We sent aid payments by direct deposit for students who had direct deposit information on file. We mailed paper checks to students who did not have direct deposit information on file.

DETERMINATION OF AUTOMATIC AID AMOUNTS

California State University issued guidance on May 25, 2021 that HEERF III grants be based on each student's documented financial need and in proportion to the financial difficulty faced as a result of COVID-19. The three primary categories included:

- Students with the lowest income status who received maximum state and/or federal aid
- Students with some financial need prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Students without regard to prior state and/or federal aid received

Additionally, per the Department of Education's April 9, 2020 guidance for each institution to prioritize students with the greatest need, SJSU identified students with the highest financial need based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) in the 2020-2021 FAFSA.

SJSU recognized that all students had additional expenses as a result of the switch to remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. All students in the above three groups were provided an automatic aid payment with amounts based on financial need and enrollment status (Table 2).

Table 2: Automatic aid payments by financial need and enrollment status

	Aid amount	# of students	Total
Students with the most financial need (\$0 - \$2000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled Full Time (6.5 + units)</i>	\$1,235	8628	\$10,655,580
<i>Enrolled Part Time (1 to 6 units)</i>	\$670	871	\$583,570
Students with some financial need (\$2001 - \$6000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled Full Time (6.5 + units)</i>	\$1,010	3,115	\$3,146,150
<i>Enrolled Part Time (1 to 6 units)</i>	\$555	323	\$179,265
Students with some financial need (\$6001 - \$10000 Expected Family Contribution)			
<i>Enrolled Full Time (6.5 + units)</i>	\$360	2,002	\$720,720
<i>Enrolled Part Time (1 to 6 units)</i>	\$325	284	\$92,300
Awarded students via petition or changed EFC/Units	Varied	260	\$250,697
TOTAL			
		15,483	\$15,628,282