

# CRRSAA HEERF II COMMUNICATION

As required by guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education (“Department”) on May 6, 2020, which was updated in a Federal Register published August 31, 2020, **Fortis Institute - Towson and subsidiaries ("the School")**, which includes **Fortis College - Smyrna, Fortis College - Columbus, Fortis College Cincinnati, and Fortis College Columbia** provides this report describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to the School:

1. The School has signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (“Certification/Agreement”), which provides, in relevant part, that the School will use no less than 100% of the funds received under Section 314(a)(4) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) to provide Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF II) to students.
2. The School will receive \$ 3,980,731.00 in HEERF II funds from the Department pursuant to the School’s Certification/Agreement. In addition, the School will utilize \$132,650.56 from CARES Act HEERF I Grant Funds.
3. As of June 30, 2021 the School has distributed \$0 HEERF II Grant to eligible students under Section 314(a)(4) of the CRRSAA.
4. As of June 30, 2021 the School found that 0 students were enrolled in a Title IV eligible program and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
5. As of June 30, 2021, 0 students have received a HEERF II Grant.
6. The methods used by the School to determine which students will receive HEERF II Grants and how much they will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CRRSAA are as follows:

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY – METHODOLOGY:

- To receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants, students must be:
  - a. In an active category of attendance or in a leave of absence as of census date.
  - b. Enrolled in a Title IV eligible program.
- The School will be distributing funds to all eligible students per the grant amount methodology noted below. Upon presentation of the funds to students, students will be notified that HEERF II Grants must be used by students to assist with 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.

#### GRANT AMOUNT – METHODOLOGY:

- To calculate the base award value per student, the School will divide the HEERF II allocation by the number of students in attendance as of census date.
  - The base award value is then adjusted by four additional factors:
    - a. *Cost of living*: The School will balance the award against the 2019-2020 Indirect Cost of Attendance figures for each location. This allows the School to consider cost of living expenses in specific areas.
    - b. *Dependent vs. Independent*: Dependent students have, on average, other resources to cover expenses. Therefore, the award for a dependent student will be reduced by 20%.
    - c. *Enrollment status*: Students who attend less than full-time have, on average, fewer expenses. Therefore, awards will be reduced if a student's enrollment is  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , or  $<1/2$  time status.
    - d. *Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)*: Awards will be increased for students with a Pell-eligible EFC.
  - The maximum a student can receive is \$6,000.
  - All HEERF II will be paid in single disbursement.
7. The School has provided the following instructions, directions, and guidance to students concerning HEERF II Grants:
- HEERF II Grant Funding Frequently Asked Questions, available at <https://www.edaff.com/HEERF%20II%20FAQ.pdf>
  - A sample of the Notification emailed to HEERF II Grant recipients is shown on next page.

SAMPLE NOTIFICATION EMAIL SENT TO HEERF II GRANT RECIPIENTS:



Campus: <<CampusDescrip>>

## HEERF II GRANT NOTIFICATION

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) was passed by Congress and signed into law December 27, 2020. As part of the CRRSAA, emergency funds were set aside in different programs. One such program is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) which provides higher education institutions funds to distribute HEERF II grant funds to their eligible students whose lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has stated that HEERF II grant funds must be used by students to assist with 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.

**Funds will be distributed via Wisely® Pay.** If you have an active Wisely Pay account from our 2020 CARES Act HEERF cycle, then your HEERF II funds will be made available on your card. **If you no longer have your Wisely Pay card, please contact Wisely Pay directly at 866-313-6901 to request a replacement.**

**If you do not have an active Wisely Pay account, your Wisely® Pay packet has been ordered. Due to slower US Postal Service (USPS) delivery times, please allow 10-14 business days for delivery.** Once you receive your Wisely® packet, activate the Wisely® Pay Card OR Wisely® Check to access the HEERF grant funds.

<<Total Fund HEERF II>>

**\*CLICK HERE for Wisely Pay information and what to look for in the mail\***

For more information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions visit <https://www.edaff.com/crrsa-information.php>. We will update information if more details become available.

We commend you for your continued progress with your program during this unprecedented time and wish you great success.

Be well,  
Education Affiliates, Inc.

<<Email Notification>>

### Student Attestation

By activating your Wisely® Pay Card or Wisely® Check, you are Accepting your HEERF II Grant and attest that you will use HEERF II funds to assist with 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. If you cannot attest to this statement, do not activate your Wisely® Pay Card or Wisely® Check and contact our HEERF II Information team at 410-299-3341 or HEERFInfo@edaff.com to cancel your HEERF II Grant.