

CRRSAA HEERF III 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 III) to students.
2. The School will receive \$2,307,016.00 in HEERF III funds from the Department pursuant to the School’s Certification/Agreement.
3. As of September 30, 2021 the School has distributed \$0 HEERF III Grant to eligible students under Section 314(a)(4) of the CRRSAA.
4. As of September 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 September 30, 2021, 0 students have received a HEERF III Grant.
6. The methods used by the School to determine which students will receive HEERF III 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 III 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 III 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 III will be paid in single disbursement.
7. The School has provided the following instructions, directions, and guidance to students concerning HEERF III Grants:
- CRRSAA HEERF Grant Funding Frequently Asked Questions, available at <https://www.edaff.com/HEERF%20II%20FAQ.pdf>
 - An email to HEERF III Grant recipients has not been drafted as no awards have been made.