

University of Richmond
CRRSA Act Student Aid Quarterly Report FINAL
March 31, 2021

PR/Award No. P425E202827

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 included additional COVID-19 relief through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act. This new Congressional COVID stimulus bill included \$23 billion for higher education institutions and students, using the same Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) model established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. An additional \$1,212,773 of funding was allocated to the University of Richmond to be distributed directly to students impacted by the disruption of campus due to COVID-19. Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING AND CERTIFICATION

Institutions that received funds last year under section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act for students or institutions did not need to apply for the new funds. Instead, the institution's project director on its most recent Grant Award Notification notified each school of when funds were available. Funds were automatically awarded based on the allocation formula in the new law. When the University drew down the funds, it constituted acceptance of the new terms and conditions that apply to these funds.

FUNDS AWARDED

The University was allocated \$1,212,773 from the Department of Education through CRRSA.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS

A total of \$1,212,773 in emergency grant funding through the CARES Act (student portion) was distributed to students as of March 31, 2021.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The University estimated that 3,720 students were potentially eligible to participate in programs under §484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore, were potentially eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSA Act.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FUNDS TO DATE

Emergency grant funding through the CRRSA Act was distributed to a total of 925 students as of March 31, 2021.

METHODOLOGY USED TO DETERMINE GRANTS TO STUDENTS

Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students.

Given federal requirements, recommendations, the impact of disruptions, and the level of funding, the University chose to distribute funds to all students (ABJ, SPCS, Law, or MBA) who met all of the following criteria:

- The student was enrolled at the University for the Spring 2021 semester as of March 1, 2021;
- The student met the eligibility requirements under Title IV of the Higher Education Act;
- The student received, either:
 - a Federal Pell Grant as of March 1, 2021, or
 - Title IV aid as of March 1, 2021 and the student's Federal EFC is less than \$10,000.

Students who received a Federal Pell Grant as of March 1, 2021 received \$1,520 grants.

Students who did not receive a Federal Pell Grant as of March 1, 2021, but did receive Title IV aid as of March 1, 2021, and whose Federal EFC was less than \$10,000 received \$1,000 grants.

INSTRUCTIONS OR DIRECTIONS PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

Eligible students received emails notifying them of their eligibility and the award amount that they were going to receive. These students were told that they were not required to submit any verification of expenses as a condition of receiving these funds, and that their receipt of the award was based on the assumption that they have incurred or will incur expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic that equal or exceed the award amount. The email also explained that by accepting these funds, the student confirmed that they have incurred or will incur "expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care expenses." Students who did not incur such expenses were asked to contact the Office of Financial Aid by March 7, 2021 to decline or modify the award.