

Missouri Southern acknowledges that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends 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 Grants to Students.

The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students = \$2,378,137.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (*i.e.*, as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter) = \$2,378,137.

The estimated total number of students at the institution 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 to Students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.^[U] = 3,200 students.

The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act = 3,253.

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

Students eligible for grants under the HEERF II at MSSU are those who:

1. Were enrolled at MSSU as of March 2, 2021,
2. Are degree-seeking at MSSU in a certificate, associate, bachelor, or master's academic program,
3. Meet U.S. Citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen status, and
4. Complete a FAFSA for 2020-21 academic year and have a valid Expected Family Contribution ("EFC").
 - Students with an EFC 0-12,000 will receive HEERF II grant of \$800.
 - Students with an EFC greater than 12,000 will receive HEERF II grant of \$450.

Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants can be found here: <https://emergency.mssu.edu/modifications-to-student-support-areas.php#heerf3>

Notifications to Students:

[EMAIL TO STUDENT HEERF II \\$800 GRANT RECIPIENTS](#)

[EMAIL TO STUDENT HEERF II \\$450 GRANT RECIPIENTS](#)

[EMAIL TO ALL CAMPUS HEERF II](#)

These federal grants will be disbursed to eligible students by the MSSU Bursar via electronic refund or a paper check by mail. Students should have a valid bank account setup for electronic refund at www.mssu.edu/paymybill
Or

Ensure their mailing address is correct with the MSSU Registrar. Students can update mailing address [here](#).

Please review the FAQ items below for additional guidance.

- **Why did I get this money?**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (“HEERF II”) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on December 27, 2020.

Eligible students will receive either \$800 or \$450 HEERF II grant beginning March 2021 until funds are exhausted, and before the one-year expiration date. MSSU students are able to use these funds to assist with expenses related to any component of their cost of attendance or emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) and child care.

Recipients were notified via a message to their MSSU email account.

[EMAIL TO STUDENT HEERF II \\$800 GRANT RECIPIENTS](#)

[EMAIL TO STUDENT HEERF II \\$450 GRANT RECIPIENTS](#)

[EMAIL TO ALL CAMPUS HEERF II](#)

- **Which students are eligible for HEERF II grants?**

HEERF II student grant funds will be awarded as a block grant to MSSU students who meet these criteria:

- Enrolled at MSSU as of March 2, 2021,

- Degree-seeking at MSSU in a certificate, associate, bachelor or master’s academic program,

- U.S. Citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen status, and

- Completed a FAFSA for 2020-21 academic year and have a valid Expected Family Contribution (“EFC”).

Students with an EFC 0-12,000 will receive HEERF II grant of \$800.

Students with an EFC greater than 12,000 will receive HEERF II grant of \$450.

- **I got this money as a refund. Does this mean my MSSU account balance has been paid off?**

No. Distribution of HEERF II funds is made directly to students and not applied by the University toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by the student. As such, receipt of these funds does not indicate the recipient has satisfied their financial obligations to MSSU for any debts incurred during the spring 2021 term or any terms prior. Please check your current account balance in LionNet to determine what you may still owe.

- **Can I use this money to pay off my MSSU balance?**

Yes. MSSU is not authorized to apply HEERF II funds toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by a student without prior authorization. However, once the funds are received as a refund, students may choose to use the funds to pay off their outstanding account balance. Bursar@mssu.edu

417.625.9381 www.mssu.edu/paymybill

- **Am I eligible to receive HEERF II funds if I am not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards?**

Yes. Guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education indicates that students not meeting Financial Aid SAP standards (or other Title IV student eligibility criteria) are still eligible for HEERF II distributions.

- **Are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students eligible for HEERF II funds?**

No. Guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education indicates that students must meet citizenship requirements to qualify for the HEERF II funds. This limits eligibility to U.S. Citizens or nationals, permanent residents, or other eligible non-citizens.

- **Are International students eligible for HEERF II funds?**

No. Guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education indicates that students must meet citizenship criteria in order to receive HEERF II funds. This limits eligibility to U.S. Citizens or nationals, permanent residents, or other eligible non-citizens.

- **Do I have to pay this money back?**

No. Any funds a student receives from the HEERF II funds do not need to be repaid.

- **Does this money count against my financial aid package?**

No. Grant funding from HEERF II is not considered financial assistance under federal statute, nor U.S. Department of Education regulations. As such, these funds will not impact your eligibility for regular financial aid (e.g., grants, scholarships, loans).

- **Is money received from HEERF II considered taxable income?**

HEERF II grants are not treated as taxable income or untaxed income for Title IV federal student aid purposes.

In addition, because the emergency financial aid grant is not includable in a student's gross income, students are not able to claim any deduction or credit for expenses paid with the grant including the tuition and fees deduction, the American Opportunity Credit, or the Lifetime Learning Credit. See section 139(h) of the Internal Revenue Code.

All students are encouraged to talk with a personal tax professional relating to any questions you may have about the treatment of the funds.

- **If I do not qualify for any HEERF II funding are there any other emergency funds for which I can apply?**

Students should contact the MSSU Financial Aid Office to see what options are available in your particular situation. finaid@mssu.edu 417.625.9325

** Note:* For the initial report and each report thereafter, institutions should use data suppression and other methodologies to protect the personally identifiable information from student education records consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([20 U.S.C. 1232g](#); [34 CFR part 99](#)). This means that if the total number of eligible students or the total number of students who received Emergency Financial Aid Grants is less than 10, but not 0, then the institution must display the total number of students eligible and/or the total number of students who received Emergency Financial Aid Grants as less than 10 (“< 10”) on the publicly available websites controlled by the institution.

Institutions that accurately report the information listed above will meet the initial reporting requirements under Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act. Institutions that the Department determines have not met the reporting requirement as described in this notice may, consistent with the Department's authority to monitor grantee compliance, be subject to appropriate enforcement actions, up to and including being determined to be ineligible for certain other CARES Act program funding. For other subsequent reports for this program and other related HEERF programs, the Department will notify participating institutions of the Department's preferred reporting method. The Department may choose to collect additional information from institutions in accordance with the reporting requirement in Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act and the Certification and Agreement.

For more information on the HEERF, please visit the Department's CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund page at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opec/caresact.html>.