

MSSU announces plan for Higher Education Emergency Relief grants

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) was passed by Congress and signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020, to provide additional economic relief from COVID-19.

Section 314 of the CRRSAA authorizes the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II), which provide funds to institutions of higher education, like Missouri Southern State University, for certain expenses related to the COVID-19 global pandemic and incurred on or after Dec. 27, 2020. Notably, a portion of these funds are intended to be distributed directly to eligible students.

Missouri Southern was approved for \$2,378,137 in financial grants to students, which may be used for 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.

For more information about MSSU's plan for this grant, click [here](#).

Each eligible student will be provided a grant from HEERF II that will be disbursed by the MSSU Bursar's office. This grant will not need to be repaid. A separate email will be sent to each student who receives the grant. The first round of grant disbursements will occur this week and continue until funding is exhausted.

Students will not need to complete a separate application to receive these funds. The MSSU Financial Aid office will use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to determine eligibility. If students are eligible to file a FAFSA but have not yet filed for 2020-21 and need assistance, they should file a FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov immediately. Students should notify FinAid@mssu.edu when the FAFSA has been completed.

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"). The grant award will vary depending on the student's EFC from their FAFSA.
 - a. EFC 0 -12,000 = \$800 HEERF II grant
 - b. EFC >12,000 = \$450 HEERF II grant

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Education does not allow these funds to be used for international, DACA or undocumented students.

Please visit our COVID-19 [website](#) under Financial Aid for more detailed information.