

Kutztown University CRRSAA Student Aid Report #1 (4/1/2021)

PR/Award No. P425E200501

Introduction

On December 27, 2020, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was passed. Section 314 of CRRSAA provides additional funding to institutions of higher education through the U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). This round of funding is known as HEERF II.

Total Award

KU received through two amendments (one for student funding and one for institutional funding) a total of \$ 11,533,902 under Section 314 of CRRSAA, of which at least **\$3,712,483** will be provided directly to students. This report discusses the use of funds for the student portion.

Funds Distributed to Date

As of the close of business on March 31, 2021, KU has awarded **\$3,624,561.81** in direct grants to 4,793 students.

Close of Business	KU awarded	Total Awarded from Inception
3/31/2021	3,624,561.81	

Student Eligibility

Student Eligibility has expanded from the criteria used within HEERF I funding known as the CARES Act. FAFSA completion is no longer required, nor is making satisfactory academic progress, however the grant states a focus for funding must be on those with exceptional need and can also be used to cover tuition costs at KU. For the first mass disbursement on March 26, 2021, the focus was on those with documented need and greater funding allotments to those with exceptional need. A portion of the funding was retained for applications by others that may not currently have documented need, but later provide support of it.

Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much

KU utilized a two-part approach to assist as many students as possible. Part one, awarded all documented needy eligible students automatically without requiring a request.

Criteria	Amount per
EFC 0 - UG & GR	1,000.00
EFC - 1 to 5711 - UG only	900.00
EFC - 5712 to 16000 - UG only	700.00
EFC - 16001 to 40000 - UG only	450.00

- This accounted for \$3,608,600

¹The number of eligible students excludes those ineligible for Title IV aid (e.g., non-degree seeking students enrolled in dual credit courses, non-U.S. citizens) as well as those enrolled exclusively in online programs prior to March 13, 2020, which the U.S. Department of Education [deemed ineligible](#) to receive CARES Act funds.

Part two, about \$103,000, is reserved for student requests. Student requests are made online via a request form to be reviewed by the KU Care Team.

Students are asked to specify an amount needed, provide personal information, to detail the need and cause, and if necessary to provide support of exceptional need (in the absence of data previously reported such as a FAFSA). In addition, they are asked what other steps they have taken to secure funding. The KU Care Team reviews each application in detail to assess if the need is COVID related, and is an approved expense for CRRSAA funding (i.e. tuition costs, food, housing, technology, course materials, health/child care, and other approved costs). If student needs are not CRRSAA eligible, other internal funding sources are explored and/or suggested. If additional information is required, the student is contacted to obtain this in order to make a fair determination. Provided that the students were eligible to receive funds and identified legitimate needs, initial or additional CRRSAA funding may be awarded.

Instructions or Directions Given to the Students

On March 18, 2021, students were advised via the twice weekly Coronavirus KU email about the new funding award and the funds that will shortly be available to students from it.

At this time, an additional webpage dedicated to CRRSAA funding was published (following the CARES Act model). On this webpage a link is provided for students to make additional fund requests to be reviewed by the KU Care Team.

These communications contained the following information:

- General instructions on the purpose and allowable uses of funds,
- Anticipated disbursement date,
- Method of disbursement,
- A link to the online request form for additional emergency funds,
- Contact information for questions, and
- Acknowledgement of the federal government as the source of funding.

Copies of the following instructional/informational materials given to the students include the following, which are attached to this report in the order listed:

1. Email announcement March 18, 2021
 - Funds and application soon to be available
2. Email notification March 26, 2021
 - Disbursement of funds, explanation and link to request form
3. Online Funds Request form
 - Now requires approval if the student wants funds to pay their tuition bill at KU
4. KU's CRRSAA [webpage](#)

Pursell, Wendy

From: Announcements
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:59 PM
To: students; Faculty; Staff; Foundation
Subject: March 18: KU Campus Update for the Coronavirus Pandemic

Dear KU Campus Community,

Here are today's updates from campus:

HEALTH UPDATE FOR KU CAMPUS

Kutztown University students or employees who are known to have tested positive for COVID-19 are aggregated in the table below. These individuals may or may not have been on campus while infected. Recovered cases are updated Tuesday and Friday.

Positive Cases	Today (3/18)	This Week (3/15-19)	Total Cases (since 1/19)	Active Cases	Recovered Cases
Students Living On-Campus	0	1	24	2 Combined	63 Combined
Students Living Off-Campus	0	2	41		
Employees	0	2	19	4	15
Total	0	5	84	6	78

CRRSAA ACT 2021

Kutztown University recently received federal funding from the Corona Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA). While these new funds are similar to the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery and Economic Security, 2020 funds (CARES), they are indeed different. These funds are for higher education institutions to promote and ensure learning continues during the pandemic.

The determined eligible population is similar to the group in the prior CARES Act; that is, not all students will be eligible. These funds can now be used to pay for items such as, but not limited to, tuition and fee bills at KU, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care (not insurance costs) and childcare expenses.

KU is working on releasing federal CRRSAA funds to eligible students, with an emphasis on our most needy population, to help keep them enrolled during the pandemic. More information will be shared at a later date, in addition to our [website](#).

Sincerely,

KU Office of University Relations

March 26, 2021

Dear Student,

The **Corona Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)** was recently signed into law, allotting funds to Kutztown University to award directly to students. These funds are specifically to be used to *promote and ensure learning continues during the pandemic*. This is slightly different from the first emergency funding CARES Act that supported students with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Not all students will qualify like before. If you are receiving this email, you received an award.

KU Balance Due:

We did not pay your bill at KU if you owe money. You will be encouraged to use the funds to pay the bill to ensure your learning continues during the pandemic (the reason for the funds).

Making Payments:

Go to [MyKU](#) > KU Financial Account tile > Payment Dashboard.

- For a future payment click on the pay link and select Prepay, the bottom option.

Refund Method:

The CRRSAA funds will be disbursed to you via your selected refund preference with **BankMobile Disbursements**. [Click here](#) for more additional information about the refund selection process. If you don't have a refund preference on file, you want to do that immediately to avoid delay.

Amount awarded:

To see your awarded amount, go to [MyKU](#) > KU Financial Account tile > Account Activity.

Valid options for these funds include but are not limited to:

- Paying any bills on MyKU that may be blocking advising or registration for Fall.
- Paying for things that impact your attendance and academic success such course materials, technology, Wi-Fi, health care, childcare, food and housing are still valid.
- Paying against the principal portion of a student loan, if applicable, to help you lower your debt. You can manage your loans at <https://studentaid.gov>.
- Save the funds to assist with future educational expenses during the summer sessions. If you are enrolled in summer, you can make that summer payment right away.

Stay safe, Stay well and Stay GOLDEN!

Kutztown University
Financial Aid Services
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