

## Kutztown University CRRSAA Student Aid Report #2 (6/29/2021)

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.

### Acknowledgements

Kutztown University (KU) acknowledges that they have signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement. We agree and state compliance that KU has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

### 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 June 28, 2021, KU has awarded **\$3,712,483.00** in direct grants to 4,802 students.

Close of Business	KU awarded	Total Awarded from Inception
3/31/2021	3,624,561.81	
6/28/2021	87,921.19	3,712,483.00

### 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. Roughly 5,000 students were eligible to receive funds based on the criteria determined below.

Based on the expansion of student eligibility, all students at Kutztown University are eligible to apply for these funds.

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

### 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

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 were attached to the first 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](#)