

CARES Act Emergency Relief Fund Updated  
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Student Portion Allocation  
Sitting Bull College  
Award P425E200489

**Quarter Ending December 31, 2021**

- An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned the certification and agreement form and that the institution has used, or intends to use the funds to provide the mandated amount of at least 50% of the emergency financial aid grants to students. April 10, 2020 Sitting Bull College signed and submitted the certification and agreement form with the intent to use the 50% emergency financial aid grant for aid to students
  
- The total amount of funds that the institution will receive, or has received under the HEERF student portion award number P425E200489. The amount Sitting Bull College was allocated was \$187,524. On April 20, 2021 Sitting Bull College was allocated an additional \$187,524 for a total of \$375,048. On May 14, 2021 Sitting Bull College was allocated a third amount of \$586,372 for a total of \$961,420.
  
- Of those funds, the total amount that has been distributed to students as of the date of reporting (i.e. the first 30-day deadline, and then every 45 days thereafter).
  - \$123,150 was disbursed May 6, 2020 for spring 2020 semester.
  - \$19,125.00 was disbursed July 2, 2020 for summer 2020 session.
  - \$45,249 was disbursed December 2020 for fall 2020 semester.
  - Total paid \$187,524.
  - \$104,050 was disbursed March 2021 for spring 2021.
  - \$18,800 was disbursed April – May 2021 for spring 2021.
  - \$12,600 was disbursed June 2021 for summer 2021.
  - No money was disbursed July – September 2021.
  - **\$223,500 was disbursed for fall 2021 semester.**
  - **Total paid to date is \$546,474.**

Updated Spring 2020 HEERF payments:

\$124,650	initially paid out
-1,500	two checks returned to SBC...bad address
\$123,150	final spring 2020 payout to 177 students

Summer 2020 HEERF payments:

\$18,375	initially paid out
+750	additional payment
\$19,125	final summer 2020 payout to 30 students

Fall 2020 HEERF payment

\$45,999	initially paid out
-750	void check
\$45,249	final fall 2020 payment to 46 students

Spring 2021 HEERF payment  
\$104,050 initially paid out to 147 students  
\$ 18,800 initially paid out to 20 students

Summer 2021 HEERF payment  
\$ 12,600 initially paid out to 25 students

Total expenditures for the Student Aid portion as of June 30, 2021 = \$322,974.

Fall 2021 HEERF payment  
\$216,750 initially paid out to 198 students  
-100 void check – Summer 20221  
\$ 6,850 initially paid out to additional 17 students

Total expenditures for the Student Aid portion as of December 31, 2021 = \$546,474.

### **Fall 2021**

In the fall of 2021, SBC took a different approach to distributing the student emergency aid grants due to the requirement that the funds should be allocated first to students with exceptional need and opening up eligibility for the emergency aid funds to all students. The following policy was adopted using the FAFSA EFC as a guideline for distributing the HEERF III funds.

### **Revised policy 11-19-2021:**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2). The ARP appropriated approximately \$39.6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Taken together, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116–136), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), and the ARP represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III, respectively.

SBC received a grant from these sources to award emergency aid funds to help students affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Institutions must make HEERF emergency aid grants to students to use for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Students qualify for payment as described in the following pages.

### **Who is eligible?**

As announced in the Department’s final rule, the term “student,” for purposes of the phrases “grants to students,” “emergency financial aid grants to students,” and “financial aid grants to students” as used in the HEERF programs, is now defined as **any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in 34 CFR § 668.2) at an eligible institution (as defined in 34 CFR § 600.2) on or after March 13, 2020**, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus (85 FR 15337). Students are no longer required to be eligible for Title IV student financial aid in order to receive HEERF grants to students.

Institutions are required to prioritize students with *exceptional need*, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances in awarding emergency financial aid grants to students. Other types of exceptional need could include students who may be eligible for other federal or state need-based aid or have faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, or food or housing insecurity. In addition, the CRRSAA and ARP explicitly state that emergency financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. Eligible students include citizens, permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, other DREAMers, and similar undocumented students.

Students must be currently attending SBC to receive a HEERF emergency aid grant for a specific term. Payment shall be based on the student’s current number of credits enrolled.

How can students use the funds?

Students can use the funds to pay for:

- Any component of their cost of attendance including but not limited to tuition and fees, book costs, supplies, transportation, miscellaneous personal expenses (i.e. a computer), and room and board.
- Emergency costs due to coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, health care, or childcare.

How much are students eligible to receive?

Students may receive a one-time payment based on their current enrollment each semester. SBC will use the schedule below for distribution of HEERF emergency aid grants. This tiered approach provides more substantial award amounts to students/families who are most in need.

<u>EFC Index #</u>	<u>Award Value</u>		
	<u>Full-time</u>	<u>Half-time</u>	<u>Below half-time</u>
<u>Undergraduate Students:</u>	<u>12 + credits</u>	<u>6 to 11 credits</u>	<u>1 to 5 credits</u>
00000	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$500
00001 to 02499	\$1,400	\$900	\$500
02500 to 03499	\$1,300	\$800	\$500
03500 to 05846	\$1,200	\$700	\$500
5847 and above	\$1,100	\$600	\$500
No FAFSA application:	\$250	\$250	\$250
No ISIR calculated:	\$250	\$250	\$250
<u>Graduate Students:</u>	<u>9 + credits</u>	<u>6 to 8 credits</u>	<u>1 to 5 credits</u>
	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$500
<u>High School Students:</u>	\$100	\$100	\$100

### May students use the HEERF emergency aid grant to pay their current debt to SBC?

Yes, with the following conditions:

- SBC may not require the student to apply the grant to the student's debt. However, students must be aware they must pay their debt in full to SBC before they may receive an academic transcript or their certificate/diploma.

### How do I find out if I owe a debt to SBC?

Using their MySBC account, students may view their statement of account to determine if they owe a balance to SBC for the current term's tuition, books, and fees. The Business Office may also provide the information to the students.

### How will students be paid?

If a student has direct deposit set up, SBC will deposit the funds into the student's account. Otherwise, SBC will mail a check to the U.S. postal address on file with SBC. Students shall review their postal address in their MySBC account. If their address changed after their current term registration for SBC classes, the student shall update it with the SBC Registrar.

Source: [HEERF III ARP website](#), ED\_ARP\_FAQs\_May 11 2021 pdf

## **Summer 2021**

In the summer of 2021, SBC distributed the student emergency aid grants using the same method established in the spring 2021 term. Total amount awarded to 25 students for summer term was \$12,600.

## **Spring 2021**

In the spring of 2021, SBC took a different approach to distributing the student emergency aid grants due to the requirement that the funds should be allocated first to students with exceptional need. The following policy was adopted using the FAFSA EFC as a guideline for distributing the HEERF II funds.

### **Policy.**

SBC received grants from two funding sources to award emergency aid grants to help students affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Students will only qualify for payment from one of the funding sources as described in the following pages.

CRRSAA HEERF II FUNDS AND CARES HEERF I Unexpended Funds (awarded after 12-27-2020)

On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, was signed into law. The CRRSAA gave the US Department of Education an additional \$22.7 billion to distribute to institutions of higher education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II).

Institutions must make HEERF emergency aid grants to students to use for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus.

### Who is eligible?

The CRRSAA requires institutions prioritize students with exceptional need for awarding the emergency aid. Sitting Bull College (SBC) staff determined the best way to identify students with exceptional need is to use the Effective Family Contribution (EFC) index from the 2020-2021 FAFSA application to prioritize students. Students with the lowest EFC value of 00000 demonstrate exceptional need regardless of whether the student receives a Pell grant or any other Title IV federal financial aid.

An eligible student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen who has a Social Security number on file, and who has signed a Statement of Educational Purpose. The FAFSA application addresses all of the requirements as specified by CRRSAA. Therefore, SBC will only award HEERF emergency aid grants to students who have completed the 2020-2021 FAFSA and listed SBC's college code (014993) on it.

- Students who have not yet completed the 2020-2021 FAFSA may submit the FAFSA through April 30, 2021 for a spring 2021 payment and through May 28, 2021 for a summer 2021 payment.
- If a student already completed the 2020-2021 FAFSA but did not include SBC's school code, s/he may make a correction to add SBC's school code in it.

The student must be currently enrolled at SBC in the spring and/or summer term to receive a HEERF emergency aid grant for that specific term.

### How can students use the funds?

Students can use the funds to pay for:

- Any component of their cost of attendance including but not limited to tuition and fees, book costs, supplies, transportation, miscellaneous personal expenses (i.e. a computer), and room and board.
- Emergency costs due to coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, health care, or childcare.

### How much are students eligible to receive?

Students may receive a one-time payment in the spring based on their spring term enrollment and again in the summer based on their summer term enrollment. SBC will use the schedule below for distribution of HEERF emergency aid grants, based on each student's EFC index number.

This tiered approach will provide more substantial award amounts to students and families who are most in need, while also providing emergency aid grants to those students who have a higher EFC index.

EFC Index #	Full-time	Award Value	
		Half-time	Below half-time
<b>Undergraduate Students:</b>			
00000	\$1,000	\$500	\$100
00001 to 02499	\$900	\$450	\$100
02500 to 03499	\$800	\$400	\$100
03500 to 05711	\$700	\$350	\$100
5712 and above	\$600	\$300	\$100
<b>Graduate Students:</b>			
All EFC indexes	\$500	\$250	\$100

May students use the HEERF emergency aid grant to pay their current debt to SBC?

Yes, with the following conditions:

- SBC may not require the student to apply the grant to the student's debt. However, students must be aware they must pay their debt in full to SBC before they may receive an academic transcript or their certificate/diploma.
- The student must submit an electronic affirmative consent authorizing SBC to apply the HEERF emergency aid grant to the student's account.

How do I find out if I owe a debt to SBC?

Using their MySBC account, students may view their statement of account to determine if they owe a balance to SBC for the current term's tuition, books, and fees. The Financial Aid Office may also provide the information to the students.

I want to use my HEERF emergency aid grant to pay my debt to SBC. How do I submit an electronic authorization?

Students who want to use their HEERF emergency aid grant to pay down their debt to SBC must send the authorization to the SBC financial aid office.

Using the student's SBC email account assigned to them, the student will send to [donna.seaboy@sittingbull.edu](mailto:donna.seaboy@sittingbull.edu) the following statement no later than March 26, 2021:

I authorize Sitting Bull College to apply my HEERF emergency aid grant to my spring 2021 tuition, books, fees debt. I acknowledge I voluntarily authorized this transaction on this date. I further acknowledge that any funds remaining after the current term's debt is paid shall be issued to me.

Students may not use their personal email accounts for this authorization.

### How will students be paid?

If a student has direct deposit set up, SBC will deposit the funds into the student's account. Otherwise, SBC will mail a check to the U.S. postal address on file with SBC. Students shall review their postal address in their MySBC account. If their address changed after their Spring 2021 registration for SBC classes, the student shall update it by March 26, 2001 with the SBC Registrar.

### **Fall 2020**

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 therefore eligible to receive an HEERF emergency financial aid grant:

- 134 students for the fall 2020 semester.

The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant:

- 134 received emergency financial aid for the fall 2020 semester
  - 47 received from the student emergency aid fund in the amount of \$45,249.
  - 89 received from the institutional portion in the amount of \$68,501.
    - Note: Two students were paid partial from both the student emergency aid and the institutional portion.

How the institution determined which students did, or will receive emergency financial aid grants and how much funding they did, or will receive during fall 2020 semester:

- Sitting Bull College determined that the HEERF emergency funds will be distributed to Title IV eligible, undergraduate, degree-seeking students based upon current enrollment and satisfactory attendance as of November 18, 2020 for the fall semester.
- Students who attended after on and after October 19, 2020 were considered. This is the date that SBC switched from in-person to online classes in the fall 2020 semester.

Due to the large amount of funds remaining, award amounts were increased to the following for the fall 2020 term:

- \$1,000 for full-time students (12+ credits)
- \$750 for three-quarter time enrollment (9 – 11 credits)
- \$500 for half-time enrollment (6 - 8 credits)
- \$250 for less than half-time enrollment (1 – 5 credits)

Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants. A letter accompanied the check that was mailed to students indicating the following:

- The HEERF fund provided money to institutions for emergency financial aid grants to college students whose lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet.
- The emergency aid grant must be used to cover expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.

- As you were an SBC student during the COVID-19 pandemic and enrolled fall 2020 at SBC, you are eligible to receive an emergency aid grant.
- By endorsing the enclosed check, you are acknowledging you will use the grant to cover the allowable expenditures listed above.
- Note: Students who receive funding from their institutions are not required to record or track how it is spent.

### **Spring & Summer 2020**

- 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 therefore eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant. 177 students were eligible for the spring 2020 semester. 30 students were eligible for the summer 2020 session.
- The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant. 177 received emergency financial aid for the spring 2020 semester. 30 students received emergency financial aid for the summer 2020 session.
- How the institution determined which students did, or will receive emergency financial aid grants and how much funding they did, or will receive. Sitting Bull College determined that the HEERF emergency funds will be distributed to Title IV eligible, undergraduate, degree-seeking students based upon current enrollment and satisfactory attendance as of April 27, 2020 for the spring semester. The amount awarded to students is as follows for spring semester:
  - o \$750 for full-time students (12+ credits)
  - o \$375 for ¾ time and ½ time enrollment (6 – 11 credits)
  - o \$175 for less than half-time students (1 - 5 credits)
 Sitting Bull College determined that the HEERF emergency funds will be distributed to Title IV eligible, undergraduate, degree-seeking students based upon current enrollment and satisfactory attendance as of June 29, 2020 for the summer session. The amount awarded to students is as follows for summer session:
  - o \$750 for full-time students (10-6 credits)
  - o \$375 for part-time enrollment (5-3 credits)
- Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants.

A letter accompanied the check that was mailed to students indicating the following:  
 The HEERF fund provided money to institutions for emergency financial aid grants to college students whose lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. The emergency funds must be used to cover expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. As you were an SBC student when the COVID pandemic began, you are eligible to receive an emergency aid grant. By endorsing the enclosed check, you are acknowledging you will use the funds to cover the allowable expenditures listed above. Students who receive funding from their Institutions are not required to record or track how it is spent.