

**The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

Reporting for Student Portion of the CRRSAA Emergency Relief Fund

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (“CRRSAA”), December 27, 2020, directs institutions receiving CRRSAA funding to submit a report to the Secretary of Education describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”).

The CRRSAA Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the HEERF II allocation received from the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare).

On January 14, 2021, the Department published documents related to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including a [letter](#) from Acting Assistant Secretary Christopher McCaghren, a form [Certification and Agreement](#) for signing and returning by institutions to access the funds, and a list of [institutional allocations](#).

1. An acknowledgement 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 314(a)(1)(E) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Butte College was not required sign and submit the Certification and Agreement form. Institutions previously awarded were not required to apply as awards were supplemental based on previous approval of funds under the CARES Act.

2. 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.

On Monday, April 15, 2021, Butte College received \$3,640,981 to be distributed as Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students to be combined with the remaining \$1,478,523 of CARES Act funding for a total of \$5,119,504.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 314(a)(1)(E) of the CCRSAA Act as of the date of submission.

- February 11, 2021: \$2,358,135
- February 18, 2021: \$481,425
- February 25, 2021: \$584,150
- March 4, 2021: \$337,701
- March 11, 2021: \$175,000

- **March 18, 2021:** \$135,500
- **March 25, 2021:** \$75,750
- **April 1, 2021:** \$185,206
- **April 8, 2021:** \$84,255
- **April 15, 2021:** \$48,000
- **April 22, 2021:** \$48,000
- **April 29, 2021:** \$46,750
- **May 6, 2021:** \$33,000
- **May 13, 2021:** \$57,955
- **May 20, 2021:** \$208,250
- **May 27, 2021:** \$137,250
- **June 3, 2021:** \$43,500
- **June 17, 2021:** \$31,500
- **June 24, 2021:** \$1,250

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 314(a)(1)(E) of the CRRSAA Act.

- **At the passing of the CRRSAA Act on December 27, 2020, we interpreted CRRSAA Act language to apply to 6,752 students who could be eligible to receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant.**

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 314(a)(1)(E) of the CRRSAA Act.

- **February 11, 2021:** 1,079
- **February 18, 2021:** 213
- **February 25, 2021:** 267
- **March 4, 2021:** 160
- **March 11, 2021:** 79
- **March 18, 2021:** 62
- **March 25, 2021:** 35
- **April 1, 2021:** 99
- **April 8, 2021:** 42
- **April 15, 2021:** 25
- **April 22, 2021:** 24
- **April 29, 2021:** 23
- **May 6, 2021:** 17
- **May 13, 2021:** 32
- **May 20, 2021:** 102
- **May 27, 2021:** 71
- **June 3, 2021:** 23
- **June 17, 2021:** 22
- **June 24, 2021:** 1

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 314(a)(1)(E) of the CRRSAA Act.

Prior to May 11, 2021, the College used the following criteria to establish eligibility:

- **Completed Dash CARES Grant application to include emergency need**
- **Completed a FAFSA application**
 - US Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen
 - Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school
 - Be enrolled

After May 11, 2021 and new eligibility criteria established by the Department, the College used the following criteria to establish eligibility:

- **Completed Dash CARES Grant application to include emergency need**
- **Be enrolled**

The College used the following criteria to determine eligibility after eligibility was established:

Per the Department, institutions must ensure that funds go to students who have exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grant. The Department encourages institutions to prioritize domestic students, especially undergraduates, in allocating this funding. This includes citizens, permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, DACA recipients, other DREAMers, and similar undocumented students.

Beyond Pell eligibility, 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. The College established policies and procedures to determine exceptional need for students who apply for additional emergency grant funds:

1. Pell eligibility
2. Other need-based aid eligibility
3. Unmet need
4. Need as indicated by the student on the application for: food, housing, course material, technology, health care, and other

The College used the following criteria to determine award amounts:

Grants will be prorated based on current enrollment status or available Cost of Attendance (COA) at the time of award determination based on the information below:

Full Time (12 or more units):	\$2,500.00
$\frac{3}{4}$ Time (9-11.5 units):	\$2,000.00
Half Time (6-8.5 units):	\$1,500.00
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time (.5 to 5.5 units):	\$1,250.00

7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Butte College took the following steps to efficiently and compliantly deploy the Dash CARES (CRRSAA) Grant Emergency Funds to students

- **January 21, 2021: Modified the Dash CARES Grant application**
- **January 21, 2021: Modified DASH to the Rescue webpage to host all Emergency Grant Fund options to Butte College students to include the (CRRSAA) Dash CARES Grant**
- **January 21, 2021: Email and text message sent to student notifying them that the Dash**

CARES Grant opened for applications with eligibility criteria, instructions on how to apply and a timeline of what students can expect throughout the application review process

- **May 11, 2021: Modified DASH to the Rescue webpage to host all Emergency Grant Fund options to Butte College students to include the (CRRSAA & ARP) Dash CARES Grant with new eligibility requirements**
- **May 11, 2021: Modified the Dash CARES Grant application**
- **May 11, 2021: Email and text message sent to student notifying them that the Dash CARES Grant opened for applications with new eligibility criteria which allows undocumented students, those enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and international students access to the emergency grants**

Students receive an email within 5-7 days from the submission of the Dash CARES Grant application notifying them we have received their application and it is under review. Once applications are reviewed and an eligibility determination is made, students will receive one of the following titled emails based on eligibility determination:

- Ineligible
- Denied
- Approved

◇ Disbursements will be made weekly to ensure we are responding expeditiously to student's emergency needs.