

06/05/2020

**Tulane University Allocation of Student Emergency Financial Aid Grants from
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funding under the
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**

Awarding Methodology

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education (DOE) guidelines, Tulane University is awarding Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) grants to those Tulane students who incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations during the 2020 spring semester as a result of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. In efforts to disburse HEERF grant awards to our impacted students in a fair, equitable, and expedient manner, Tulane has established various disbursement models for awarding emergency financial aid grants:

- **Phase 1 “Non-Application” Model**
Students were NOT required to complete an application in order to be considered for emergency financial aid grants.
- **Phase 2 “Application” Model**
Students who completed an institutional application for emergency funding are being considered for emergency financial aid grants.
- **Phase 3 “Non-Application” Model**
If funding is available, then students will NOT be required to complete an application in order to be considered for emergency financial aid grants.
- **Phase 4 Model**
In the unlikely case that funding remains available, then at this time no decision has been reached as to whether students will be asked to complete an application in order to be considered for emergency financial aid grants.

Below are more specific details related to the methodologies for each of the aforementioned phases.

Phase 1 “Non-Application” Model

Identifying Eligible Students

For the Phase 1 “Non-Application” model, Tulane identified eligible students as those who met the following criteria:

1. Who were enrolled at Tulane University for the 2020 spring semester as of March 13, 2020; and
2. Who completed and Tulane had received their 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other required documents necessary to establish a valid 2019-2020 Federal Expected Family Contribution (FM EFC) by the conclusion of the spring 2020 semester, necessary to abide by DOE’s restriction that only those students who are Title IV eligible are eligible for consideration of HEERF funds; as well as DOE’s recommendation to be mindful of each student’s particular socioeconomic circumstances in the staging and administration of these grants; and
3. Who had been charged a “campus health fee” for the 2020 spring semester, as using the Tulane Health Center fee as an eligibility criteria allowed us to meet DOE’s restrictions, which cited that:
 - a. Students receiving the grants must have incurred expenses due to the disruption of campus operations. Students who had paid the Tulane Health Center fee for the 2020 spring semester were expected to have on-campus access to the student health clinic for the entire semester; however, the disruption due to the coronavirus could have resulted in such students experiencing substitute health care expenses and limited health care access from Tulane; and
 - b. Students in online degree programs are ineligible for HEERF awards (since Tulane’s on-line degree students are not charged a “campus health center fee,” this filtered out such ineligible students).

Identifying Eligible Expenses

For the Phase 1 “Non-Application” model, Tulane identified eligible expenses as those that could be classified into these three categories of expenses:

1. **Moving Expenses**

In response to the pandemic, and for the safety of our students, Tulane University required those who resided in on-campus dormitories for the spring 2020 semester to fully vacate their dorm room by the established deadline of midnight on March 22, 2020, unless an accepted petition for exclusion was made.

Due to the unprecedented quick decision and notice of the closure of campus dormitories, certain students had to take immediate actions which involved substantial expense to facilitate their quick departure of the Tulane campus.

Since the shortened window for action did not provide adequate time for the arrangement of personal items to be shipped home and/or picked up by family, many students have incurred storage expenses. Research indicates that the average monthly fee for a small storage unit is approximately \$60 per month. Students are incurring such storage unit expenses for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester (the months of March, April, and May) and therefore are incurring on average \$180 in storage expenses. Tulane is using this \$180 amount to represent the estimated average amount that our students have incurred in moving expenses related to storage costs since they are unable to continue to reside on campus for the entire semester due to the pandemic.

The vast majority of Tulane students hail from outside of the State of Louisiana, and therefore generally all incur airfare expenses when traveling home. Tulane had already included in the 2020

spring semester cost of attendance an estimated allowance for travel expenses home. However, such an allowance did not account for students having to purchase airfare without advanced notice and therefore incurring substantially higher airfare amounts. Research indicates that when airfare is purchased less than two weeks from the actual travel date that individuals on average incur \$220 in higher airfare costs. Tulane is using this \$220 amount to represent the estimated average amount that our students have incurred in higher travel related expenses due to the short notice of their having to vacate campus and travel home since they are unable to continue to reside on campus due to the pandemic.

Tulane's methodology identifies that the estimated average amount of moving expenses incurred by the identified impacted students is \$400.

2. Health Related Expenses

With the closure of the Tulane campus, Tulane students who had paid a campus health fee no longer had walk-in access to the University's student health care facilities for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester. Such students began incurring additional expenses associated with clinic visits and prescriptions back in their home towns. Based on the federal government's health plans requiring an approximate \$200 annual deductible, we believe that during the 2020 spring semester (the first half of the calendar year) that our students are incurring at least \$100 in health expenses in paying their required health care deductibles when seeking substitute clinic visits and prescriptions as a result of the disruption to campus operations. Tulane is using this \$100 amount to represent the estimated average expense that our students have incurred in health care deductibles due to no longer having access to on-campus health care resources due to the pandemic.

In addition to standard health clinic and prescription substitution, students who experienced the pandemic-induced disruption likely needed to purchase, in response to the pandemic, masks, disinfectants and cleaning materials (much of which would have otherwise been available at the campus student health center). Published reports indicate that the average amount that Americans are spending on COVID-19 supplies is approximately \$180. Tulane is using this \$180 amount to represent the estimated average expense that our students have incurred in pandemic health related supply expenses.

Tulane's methodology identifies that the estimated average amount of health expenses incurred by the identified impacted students is at least \$280.

3. Technology Expenses

In the swift move by Tulane University to abandon traditional on-ground, in-class educational delivery and to instead switch to only offering an on-line remote educational delivery, we recognize that such a change required students to incur unexpected technology related expenses. Understandably, students from families with the least amount of financial resources (defined as Pell eligible undergraduates who also often represent first-generation students) were incurring significant expenses to assure that they are able to fully participate in an on-line educational environment. Such significant technology expenses include the purchase of a laptop computer and the costs for internet access as students no longer have access to on-campus computer labs and/or internet access that is provided by the University.

Research indicates that the average monthly cost for internet connection in the United States is approximately \$56.67. Our students incurred such internet connection expenses for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester (the months of March, April, and May) and therefore incurred on

average \$170 in internet access expenses. Tulane is using this \$170 amount to represent the estimated average amount that our students incurred when securing the internet access that they needed to have since all remaining classes for the 2020 spring semester were delivered on-line via the internet and since students were unable to continue to access on-campus internet connectivity due to the pandemic.

Research indicates that the average cost of a new laptop computer ranges from \$600-\$700, and therefore the average cost is the midpoint of this range or \$650. Tulane is using this \$650 amount to represent the estimated average amount that our low-income Pell Grant recipient students have incurred in purchasing a new laptop computer. This was basically a required expense since they need to have computer access due to the fact that all remaining classes for the 2020 spring semester were delivered on-line and since students were unable to continue to access on-campus computer labs due to the pandemic.

Tulane’s methodology identifies that the estimated average amount of technology expenses incurred by the identified impacted students receiving a Pell Grant is \$820. Tulane’s methodology identifies that the estimated average amount of technology expenses incurred by the identified impacted students not receiving a Pell Grant is \$170.

Identifying the Award Allocation

Tulane’s allocation of HEERF grant funding is limited and prevents the University from awarding every eligible student the estimated average expenses in the first phase. Therefore, in using the aforementioned three expense categories, our methodology subsequently identifies three specific groups of student populations to share in the HEERF grant awarding process, noted below.

1. Undergraduate Students Who Moved Off the Uptown Campus

- o *HEERF Award Associated with Moving Expenses:*

Only students in this group were considered for a HEERF grant award that seeks to cover a student’s moving expenses as previously identified as due to disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.

Due to limited resources, a range based on the expected family contribution (EFC) as determined via federal methodology (FM) and using data reported on the 2019-2020 FAFSA was used to allocate award amounts. Chart A details the FM EFC ranges for this student population group:

CHART A

Undergraduate Students Moving Out of Spring 2020 Semester Campus Housing
Range #1: UG 1920 FM EFC < 5,578 defined as PELL eligible who moved
Range #2: UG 1920 FM EFC 5,578 to 12,000 who moved
Range #3: UG 1920 FM EFC 12,001 to 25,000 who moved
Range #4: UG 1920 FM EFC 25,001 to 50,000 who moved
Range #5: UG 1920 FM EFC 50,001 to 75,000 who moved
Range #6: UG 1920 FM EFC > 75,000 who moved

- Students included in all of the first four (4) ranges (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$50,000) receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$400 for all identified moving expenses.
- Students in Range #5 (EFC from \$50,000 to \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$220 towards recovering higher airfare expenses.

- Students in Range #6 (EFC greater than \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$60 towards covering at least one month of storage costs.
- *HEERF Award Associated with Health Related Expenses:*
Again, using Chart A awards to cover health expenses were allocated as follows:
 - Students included in all of the first four (4) ranges (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$50,000) receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$280 for all identified health related expenses.
 - Students in Range #5 (EFC from \$50,000 to \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$180 towards recovering health related expenses (\$100 towards meeting deductibles + \$80 towards COVID-19 supplies).
 - Students in Range #6 (EFC greater than \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$100 towards covering at least the anticipated health care expenses associated with meeting deductibles.
- *HEERF Award Associated with Technology Expenses:*
Again, using Chart A awards to cover health expenses were allocated as follows:
 - Students included in the first range (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$5,577) receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$820 for all identified technology expenses.
 - Students in Range #2 (EFC from \$5,578 to \$12,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$170 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 3 months of internet connection expenses.
 - Students in Range #3 (EFC from \$12,001 to \$25,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$110 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 2 months of internet connection expenses.
 - Students included in all of the last remaining three (3) ranges (those with EFCs greater than \$25,000) do not receive any HEERF grant awards related to technology estimated average expenses due to the limitation of available funding.

2. Undergraduate Students Who Were Not Residing On Campus

- *HEERF Award Associated with Moving Expenses:*
Students in this group were not considered for a HEERF grant award that seeks to cover a student’s moving expenses due to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.
- *HEERF Award Associated with Health Related Expenses:*
Due to limited resources, a range based on the expected family contribution (EFC) as determined via federal methodology and using data reported on the 2019-2020 FAFSA was used to allocate award amounts. Chart B details the EFC ranges for this student population group:

CHART B

Undergraduate Students NOT Moving Out of Spring 2020 Semester Campus Housing
Range #1: UG 1920 FM EFC < 5,578 defined as PELL eligible who did not move
Range #2: UG 1920 FM EFC 5,578 to 12,000 who did not move
Range #3: UG 1920 FM EFC 12,001 to 25,000 who did not move
Range #4: UG 1920 FM EFC 25,001 to 50,000 who did not move
Range #5: UG 1920 FM EFC 50,001 to 75,000 who did not move
Range #6: UG 1920 FM EFC > 75,000 who did not move

- Students included in all of the first four (4) ranges (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$50,000) receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$280 for all identified health related expenses.
 - Students in Range #5 (EFC from \$50,000 to \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$180 towards recovering health related expenses (\$100 towards meeting deductibles + \$80 towards COVID-19 supplies).
 - Students in Range #6 (EFC greater than \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$100 towards covering at least the anticipated health care expenses associated with meeting deductibles.
- *HEERF Award Associated with Technology Expenses:*
Again, using Chart B awards to cover health expenses were allocated as follows:
- Students included in the first range (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$5,577) receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$820 for all identified technology expenses.
 - Students in Range #2 (EFC from \$5,578 to \$12,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$170 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 3 months of internet connection expenses.
 - Students in Range #3 (EFC from \$12,001 to \$25,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$110 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 2 months of internet connection expenses.
 - Students included in all of the last remaining three (3) ranges (those with EFCs greater than \$25,000) do not receive any HEERF grant awards related to technology estimated average expenses due to the limitation of available funding.

3. Graduate & Professional Students

- *HEERF Award Associated with Moving Expenses:*
Students in this group were not considered for a HEERF grant award that seeks to cover a student’s moving expenses due to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.
- *HEERF Award Associated with Health Related Expenses:*
Due to limited resources, a range based on the expected family contribution (EFC) as determined via federal methodology and using data reported on the 2019-2020 FAFSA was used to allocate award amounts. Chart C details the EFC ranges for this student population group

CHART C

Graduate & Professional Students
Range #1: Non UG 1920 FM EFC < 5,578
Range #2: Non UG 1920 FM EFC 5,578 to 12,000
Range #3: Non UG 1920 FM EFC 12,001 to 25,000
Range #4: Non UG 1920 FM EFC 25,001 to 50,000
Range #5: Non UG 1920 FM EFC 50,001 to 75,000
Range #6: Non UG 1920 FM EFC > 75,000

- Students included in all of the first four (4) ranges (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$50,000) receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$280 for all identified health related expenses.

- Students in Range #5 (EFC from \$50,000 to \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$180 towards recovering health related expenses (\$100 towards meeting deductibles + \$80 towards COVID-19 supplies).
 - Students in Range #6 (EFC greater than \$75,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$100 towards covering at least the anticipated health care expenses associated with meeting deductibles.
- *HEERF Award Associated with Technology Expenses:*
Again, using Chart C awards to cover health expenses were allocated as follows:
- Students included in the first two (2) ranges (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$12,000) receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$170 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 3 months of internet connection expenses.
 - Students in Range #3 (EFC from \$12,001 to \$25,000) only receive a HEERF grant award of \$110 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 2 months of internet connection expenses.
 - Students included in all of the last remaining three (3) ranges (those with EFCs greater than \$25,000) do not receive any HEERF grant awards related to technology estimated average expenses due to the limitation of available funding.

For all students in the aforementioned three (3) populations who are awarded HEERF emergency financial aid grants in Phase 1, their HEERF grant award will be appropriately adjusted to ensure that students do not receive duplicate funding for the same identified expense when combined with the Phase 2 “Application” model.

Phase 2 “Application” Model

Identifying Eligible Students

For the Phase 2 “Application” model, Tulane identified eligible students as those who met the following criteria:

1. Were enrolled at Tulane University for the 2020 spring semester as of March 13, 2020; and
2. Who completed and Tulane had received their 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other required documents necessary to establish a valid 2019-2020 Federal Expected Family Contribution (FM EFC) by the conclusion of the spring 2020 semester, necessary to abide by DOE’s restriction that only those students who are Title IV eligible are eligible for consideration of HEERF funds; and
3. Had been enrolled in a Tulane degree program that was NOT being delivered via an online format prior to the 2020 spring interruption in on-ground classroom operations, as the U.S. Department of Education advised against students in such online degree programs from receiving these emergency financial aid grants; and
4. Had completed an application that detailed the specific expenses that the student incurred that are related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic; and
5. Had received the Tulane emergency funding for such expenses directly on or after March 27, 2020.

Identifying Eligible Expenses

For the Phase 2 “Application” model, Tulane identified expenses as detailed on the application that represent specific eligible expenses that the student incurred that are related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance).

Eligible expenses include but are not limited to the three categories detailed in Phase 1:

- Moving expenses
- Health related expenses
- Technology expenses

Identifying the Award Allocation

Award amounts will be based on specific identified expenses and adjusted due to the limitation of available funding.

Phase 3 “Non-Application” Model

Identifying Eligible Students

For the Phase 3 “Non-Application” model, Tulane identified eligible students as those who met the following criteria:

1. Were enrolled at Tulane University for the 2020 spring semester as of March 13, 2020; and
4. Completed and Tulane had received their 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other required documents necessary to establish a valid 2019-2020 Federal Expected Family Contribution (FM EFC) by the conclusion of the spring 2020 semester, necessary to abide by DOE’s restriction that only those students who are Title IV eligible are eligible for consideration of HEERF funds; as well as DOE’s recommendation to be mindful of each student’s particular socioeconomic circumstances in the staging and administration of these grants; and
2. Had not received HEERF emergency financial aid grants during the aforementioned Phase 1 and/or Phase 2; and
3. Had been enrolled in a Tulane degree program that was NOT being delivered via an online format prior to the 2020 spring interruption in on-ground classroom operations, as the U.S. Department of Education advised against students in such online degree programs from receiving these emergency financial aid grants; and
4. With priority being given to those eligible for a Federal Pell Grant during the 2020 spring semester.

Identifying Eligible Expenses

- Technology Expenses

For the Phase 3 “Non-Application” model, Tulane identified the only eligible expense as that being associated with technology expenses since the delivery of education switched from the classroom to instead being on-line. Research indicates that the average monthly cost for internet connection in the United States is approximately \$56.67. Our students incurred such internet connection expenses for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester (the months of March, April, and May) and therefore incurred on average \$170 in internet access expenses. Tulane is using this \$170 amount to represent the estimated average amount that our students incurred when securing the internet access that they needed to have since all remaining classes for the 2020 spring semester were delivered on-line via the internet and since students were unable to continue to access on-campus internet connectivity due to the pandemic.

Identifying the Award Allocation

Tulane’s allocation of HEERF grant funding is limited and prevents the University from awarding every eligible student the estimated average expenses. Therefore, a range based on the expected family contribution (EFC) as determined via federal methodology and using data reported on the 2019-2020 FAFSA was used to allocate award amounts.

HEERF Award Associated with Technology Expenses:

Chart D details the EFC ranges for this student population group:

CHART D

Students NOT Awarded HEERF Funds from Tulane’s Phase 1 and/or Phase 2
Range #1: 1920 FM EFC < 5,578
Range #2: 1920 FM EFC 5,578 to 12,000
Range #3: 1920 FM EFC 12,001 to 25,000
Range #4: 1920 FM EFC 25,001 to 50,000
Range #5: 1920 FM EFC 50,001 to 75,000
Range #6: 1920 FM EFC > 75,000

- Students included in the first range (those with EFCs less than \$5,578) AND who are Pell Grant eligible receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$170 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 3 months of internet connection expenses.

NOTE: This funding will be implemented in conjunction with Phase 2, but further awards described below remain subject to HEERF funding availability.

- Students included in the first two (2) ranges (those with EFCs from \$0 to \$12,000) but who are not Pell Grant eligible would, subject to funding availability, receive a HEERF grant award for the estimated average amount of \$170 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 3 months of internet connection expenses.
- Students in Range #3 (EFC from \$12,001 to \$25,000) would, subject to funding availability, only receive a HEERF grant award of \$110 towards recovering technology expenses associated with 2 months of internet connection expenses.
- Students included in all of the last remaining three (3) ranges (those with EFCs greater than \$25,000) do not receive any HEERF grant awards related to technology estimated average expenses due to the limitation of available funding.

Phase 4 Model

Identifying Eligible Students

If in the unlikely event that funding still remains available after the completion of Phase 1; Phase 2; and Phase 3; then Tulane intends to implement this final Phase 4, which will be designed to award any and all remaining HEERF funds directly to students with priority for those who had not previously received HEERF funding during our evaluations in Phase 1; Phase 2; or Phase 3.

While final details for the Phase 4 model will be decided prior to implementing this phase, Tulane anticipates identifying eligible students as those who meet the following criteria:

1. Were enrolled at Tulane University for the 2020 spring semester as of March 13, 2020 (and/or IF APPROVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION those who were enrolled after the 2020 spring semester in an eligible semester in which students have incurred expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus); and
2. Completed and Tulane had received their 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other required documents necessary to establish a valid 2019-2020 Federal Expected Family Contribution (FM EFC) by the conclusion of the spring 2020 semester (and/or IF APPROVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION those who completed and Tulane had received their 2020-2021 FAFSA and other required documents necessary to establish a valid 2020-2021 FM EFC), necessary to abide by DOE's restriction that only those students who are Title IV eligible are eligible for consideration of HEERF funds; as well as DOE's recommendation to be mindful of each student's particular socioeconomic circumstances in the staging and administration of these grants; and
3. Priority for not having received HEERF emergency financial aid grants during the aforementioned Phase 1; Phase 2; and/or Phase 3; and
4. Had been enrolled in a Tulane degree program that was NOT being delivered via an online format prior to the 2020 spring interruption in on-ground classroom operations, as the U.S. Department of Education advised against students in such online degree programs from receiving these emergency financial aid grants.

HOWEVER, the aforementioned criteria only reflect anticipated requirements as the final eligibility criteria have not yet been determined. Please revisit this website as more details become available on the Phase 4 process of identifying student eligibility.

Identifying Eligible Expenses

Tulane is only able to confirm that an eligible expense will represent specific eligible expenses that the student incurred that are related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic. At this time, Tulane has not determined if a student will be required to complete an application in order to be considered for a Phase 4 emergency financial aid grant. Please revisit this website as more details become available on the Phase 4 process of identifying eligible expenses.

Identifying the Award Allocation

Tulane's allocation of HEERF grant funding is limited and prevents the University from awarding every eligible student the estimated average expenses. Therefore, if funding remains available for the awarding of Phase 4 emergency financial aid grants, then at that time Tulane will determine the details associated with the allocation of awards. Please revisit this website as more details become available on the Phase 4 allocation process.

06/05/2020