

ECPI University

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II & III (HEERF) – Policies & Procedures Public Notice – October 8, 2021)

This public notice is posted on ECPI University's website (<https://www.ecpi.edu/student-consumer-services/HEERF>) in accordance with U.S. Department of Education guidance.

1. ECPI University signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the HEERF II & III Applications, Certifications, and Agreements. All funding under this program is to be distributed as emergency grants to students with exceptional need.
2. ECPI University has been authorized to draw up to \$15,586,347 (\$9,780,468 HEERF II, \$5,805,879 HEERF III) and award to students for a period of one year from the date funds become available.
3. This funding is estimated to be distributed incrementally to students by May 2022 or sooner. As of September 30, 2021, \$8,546,700 of the \$15,586,347 allocation has been distributed to 7,678 students.
4. To logistically manage these significant funds in a fair manner, the institution will make awards for each student's subsequent (or first) academic year award period. This funding source is included in the University Finance Plan (UFP). This means every student would receive consideration over a 7-month period, and continue after that until all funds are disbursed or the grant deadline is reached. Disbursements will be scheduled at the beginning of the student's academic year to coincide with the timing of other financial assistance payments.
5. ECPI University is evaluating exceptional need based on the results of the student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students who do not complete a FAFSA may request an assessment, and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using information similar to that collected on the FAFSA. Exceptional need is relative to all students attending institutions of higher education, rather than a measure of need relative to other students attending ECPI University. With ~60% of students eligible for Federal Pell Grants, and the majority being career-changing adults, a high percentage of students have exceptional need.
 - a. Awards will be presented on the UFP as noted above in the following amounts, revise for award notifications created after October 10, 2021, and may be modified later for the remainder of the grant period based on remaining funding. Graduate program students will receive half of the stated amounts.
 - b. Pell Grant Eligible EFC (eligibility index from FAFSA) \$1,000
 - c. EFC 5800 -10,000 \$ 500
 - d. EFC 10,001 - 15,000 \$ 300
6. As provided for in the U.S. Department of Education's guidance, the UFP includes a student choice to apply this funding to tuition, which in most cases will reduce student loan debt. The UFP presents a student's UFP with and without this funding applied to tuition. Reducing debt will often be the student's best use of this funding. Many students have received multiple prior HEERF disbursements that often were used to cover one-time costs of transitioning to remote learning. Timing of disbursements will approximate Title IV timeline requirements for resolution of credit balances.