

Florida School of Massage Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Policy

Effective Date: 4/29/2020

Expiration Date: 4/29/2021

Purpose: The Department of Education (ED) has announced that the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) is available to provide assistance to Title IV eligible students for expenses related to disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is authorized under Section 18004(a)(1) and 18004(c) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Eligibility: To be eligible for individual emergency grants from the HEERF, Florida School of Massage (FSM) students must be Title IV eligible under Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). These criteria include, but are not limited to: student is a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen, has a valid social security number, is registered with Selective Service (if the student is male), and has a high school diploma, GED, or proof of high school completion in an approved homeschool setting.

Additionally, eligible FSM students will meet the following criteria: have completed a FAFSA within the last twelve months, complete the FSM emergency grant application to determine eligibility, and provide a statement describing the financial impact on the student of the COVID-19 pandemic and the manner the student intends to utilize these funds. Eligible students may receive this emergency assistance “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).”

To provide both immediate and future financial support due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FSM has designated two groups of students to receive individual grants from the HEERF. Group 1 consists of students who were enrolled and attending classes on or after January 1, 2020 and scheduled to graduate on July 24, 2020. Group 2 consists of students who were enrolled and attending classes on or after June 10, 2020 and scheduled to graduate on December 4, 2020. Due to new and updated guidelines that continue to emerge from federal and state governing agencies, the attendance dates of Group 2 are subject to change, and such policy changes are at the discretion of the FSM Director and Financial Aid Department.

Awarding Guidelines: Neither an undergraduate degree nor Pell Grant ineligibility for the given award year will prevent a student who is otherwise eligible for individual grants from the HEERF from receiving these emergency funds. Student eligibility and disbursement amounts will be documented and included in each student’s file and all records of request and disbursements will become part of the student record. FSM retains the right to request additional documentation from each student regarding the need for and use of these funds and the student agrees to provide any requested documentation in a timely manner. Per the Secretary of Education’s guidance, any HEERF moneys awarded to a student will be excluded from the calculation of a student’s expected family contribution. The Secretary does not consider these individual emergency financial aid grants to constitute federal financial aid under Title IV of the HEA. Receipt of these funds will not prohibit students from receipt of future Title IV federal financial assistance.

The Florida School of Massage will use the following guidelines in determining how much and to whom individual emergency grants from the HEERF will be awarded:

Group 1: Each student who meets the above eligibility criteria and submits a complete FSM HEERF grant application will be awarded an amount not to exceed \$400.00. The deadline for Group 1 grant applications is May 22, 2020. Eligible students will be notified of their award via their FSM email account and the funds disbursed by check to their current mailing address on file.

Group 2: Each student who meets the above eligibility criteria and submits a complete FSM HEERF grant application will be awarded an amount not to exceed the Secretary's recommendation of the maximum Federal Pell Grant for the applicable award year. These funds will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds expire. Applications for Group 2 funds will be open beginning June 10, 2020. Eligible Group 1 students are not excluded from also being eligible for additional funds under Group 2 if they meet Group 2 eligibility criteria. Details regarding the award calculation, application close date, anticipated disbursements dates, and required documentation will be provided under a future addendum to this policy and will adhere to ED guidance regarding the documentation and eligibility of these funds.

Addendum 1 – Update to Group 2 Eligibility

Effective Date: May 12, 2020

Each student who meets the above eligibility criteria and submits a complete FSM HEERF grant application will be awarded an amount of \$2000.00; to provide support to as many students as possible, each eligible student who applies will receive the same amount of aid. These funds will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds expire. Applications for Group 2 funds are being accepted effectively immediately. Eligible Group 1 students are not excluded from also being eligible for the additional full amount of funds under Group 2. Disbursements of funds for eligible students will occur no later than 14 days after a complete application is submitted.

In accordance with ED guidelines and regulations, FSM will maintain a public record of the total amount of funds allocated for the student portion of the CARES Act HEERF, total amount of emergency financial aid grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, estimated number of students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the HEA, and total number of students that received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. This report will be produced within 30 days of receiving the allocation and updated every 45 days thereafter.