
From: Sarah Cohen, Legislation <scohen@aft.org>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Williams, Rich; Beth Antunez, Legislation
Cc: Miller, Benjamin; Cooper, Michelle
Subject: RE: questions for ED on HEERF II

Thanks Rich!

On question one, for our folks it's more an issue that colleges are saying they have to make massive cuts (including layoffs, clawbacks on contracts, etc) because they don't have the resources – and sometimes saying they can't use institutional portion to fill budget holes and pay staff, that sort of thing. Which of course makes us quite curious about how institutions ARE using their funding. Any reminder for institutions about their obligations under CARES, Dec bill, and ARP to maintain payroll/employees would be quite helpful. (I know the new FAQ focused just on "payroll" was just released, thanks!)

We appreciate your quick response!

Sarah R. Cohen
Government Relations, American Federation of Teachers

From: Williams, Rich <Rich.Williams@ed.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Sarah Cohen, Legislation <scohen@aft.org>; Beth Antunez, Legislation <bantunez@aft.org>
Cc: Miller, Benjamin <Benjamin.Miller@ed.gov>; Cooper, Michelle <Michelle.Cooper@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: questions for ED on HEERF II

Hi Sarah and Beth – Ben asked me to provide a few quick responses to your questions. We're fleshing out the first and have a process for the second. Hope this helps!

1. We'd love to know if USDE will publish a summary of how institutions have used the institutional portion (As they have done for the student portion)? It would be so immensely helpful if they would publish this information (that they already have).

It's a great idea and we're looking into more and better reporting structures moving forward. An upcoming GAO report will look at a sample of how colleges reported using their funds and agree more can be done. One of the goals in the recent guidance was to remind institutions they can always use their Institutional Portion funds to award more/additional financial aid grants to students. The Department continues to recommend that institutions devote the maximum amount of funds possible to financial aid grants to students and prioritize costs associated with student safety and support and testing services, including by using some or all of the funds allocated for an institution's expenses. Of course, in making additional financial aid grants to students, institutions should do so consistent with the requirements that apply to the Student Aid Portion pot of HEERF grant funds (e.g., prioritizing students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students.) We definitely want to capture best practices and share those to the extent we can.

2. Attached is a screenshot from the CCSF award letter. They are claiming that this means they only have until May to spend the \$\$ and that the FAQ (that provides for 365days from date of award) is misleading because for both HEERF I/II the award date is considered the date of the passage of CARES (or the award date from CARES). Is

there a way for ED to update the form so that it more clearly aligns with the FAQs they've put out regarding timeline for spending?

Per our guidance, institutions generally have one year to expend their HEERF funds from the date when the Department processed the most recent obligation of funds for each specific grant. That means colleges that received a supplemental award under CRRSAA have one year to spend all remaining HEERF I and new HEERF II funds for each grant. For institutions that received a CRRSAA supplement for both their Student Aid Portion and Institutional Portion funds have until at least January 2022 to expend these HEERF grant funds (with the possibility of receiving a no-cost extension for an additional year until January 2023). We also note that with passage of the ARP, additional HEERF grant funds are forthcoming and may extend the performance period of the HEERF grant further. We are updating the forms but this is a very manual process – please have patience.

Rich Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of Postsecondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
Pronouns: he, him, his

From: Beth Antunez, Legislation <bantunez@aft.org>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 1:23 PM
To: Miller, Benjamin <Benjamin.Miller@ed.gov>
Cc: Sarah Cohen, Legislation <scohen@aft.org>
Subject: Fwd: questions for ED on HEERF II

Hi Ben—

Thank you for being the recipient of so many of our higher ed-related questions. And please feel free to direct me to a more appropriate person!

Here are two from our affiliate at the City College of San Francisco. I'm passing them along—let us know if easier to hop on the phone to address these.

Thank you!

From: Sarah Cohen, Legislation <scohen@aft.org>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Beth Antunez, Legislation
Subject: questions for ED on HEERF II

Hi Beth,

Here are the two questions we've gotten from City College of San Francisco about the higher ed funding in the December bill (HEERF II).

1. We'd love to know if USDE will publish a summary of how institutions have used the institutional portion (As they have done for the student portion)? It would be so immensely helpful if they would publish this information (that they already have).
2. Attached is a screenshot from the CCSF award letter. They are claiming that this means they only have until May to spend the \$\$ and that the FAQ (that provides for 365days from date of award) is misleading because for both HEERF I/II the award date is considered the date of the passage of CARES (or the award date from CARES). Is

there a way for ED to update the form so that it more clearly aligns with the FAQs they've put out regarding timeline for spending?

50 Frida Kahlo Way San Francisco, CA 94112		ACTION TYPE AWARD TYPE	Revision Formula
3 PROJECT STAFF RECIPIENT STATE DIRECTOR Abdul Nasser (415) 452-7454 anasser@ccc.edu EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT Pearson T Owens (202) 453-7997 pearson.owens@ed.gov EDUCATION PAYMENT HOTLINE GS PAYEE HELPDESK 888-336-8930 ghsps.ams@ed.gov		4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION 84.425F City College of San Francisco CARES Act Institutional Support	
5 KEY PERSONNEL N/A			
6 AWARD PERIODS BUDGET PERIOD 05/07/2020 - 05/06/2021 FEDERAL FUNDING PERIOD 05/07/2020 - 05/06/2021 FUTURE BUDGET PERIODS N/A			
7 AUTHORIZED FUNDING CURRENT AWARD AMOUNT \$12,718,178.00 PREVIOUS CUMULATIVE AMOUNT \$3,504,937.00 CUMULATIVE AMOUNT \$16,223,115.00			
8 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION DUNS/SSN 039760023 REGULATIONS EDGAR AS APPLICABLE 2 CFR AS APPLICABLE ATTACHMENTS N/A			

1.

Thanks so much!

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