

February 9, 2021

Dear BHCLR Students:

You may have heard about a federal aid resource called the HEERF-Student Aid which contains provisions for funding of emergency financial aid grants to eligible students whose lives have been disrupted, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. The Department of Education will administer these funds and provide them to higher education institutions for disbursement to eligible students. These grants are intended to cover a student's expenses related to the disruption to their education, including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Since the announcement of these funds, Baptist Health College Little Rock has been working to detail the federal guidance on student eligibility and develop a plan to distribute the funds within the federal requirements. I am pleased to share with you that BHCLR has since received access to these funds and will begin the distribution process of emergency financial aid grants to eligible students in the coming weeks.

This update is to provide you - our BHCLR students - with information on eligibility requirements in order for you to receive an emergency financial aid grant and to let you know the process that will be used to award the grants.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL CARES ACT:

Only students who are, or could be, eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. Eligibility is verified by student completion of the following two items:

1. If not already completed, students must complete a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to demonstrate the needed eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA. This application must be received by BHCLR no later than February 19 by 4 pm and can be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
2. The **BHCLR Emergency Grant google form** must also be completed by students and submitted to document they have experienced a disruption of campus operation due to the coronavirus in order to be considered for an emergency financial aid grant if the student otherwise qualifies. Google form link will be sent in the upcoming week.

DISBURSEMENT OF EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS

The amount of each award will be based on the number of credit hours in which a qualified student is enrolled in and the student's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by their completed 2020-2021 FAFSA.

Students who have a completed FAFSA on file and those students who have been determined to be eligible for Federal Student Aid will be awarded the grant. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include, but are not limited to, the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

The HEERF expressly requires that institutions provide the emergency financial aid grants directly 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)”. Funds may not be used for other purposes.

If you qualify for the HEERF funds, please be aware that the payment will be direct deposited to your account or a check will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Financial Aid at financialaid@bhclr.edu or (501) 202-7486.

Please stay safe.