

Press Release

PCC Statement from the Office of the President

April 19, 2021

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, the CRRSAA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion expeditiously provided last spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136.

On March 04, 2021 Palau Community College received from the US Department of Education a supplemental student award in the amount of \$379,745. On April 20, 2021, a total of \$151,895 will be awarded to eligible students enrolled this Spring 2021. The remaining \$227,850 will be awarded to eligible students enrolled in Summer session 2021 and Fall semester 2021. The HEERF II funds were distributed to students based on available funding, pell eligibility, and enrollment status of students as of April 09, 2021. Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants. In addition, the CRRSAA explicitly provides that financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. The CRRSAA requires that an institution receiving funding under section 314(a)(1) provide the “same amount” in financial aid grants to students from the new CRRSAA funds that it was required or which it would have been required to provide under its original CARES Act Student Aid Portion award. The CRRSAA provides PCC with the ability to make funds available to students over a one-year period to help students successfully continue and complete their education. As required by CRRSAA, PCC prioritized students who are pell eligible students.

Emergency Financial Aid Grants

PCC will disburse the first batch of funds under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA to Spring 2021 eligible students on Tuesday April 20, 2021.

Total amount of supplemental funds that PCC has received for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is \$379,745.00.

Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants disbursed to eligible students in Spring 2021 is \$151,895.00.

Total number of Spring 2021 eligible students at PCC to receive the emergency grants is 428.

PCC students were notified of the availability of these emergency grant funds under the CRRSAA through the institutional primary website, college Facebook page, and campus bulletin boards.

Students were advised that these funds are to be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

Funding Methodology

CRRSAA Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) funds

PCC used the following methodology to determine which students receive Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) Financial Aid Grants to how much they would receive under the Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA.

1. PCC distributes the CRRSAA grant funds to students based on the available funding, pell eligibility, and enrollment status of students.
2. Amount of award ranges from \$70 to \$655.
3. Identify Pell Eligible Students
 - o Must be eligible to participate in programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The criteria include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Be a U.S citizen or national, or permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen.
 - b. Have a valid Social Security number
 - c. Be registered with Selective Services (applies only to U.S. Citizens who are males between ages of 18-25);
 - d. Have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent (GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting);
 - e. Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
 - f. Enrolled in a degree or certificate in an eligible program
 - g. Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward his/her degree or certificate program.
4. Non-Pell eligible students awarded are students who are U.S. citizens or national, or permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen but who do not meet one or more of the criteria listed above (#3b-g).
5. As required by CRRSAA, PCC prioritized students who were Pell eligible students as of April 09, 2021.
6. Checks that are not picked up by students after 21 days will be sent to students' mailing address.
7. PCC posted the information listed above on the institution's primary website.