



WSU Tech HEERF II FAQs

What is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provided by the federal government?

On December 27, 2020, the President signed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSSA); expanding upon the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, 2020. One section of the CRRSSA provided an allocation under the Higher Education Emergency Relief funds, which sent money to schools to use for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic.

When will HEERF II/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds be available?

Federal funding for the HEERF II has been received from the U.S. Department of Education and we are now able to rapidly start distributing grants to students. WSU Tech will begin distribution of funds the week of April 12th and until funds are expended. Recipients will be notified via email or text message.

Who is eligible for the HEERF II/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds?

Eligibility is limited to individuals enrolled at WSU Tech for the spring 2021 semesters in a certificate or degree-seeking program. To be approved for this grant opportunity, students are required to have a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on file and be compliant with all federal aid requirements. Federal aid requirements for student aid include, but are not limited to, meeting financial aid satisfactory academic progress, not have a loan in default or a grant overpayment, be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen with current documentation and registered for Selective Service. If you are eligible to file a FAFSA but have not yet filed for 2020-21, please file a FAFSA at studentaid.gov. If you need assistance, please contact us at caresact@wsutech.edu.

Applicants must be enrolled in at least 1 credit hour at WSU Tech for spring 2021 semester.

- Students must be eligible to apply for financial aid through FAFSA. (This excludes international, DACA, and dual credit students.)
- Dual credit high school students are not eligible.
- Applicants must be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- A valid Social Security number is required.
- Male students must be registered with Selective Service.
- Documentation of high school completion is required, such as a high school diploma, GED or have proof of completion of high school in an approved home school setting.
- Must demonstrate financial need based upon FAFSA results.

How did WSU Tech develop the eligibility criteria?

The college followed [guidance from the U.S. Department of Education](#).

How much am I eligible for?

Allocation of funds are awarded based upon financial need. Funds will range from \$500-\$1,000.

- Direct Awards to Auto Zero EFC Pell Grant recipients of \$1,000 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)
- Direct Awards to Pell Grant recipients of \$750 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)
- Direct Awards to High-Need recipients of \$500 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)



Does the money need to be repaid?

No, money received through this fund does not need to be repaid.

Would this funding reduce my financial aid?

No, this fund does not negate nor replace financial aid.

When will we know the results?

Our goal is to award these grants as soon as possible. Eligible students will receive an email or text message.

How do students receive the money?

If you are approved for funding, funds will be distributed in the following manner. Students who have initiated direct deposit with WSU Tech will be paid via direct deposit. Checks will be mailed to the mailing address on file for those who have not initiated direct deposit with WSU Tech. If you would like to update your mailing address or initiate direct deposit, please visit the Student tab in myWSUTech.

What if I owe WSU Tech for tuition or other expenses?

If a student has an outstanding balance from the spring semester, the student will have the opportunity to use the approved funds to pay the remaining debt. Students who wish to apply the funds will need to acknowledge this request. This request may be completed on the student's myWSUTech account, under the Financial Aid tab.

Are the HEERF II Grants taxable?

No. Emergency financial aid grants under the HEERF II for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income.

***As of September 30, 2021, any remaining funds from HEERF II Student Aid portion will be awarded using HEERF III eligibility requirements. Allocation of funds are awarded based upon financial need.**

What additional resources are available if I need access to food or other help?

You can use WSU Tech resources: <https://wsutech.edu/student-support/>

Or other Community Resources:

United Methodist Open Door

United Way of the Plains Help Center: please call 211

Who can I contact for more information or assistance?

If you need assistance, please contact us at caresact@wsutech.edu.

