

(March 12, 2021)

## **Austin Graduate School of Theology and CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds II (HEERF II)**

### **Student Aid and Institutional Portion HEERF II Grants**

The CARES Act has provided HEERF II grants from the U.S. Department of Education to Austin Graduate School of Theology (AGST). The purpose of these grants are to provide assistance to current students in the form of immediate grants based on campus and course disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic for expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care. Based on federal guidelines, to be eligible a student must be currently enrolled, have submitted a completed FAFSA and resolved any federal aid eligibility issues, e.g. verification requirements, and determined eligible to receive Title IV federal aid.

Disbursement of HEERF Student Aid grants is governed by federal guidelines. Based on its enrollment size, AGST has determined to award funds to all students eligible for Title IV federal aid and that had previously submitted a FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year. Award amounts were based upon a formula applied to the student's final Estimated Family Contribution number (determined after FAFSA processing and any adjustments from corrections, verification, and professional judgment).

Students receiving an award will not be required to provide receipts or other documentation related to the use of funds. Awards are subject to availability of funding and any restrictions from the Department of Education. Please note that the HEERF II Student Aid grants are not a part of the regular financial aid process.

The following Report provides details of the HEERF II grant, award process, FAQ's from Students, and AGST's Student Grant Request Form. This

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### **SECTION 18004(e) REPORT:**

#### **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund 30-Day Report**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act, Austin Graduate School of Theology (AGST) provides the following disclosures:

1. AGST has signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) grants. AGST intends to use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students (Also referred to as the HEERF-Student Aid grant and the HEERF-Institutional Portion grant).

2. AGST has received \$5,068 pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for Students. It has also received \$5,067 from the HEERF Institutional Portion grant.
3. AGST has received additional HEERF II funds of \$5,068 in Student Aid Grants and \$21,667 in Institutional Grants.

**HEERF II Student Aid Grant Disbursements (Initial HEERF grant disclosures are provided in AGST's HEERF report dated 6/8/2020):**

1. As of March 12, 2021, AGST has distributed the full amount awarded (\$5,068) to students under HEERF II.
2. AGST identified 9 students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible for HEERF II Student Aid Grants to students.
3. As of March 12, 2021, 9 students have received a HEERF II Student Aid grant.
4. AGST used the following process for determining which students would receive awards and how much they would receive in HEERF II Student Aid. Eligible students must have been currently enrolled in a degree program, in attendance as of January 23, 2021 (end of drops/adds Spring 2021 semester), have submitted a completed 2020-21 FAFSA and resolved any federal aid eligibility issues, e.g. verification requirements, and determined eligible to receive Title IV federal aid. Based on its enrollment size, AGST awarded a minimum of \$200 funds to all eligible students. Above this, additional amounts were awarded to students based on a student's final Estimated Family Contribution number (determined after FAFSA processing and any adjustments from corrections, verification, and professional judgment).
5. AGST notified eligible students by email of their HEERF II Student Aid award. In the same email, students were provided a list of FAQ's as provided by the Department of Education. Both items are included as "Attachment A" (below).

**HEERF Institutional Portion Grant Disbursements:**

1. As of March 12, 2021, AGST has distributed the full amount awarded (\$21,667) to reimburse institutional expenses incurred 4/1/2020 to 12/31/2020.
2. AGST reimbursed expenses included those for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and reimbursements of facility maintenance and utilities.

**Attachment A**

**AGST Email to Students (in attachment)**

**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security 2  
(CARES 2)  
Student Award Notice  
3/11/21**

HEERF 2 Student Aid funds have been made available to help students cover expenses related to the continued disruption of campus operations due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**You have been awarded a grant from these funds. Your Award is \$**  
**Your award will be mailed to your address on file 3/11/21**

**Criteria:**

- **Grant amounts:**
  - Range from \$200 - \$867. Amount of award was based on the student's FAFSA Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) after any adjustments (e.g. from verification, professional judgment).
  
- **Student Eligibility:**
  - To be eligible, students must:
    - Have been enrolled January 23, 2021 (end of AGST add/drops for Spring 2021)
    - Have incurred an eligible expense related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19
    - Must have applied for Title IV federal aid and met eligibility requirements
  
- **Eligible Expenses:**
  - Educational expenses paid directly by the student (e.g. Housing (Rent), Food/Groceries, Utilities, Course Materials, Technology, Childcare, Health/Medical Expense, Transportation, Misc. Living Expenses)
  - *Note:* Tuition and fees paid to AGST are not eligible COVID-19 disruption expenses. AGST will not deduct tuition or other expenses from HEERF emergency grants.
  
- **Grant Approval and Delivery:**
  - AGST's Financial Aid Office will distribute CARES 2 Student Aid Awards to students by check. Please make sure your correct address is on file with the school.
  
- **Additional information about CARES 2 Awards:**
  - Students that receive a disbursement will not be required to provide receipts or other documentation related to the use of funds.
  - CARES Act student grants are not a part of the regular financial aid process.
  - For more information about the CARES Act funding and to find answers for many of questions, please read the Department of Education's Frequently Asked Questions from Students (provided below).

**If any questions, please contact Dave Arthur, Financial Aid Office**

- 512-476-2772 or [david.arthur@lipscomb.edu](mailto:david.arthur@lipscomb.edu)

**FAQ's for students from US Department of Education:**

**Frequently Asked Questions from Students about the Higher Education Emergency Relief Student Grants FAQ's for students from US Department of Education:**

**Frequently Asked Questions from Students about the Higher Education Emergency Relief Student Grants**

1. Do I have to repay the emergency financial aid grant I received from my university through the CARES Act? ~~SEP~~ No. The funds provided by the CARES Act are grants, so they do not need to be repaid.
2. I am a student who received an emergency financial aid grant from my university through the CARES Act. Is this grant includible in my gross income? ~~SEP~~ No. According to the Internal Revenue Service, "Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act 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." ~~SEP~~
3. What can emergency financial aid grants provided by the CARES Act be used for? ~~SEP~~ Emergency financial aid grants to students can be used 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 child care). Please see below\* for more information about what is included in a student's cost of attendance.

#### **\* Cost of Attendance**

The cost of attendance (COA) is not the bill that you may get from your college; it is the total amount it will cost you to go to college each year. The COA includes tuition and fees; on-campus room and board (or a housing and food allowance for off-campus students); and allowances for books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and, if applicable, dependent care. It can also include other expenses like an allowance for the rental or purchase of a personal computer, costs related to a disability, or costs for eligible study-abroad programs.

For students attending less than half-time, COA includes tuition and fees and an allowance for books, supplies, transportation and dependent care expenses; but can also include room and board for up to three semesters or the equivalent at the institution, but no more than two of those semesters or the equivalent may be consecutive. Contact the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend if you have any unusual expenses that might affect your cost of attendance.