

Angelo State University CRRSA Act Student Aid Report #2 (Apr.-Jun. 2021)

PR/Award No. P425E200004

Introduction

On December 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CRRSA Act (H.R. 133), which provides emergency relief and stimulus funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 314 of the CRRSA Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education to: 1) “defray expenses associated with coronavirus,” 2) “carry out student support activities authorized by the HEA that address needs related to coronavirus,” and 3) “provide financial aid grants to students.” This quarterly report provides details on the award Angelo State University (ASU) received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

By virtue of drawing down funds from the ED on March 10, 2021, ASU agreed to the terms and conditions of the U.S. Department of Education’s [updated Certification and Agreement](#). In keeping with the terms of the certification, ASU will use the full amount of funds received under Section (a)(1) of the CRRSA Act HEERF II award to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

Total Award

ASU received a total of \$3,179,781 under the Student Aid portion of the CRRSA Act.

Funds Distributed

Between April 1 and June 30, 2021, ASU awarded **\$1,922,004** in direct grants to students from the Student Aid portion of the CRRSA Act.

Student Eligibility

The total number of ASU students eligible to receive CRRSA Act emergency financial aid grants was **6,901**¹. Of those students, **2,927** received an award between April 1 and June 30, 2021.

Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much

ASU created an online grant application in which each student indicated: 1) whether they had been impacted financially by the coronavirus, and 2) what specific financial needs they have in each area (food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, and/or tuition).

¹ Initially, the number of eligible students included all enrolled, degree-seeking U.S. citizens and non-citizens eligible for Title IV federal financial aid, including students enrolled in distance education; however, based on updated guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, beginning June 1, 2021, the number of eligible students included all degree-seeking enrolled students (but excluding non-degree seeking high school students enrolled in dual credit programs).

The Financial Aid office evaluated each application based on the information provided, and they awarded funds based on each student's identified needs and the availability of funding. If students failed to provide sufficient documentation regarding their needs, the Financial Aid office contacted them to obtain additional information before issuing an award.

During the second half of the spring semester and the first summer session (April-June), provided that the students were eligible to receive funds, identified legitimate needs, and applied for funds, grants of up to \$650—or up to \$1,000 for students with exceptional need—were automatically approved.

Prioritization of Students with Exceptional Need

The CRRSA Act requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. ASU determined exceptional need first by Pell Grant eligibility and then among other undergraduate students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of less than \$10,000 and a “need gap,” (defined as the cost of attendance – EFC – gift aid) greater than \$5,000. Students meeting these criteria did not have to provide additional comment in their applications to be eligible, and ASU considered these students' applications first and provided a higher maximum grant of \$1,000.

Instructions or Directions Given to the Students

ASU's Financial Aid office emailed ASU students notices to apply for CRRSA Act funding on April 7, 2021 and on June 1, 2021 to help them cover eligible expenses during the second half of the spring semester and the first summer session. ASU also maintained a [CRRSA Act webpage](#) to disseminate information to the student body and the community at large.

The communications before, during, and after the award of funds contained the following information:

- General instructions on the purpose and allowable uses of funds,
- Application periods,
- A link to the online application,
- Contact information for questions, and
- Acknowledgement of the federal government as the source of funding.