



The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) for Students Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the HEERF Student Emergency Fund?

- The HEERF Student Emergency Fund for students is from the latest Federal Stimulus package – The American Rescue Plan, passed March 11, 2021 by Congress. The funds are made available to colleges and universities with a portion set aside for additional student emergency financial grants.

2. Do I have to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for the HEERF Student Emergency Funds?

- Yes. The 2021-2022 FAFSA is required to help determine exceptional need.
*Undocumented students and F1 Visa Holders are not required to complete a FAFSA. However, additional information may be required in order to determine eligibility.

3. Is there a limit of emergency aid that I can receive for the year?

- A student may receive a maximum award of up to \$2,000, based on credit hours enrolled at the time they apply and request funding for the current semester. Students who already received the funds for the current term are **not** eligible to reapply for the fund in the same term.

4. Who is eligible for assistance from the HEERF Student Emergency Fund?

- Students that are enrolled in a Title IV eligible program in the semester in which funds are being requested are eligible to apply for assistance. Students enrolled in credits not counting toward their major program of study will not be considered for funds for those courses.

5. Do I have to be eligible to receive financial aid?

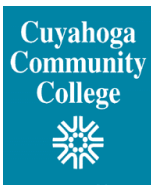
- No. Students do not have to be eligible to receive financial aid to receive HEERF Funds. However, the FAFSA is required to determine students' need and assist with financial aid from other sources. Students must be taking courses that are eligible for financial aid during the semester for which they are requesting the funds.

6. Do I have to complete an application to receive HEERF funds?

- Yes. Students must apply to receive HEERF funds and can contact the Student Financial Aid & Scholarship Office to determine eligibility to apply. Students may be considered for HEERF without an application, as determined by exceptional need, as demonstrated on the FAFSA. Students must have an active student status at Tri-C or have been readmitted to the college in order to apply. Students must be taking classes in the term the HEERF student emergency funds will be used.

7. Are College Credit Plus students eligible for HEERF funding?

- No. Unfortunately, funds are not available to high school students, taking college courses.



8. Are International students eligible to receive HEERF Funds?

- Yes. Undocumented students and international students may receive HEERF funds.

9. If I am a transient student, am I eligible to receive HEERF Funds?

- No. Students must be degree seeking at Tri-C. Transient students should contact their home school to ask about available resources.

10. Are students in Non-Credit, Workforce programs eligible for HEERF Emergency Funds?

- No. A student must be enrolled at Tri-C in courses that are financial aid eligible during the semester in which they are requesting which lead to a degree or certificate.

11. If I am receiving tuition or eligible to receive tuition remission through Tri-C's Tuition Remission of Fees program, am I eligible for HEERF Funds?

- Tri-C employees eligible for remission of fees are not eligible to receive HEERF funds. Dependent students of Tri-C employees who are enrolled at Tri-C, in Title IV eligible, may be eligible to apply for HEERF funds.

12. What can the HEERF Emergency Fund be used for?

- Students may use the emergency financial aid grant toward any component of their Cost of Attendance, such as tuition or fees as well as additional costs that may arise including:
 - Food
 - Housing
 - Healthcare (including Mental Health)
 - Childcare
- HEERF student emergency grants are prioritized for students based on exceptional need or extraordinary financial circumstances.

13. Can I apply for the HEERF funds if I already received other Tri-C emergency grants?

- Students who already received emergency funds should contact the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office to determine eligibility. Be sure you have completed the FAFSA before completing the HEERF application.

15. How will I know if my HEERF application is approved?

- Students will receive an email notification about their HEERF application decision status. Email notices are sent to students' Tri-C email account.
- Students will also be notified of their application status in their *My Tri-C space* under the "View My Messages" link.
- Please allow up to 5 business days for processing.



16. When will I receive my HEERF Funds?

- All approved HEERF applications will be distributed to students after the 15th day of the semester for the latest part of term for registered classes.

17. Am I eligible to receive a direct refund if I have an outstanding balance on my account.

- Yes. Students can choose to receive HEERF funds by direct deposit or check by mail, or have funds applied directly to their student account to help pay tuition and fees.
- Funds applied directly to tuition charges will first pay for any outstanding tuition and fees, and any remaining credit will be refunded to the student.
- Students receiving a direct refund may still use their funds to help pay an unpaid balance on their student account.

However, students need to ensure payment for courses to secure class enrollment, as a part of the HEERF funds requests. Students who do not have payment in place for courses, will not have HEERF approved.

18. If I'm on a tuition payment plan, can I use these funds to pay off my balance?

- Yes. Students can indicate on their HEERF application if they would like to have funds applied to their outstanding balance.

19. Are there other resources that can help me if I'm not eligible for HEERF funding?

- Yes. If your financial situation has changed due to a change of income or loss of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships team can help you update your FAFSA and determine your eligibility for other financial aid options, including scholarships.
- The Project GO! team can also help refer you to public benefits resources.
- Visit the Tri-C Scholarship webpage, [Apply for Scholarships](#), to see if you might be eligible for one of the scholarship programs.