

## Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies POLICY AND PROCEDURES for the CRRSA Act

February 10, 2021

The US government has expanded on the emergency funds available to students through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, also known as the CRRSA Act. The available funds are also known as HEERF II, or Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II funds.

The institution has currently been authorized to disburse **\$211,017** to students for any component in the students Cost of Attendance. This includes room, board, transportation and personal expenses or expenses due to COVID. In addition, the funds may be used for tuition and fees but only with the express written consent of the student. The school will accept an email from a student if they want to designate the funds be applied to their tuition and fee account.

Unlike the HEERF I from the CARES Act, 2020; students do not have to be Title IV-eligible to receive to receive HEERF II, however the student must be an eligible student in general under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Currently the USDE does not interpret undocumented students; Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students; and international students to qualify as eligible students for CRRSA Act funding. . If the student has **not** filed for a FAFSA to determine if the student meets citizenship/registered non-citizen status, the student must: Complete a FAFSA for determination **or** submit documentation to substantiate citizenship/registered non-citizen status and the school will review for approval.

It is the intent of this institution to administer HEERF II funds to students whom demonstrate exceptional financial need, such as students who receive Federal Pell Grants. Students who are not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants may still be eligible for the HEERF II funds depending upon the student population; funds available and the schools policy below.

- Upon review of eligibility, the institute will take the total award amount and divide it evenly amongst Pell eligible students that demonstrate the highest need first, which would be the students that have the lowest EFC, and then move forward from there.

The institution will **not** (1) condition the receipt of financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the intuition, (2) use the financial aid grants to satisfy a student's outstanding account balance, unless it has obtained the student's written (or electronic), affirmative consent, or (3) require such consent as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for the financial aid grant.

CRRSA Act emergency student funding is only available to students that are enrolled and attending classes as of **01/01/2021**. Students on an Approved Leave of Absence are also eligible based on the above selection criteria review.

The institution will not discriminate in the awarding of CRRSAA grant funds and will evaluate students based prioritizing Pell Eligible students and all students on their need to cover cost of attendance expenses.

The institution will apply the grant to the student: by issuing a paper check.

**NOTE:** HEERF grants are not Title IV funds, so Title IV awarding/packaging rules do not apply. It is understood based on released guidance from the USDE that HEERF II grants are not treated as estimated financial assistance (EFA) when packaging students. Likewise, HEERF II grants are not treated as taxable income or untaxed income for Title IV federal student aid purposes.