

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) was signed into law on December 27, 2020. Section 314(d)(5) of CRRSAA requires that an institution receiving funding under section 314(a)(1) provide the same amount in financial aid grants to students from the new CRRSAA funds that it was required or which it would have been required to provide under its original Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Student Aid Portion award.

Faith Baptist Bible College signed and returned the initial CARES Act certification and agreement form to the U.S. Department of Education on May 4, 2020. Subsequently, Faith consented to the supplemental grant funding certification and agreement when it drew down the CRRSAA funds on March 18, 2021 thereby designating its intent to use the CRRSAA funds to provide the mandated minimum amount of \$148,517 for emergency financial aid grants to students.

More specifically, this \$148,517 received by Faith may only be used to provide financial aid grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education), which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare. In making such financial aid grants to students, Faith must prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants.

Based on published guidance from the U.S. Department of Education at the time the grant funds were received, only students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. If a student filed a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and met all eligibility criteria, then the student has demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA.

In addition to the above eligibility criteria, to be considered for the funds, a student had to be degree seeking, must have been registered during Spring Semester 2021 as of March 11, 2021 and must have been making Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students who paid no tuition were excluded from consideration. The total number of students meeting the eligibility guidelines as described to this point was determined to be 226.

In evaluating the intent of the CRRSAA, that students with exceptional need must be prioritized, Faith administration decided to include only students meeting the eligibility requirements previously described above and who received Pell Grants or had an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) estimate of less than \$15,000 which is the threshold used by the Iowa Tuition Grant (ITG) state program. This brought the total number of students who ended up receiving an emergency financial aid grant down to 179.

The methods used in calculating individual grants included weightings based on the Spring Semester Pell Grant amounts and whether the students lived on or off campus. Furthermore, the Faith administration made a good faith effort to further review and adjust some awards based on the collective current knowledge of Faith college staff most familiar with individual student exceptional need situations. Also, a minimum grant amount of \$250 was established. The result was emergency financial aid grant amounts to these 179 students that ranged from \$250 to nearly \$1,700. The entire emergency financial aid grant of \$148,517 was disbursed to students on March 29, 2021.

An email communication describing the CRRSAA funds was sent to all 179 grant recipients on March 11, 2021. The text of the email is copied below:

Dear Student,

It is hard to believe that it has been one year (March 13, 2020) since the Coronavirus outbreak was declared a national emergency here in the USA. As we all remember, this not only closed many businesses, eating establishments, churches, and sporting events, to name a few, but it also closed all schools from having class in person! As everyone scrambled to set up and adjust to online learning, we were grateful for the passing of the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) bill on March 25, which provided relief aid to students and institutions due to the disruption of campus operations. The CARES Act funds, namely the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), was a blessing to all those who qualified under the strict guidelines that were given at that time.

As the Coronavirus has continued to plague our nation, and we have seen the affects it has caused to colleges and college students, another bill passed on December 27, 2020, called the CRRSAA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act). This new law has given the Department of Education approximately \$22.7 billion to distribute to institutions of higher education in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus through the HEERF II fund. This time around, the law and guidance given has fortunately had less restriction in order for more students to qualify.

CRRSAA emergency grants require institutions to prioritize students with “exceptional need”. These funds may be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare.

The Financial Aid Office, Business Office, and Student Life have worked together to determine which students are eligible for this aid. You have qualified to receive \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**In order to disburse this aid to you, the institution (FBBC) must obtain the student’s written (or electronic), affirmative consent to apply this grant money directly to the student’s institutional account. However, the student also has the option to receive a direct disbursement of the grant in the form of a check.**

To give us your response, please click here (*Google Form*) and fill out the form to let us know how you want to receive the money. Your response is needed by Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

If we do not hear from you by the deadline, a check will automatically be issued to you and placed in your student mailbox. (Online only students’ checks will be mailed to the address we have listed on your Populi account.)

Please do not delay in responding! Let us thank the Lord together for the way He continually provides for all of our needs!

In His Service,

Alice Bunjer

Financial Aid Director

*Google Form:*

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ - YES! Please apply my HEERF II funds directly to my student account.

\_\_\_\_ - No. Please issue my HEERF II funds in a paper check to me.