Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II: Emergency Funding

Dear Bay Path students,

The past year has certainly presented challenges, but Bay Path students have demonstrated resilience, tenacity and we are proud of your commitment to your education.

One of the challenges, for many, has been the pandemic’s impact on individual and family finances. We are pleased to confirm that Bay Path has been allocated funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), to help meet students’ emergency needs.

Undergraduates who meet the criteria detailed below will receive up to $1,000 which can be used to help pay for tuition or for any emergency costs that have arisen due to the pandemic. Please note these awards are considered grants, and do not need to be repaid.

This document provides an overview of the funding, details regarding qualified recipients, and the process for distribution. A FAQ’s section is also included, if you still have questions, do not hesitate to email at sfs@baypath.edu.

Overview:
To assist students with emergency needs that have arisen due to the pandemic Congress passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) on December 27, 2020. Bay Path has been allocated over $715,583 in emergency student aid through a HEERF II Grant (the grant).

According to the CRRSAA and guidance from the Department of Education, the following factors played a pivotal role in Bay Path’s decision for awarding these funds:

- The HEERF II funds were approved on December 27, 2020 and costs prior to the enactment of CRRSAA should net be considered.
- Institutions must make financial aid grants to students, which can be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.
- Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in online education.
- Students must be a U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen.
Students must be in a qualifying degree program.

**Who Will Receive Funds:**
As a result of this guidance, Bay Path will be awarding the grant to the following groups of students, and under the following conditions:

- Spring 2021 enrolled undergraduate students who are in a qualifying degree program, enrolled full or part-time, began enrollment prior to March 31, 2021, have a 2020-21 FAFSA on file with Bay Path indicating they meet the citizenship requirements, and have an Expected Family Contribution from the FAFSA of less than $5,712.

- Students enrolled full-time will be awarded a $1,000 grant and students enrolled part-time will be awarded a grant ranging from $250 to $360. Students may not receive more than $1,000 in total HEERF II Grants.

**Timeframe and Process for Awarding:**

- The Bursar’s Office will post the grant for students through their tuition account. Once the award is applied to their tuition account, the student will be notified through their Bay Path e-mail account directing them to the “View / Path Bill” section on the My Bay Path University Portal.

- No action is needed by the student who meets the criteria outlined in the Award Notice. The grant will automatically disburse without the need for the student to do anything else. Bay Path will send a check to the student for their eligible amount of the grant.

- Students who have an outstanding tuition balance may request through the “HEERF II Grant Authorization Form” to have the grant applied to their outstanding balance. Bay Path must have the student’s consent to apply grant funds to a current outstanding tuition balance.

- If a student determines they do not meet the criteria outlined in the Award Notice, they should e-mail sfs@baypath.edu and request the grant be canceled.

- Students have the option to e-mail sfs@baypath.edu if they would like to reduce the amount of the grant, which would make funds available for another eligible student.

By accepting the grant, students are acknowledging they have a need for these funds to help with educational costs related to the Spring 2021 term, or that they have incurred emergency costs arising due to pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.
HEERF II Emergency Aid FAQ’s

What is HEERF II Emergency Aid?

To assist students with emergency needs that have arisen due to the pandemic Congress passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). According to the CRRSAA and guidance from the Department of Education, the following factors played a pivotal role in Bay Path’s decision for awarding these funds:

- Funds may be used for costs incurred on or after December 27, 2020.
- Institutions must make financial aid grants to students, which can be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.
- Unlike the CARES Act, the CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in online education.
- Students must be a U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen.
- Students must be in a qualifying degree program.

Who is eligible for funds?

Spring 2021 enrolled undergraduate students who are in a qualifying degree program, enrolled full or part-time, began enrollment prior to March 31, 2021, have a 2020-21 FAFSA on file with Bay Path indicating they meet the citizenship requirements, and have an Expected Family Contribution from the FAFSA less than $5,712. Students enrolled full-time will be awarded a $1,000 grant and students enrolled part-time will be awarded a grant ranging from $250 to $360. Students may not receive more than $1,000 in total HEERF II Grants.

Do I need to complete a FAFSA to receive a HEERF II Grant?

No action is needed by the student who meets the criteria outlined in the Award Notice. The grant will automatically disburse without the need for the student to do anything else. Bay Path will send a check to the student for their eligible amount of the grant.

What are the types of expenses covered by a HEERF II Grant?

The grant can be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

I have not incurred expenses due to pandemic, but have experienced a reduction in income in my household. Can my current financial aid package be reviewed based on this reduction in income?
It’s important to note the following:

- **HEERF II funds CANNOT** be awarded to replace lost income, so please do not submit an appeal based on this reason.
- **HEERF II funds can only be awarded based on expenses associated with the spring 2021 term.**

For example, if a COVID related job loss created challenges in paying for your rent, then you may explain this. In this situation, the focus is on paying for rent, and the lost job is creating challenges in doing so. However, if you submit an appeal that only states you lost a job, it will not be approved as we cannot approve appeals to replace lost income. An appeal of this nature does not outline any specific expense you are challenged in meeting as a result of the job loss.

If the income reduction leads to challenges in paying expenses, then it can be included as part of the appeal for HEERF II Grant funds (as outlined above). If it does not, then you go through the Financial Aid Appeal process to see if an income reduction will change your financial aid eligibility. Contact Student Financial Services at sfs@baypath.edu to discuss your specific circumstances.

**Can I request a HEERF II Grant for the fall 2020 semester?**

Unfortunately, you cannot. The CRRSAA legislation specifically states funds may only be used for costs incurred on or after December 27, 2020. This was after the conclusion of the fall 2020 term.

**I am not enrolled in the spring 2021 semester. Can I still receive a HEERF II Grant?**

No, students must be enrolled in at least a half-time basis for the spring 2021 prior to March 31, 2021 to be considered for assistance.

**Am I guaranteed to receive a HEERF II Grant if I submit an individual appeal or file a FAFSA late?**

No, funding is limited. Awards will be made as long as funds are available.

**I already received a HEERF II award, but I have additional expenses. Can I submit an appeal to receive more funding?**

No. Due to the limited funding Bay Path received and the goal to assist as many students as possible, the maximum amount any student can receive is $1,000.

**How long before I receive funds after I am awarded?**

We cannot be specific on the timeframe you will receive your funds, we can say that the refund to you will be generated as quickly as possible.

**How will I receive funds?**

Students will receive their award via a check made payable to the student and mailed to the student’s address on file with the University. Students who would like the funds to be applied to their outstanding spring semester tuition balance, can do so by completing the “HEERF II Grant Authorization Form”. These are grant awards and do not need to be repaid.
I have an outstanding tuition/housing balance for spring semester, can these funds be applied to that balance?

Yes, however, students must complete the “HEERF II Grant Authorization Form” to request Bay Path to apply the funds to the outstanding tuition balance.

Are students enrolled in a certificate program eligible for a HEERF II Grant?

No, only students enrolled in a degree-seeking program are eligible to receive funds.

Will a HEERF II Grant affect other aid I have already received?

No, HEERF II Grant awards will not reduce your financial aid package.

Can undocumented students and international students receive a HEERF II grant?

No, international and undocumented students are not eligible for HEERF II Grant.

Is money I receive from CRRSAA in the form of a HEERF II Grant taxable?

It is our understanding based on information from the U.S. Department of Education that the grant awarded to students under the CRRSAA are not treated as taxable income. The same is true for HEERF I funds awarded under the CARES Act. According to the IRS website, "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 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income."