

Gallaudet HEERF Report #5 – April 10, 2021

1. Gallaudet University signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 21, 2020. Under the HEERF I program, the University was awarded \$1,642,996, of which the University intended to use no less than 50 percent of the \$1,642,996 provided to Gallaudet under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. In January 2021, The University was awarded \$2,601,481 under the HEERF II program, which requires the University to use at least \$831,498 on Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. Gallaudet has been awarded \$1,642,996 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. As of March 31, 2021, the University has drawn down \$796,745.24.
3. As of March 31, 2021, the University has distributed \$811,544.78 to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Gallaudet indicated its approach to disbursing grants to students in previous reports. The remaining funds under HEERF I will be combined with the funds awarded from HEERF II to disburse additional student grants in April 2021.
4. As of March 31, 2021, Gallaudet has received a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form from 1,071 students who were enrolled during Spring 2021. (Note: For purposes of HEERF distribution, Gallaudet considered any completed FAFSAs in the 19-20, 20-21, or 21-22 academic years). While not all of these students received federal aid or met other Title IV eligibility requirements, this is the most conservative number to report as an estimate at this time.

There were an additional 131 students who were U.S. citizens or permanent residents who had not completed the FAFSA, but who might have been eligible for Title IV funding if the FAFSA was completed.

5. As of March 31, 2021, 974 students have received an emergency financial aid grant from the University under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. These students received their emergency financial aid grant under the existing parameters that Gallaudet has established for the HEERF I program.
6. During March 2021, the University worked to determine which students were eligible for HEERF II grants and in what amount. Based on the guidance about needing to prioritize students with exceptional financial need, the University used the expected family contributions from the FAFSA

and the full-time cost of attendance to determine a student's financial need. The financial need was then pro-rated by the number of credits that a student was taking to calculate a revised financial need. Gallaudet will distribute the funds to all students using a flat rate amount for all students plus a percentage of financial need.

7. The University sent out a series of emails to students during March 2021 as reminders regarding the HEERF II funding as follows:

Email to Students without FAFSAs – February 22, 2021

Dear Student,

As you may have learned recently, Gallaudet received additional funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are funds that have been set aside for grants to be given to students enrolled during the Spring 2021 semester.

The purpose of these funds is to help students with the ongoing financial impact of COVID 19. The law requires us to distribute the funding to eligible students equitably, prioritizing those with the highest financial need first.

The most reliable way for us to determine a student's financial need is by using the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, our records indicate that you have not completed a FAFSA for this year or last year.

If you would like to be considered for payment under the HEERF, please [complete the FAFSA](#) no later than **March 15, 2021**. Please be sure to include Gallaudet's school code on the FAFSA: **001443**

**This payment is not a financial aid award**, but the FAFSA is still necessary so we can determine and document your financial need. If you have any questions about the FAFSA process, please contact the Financial Aid Office at [financial.aid@gallaudet.edu](mailto:financial.aid@gallaudet.edu) or by calling (202) 618-6844 (videophone) or (202) 651-5290 (voice).

**Again, to ensure the most prompt handling of student grants, we would appreciate you completing your FAFSA no later than March 15, 2021.**

***Email 1 – March 16, 2021***

Dear Student,

*To view this message in ASL, please click here: <https://youtu.be/YF0Dyzt35w>*

I hope you are having a good semester. Things are looking up; the coronavirus appears to be lessening, and vaccines are becoming more widely available. President Biden said last night that his goal is to have enough vaccines for all adult Americans by May 1. We at Gallaudet hope to be able to bring you back to campus this summer and fall.

In the past year, Congress has passed several bills related to coronavirus relief. The most recent one, the American Rescue Package, passed both houses of Congress this week. President Biden signed it into law yesterday. This \$1.9 trillion relief package authorizes one-time stimulus payments, extends unemployment benefits, makes changes to the tax code to benefit families with children, provides money to help schools reopen and cities and states to regain their economic footing.

This bill, and the bills that became law last year, also provides significant support to us at Gallaudet University, to be used for direct emergency grants to you, our students. You can use this money to offset the costs to attend Gallaudet or for additional expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants are not considered financial aid or other taxable income. We are very grateful to Congress for its sustained support of our mission to educate deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, and hearing students.

We will be distributing money to you, our students, to support you, as you complete the spring semester. Before we can do this, we want as many students as possible to authorize direct deposit of these funds to their student accounts. This will make it easier for us to send you money. Many students have already set up direct deposit; some have not.

*This is the information we have on file for you through Heartland/ECSI: **Paper Check**. Please review it.*

- If you already have direct deposit, make sure it goes where you want it to go. If your information is correct, no action is required on your part.
- If you do not have direct deposit, we strongly recommend that you set it up through logging into your Heartland/ECSI account (information is attached regarding setting up your account)
- If you do not have any information on file with us, again we strongly recommend that you set it up through logging into your Heartland/ECSI account (information is attached regarding setting up your account)

We will send you one more reminder between now and March 31, 2021. Our goal is to start distributing funds on April 6, 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [caresact@gallaudet.edu](mailto:caresact@gallaudet.edu). In the meantime, stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

***Lisa Clarke***  
Interim Chief Financial Officer

Email 2: March 26, 2021

March 26, 2021

To view this message in ASL, please click here: <https://youtu.be/Xvc6uUCTwgc>

Dear Student:

I wrote on March 16 to tell you that Gallaudet has received a supplemental appropriation from Congress, and that we will be distributing this money to you, our students, in the form of grants. You can use this money to offset the costs to attend Gallaudet or for additional expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants are not considered financial aid or other taxable income. We are very grateful to Congress for its sustained support of our mission to educate deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, and hearing students.

Before we can distribute this money, we want as many students as possible to authorize direct deposit to their student accounts. Many students have already set up direct deposit; some have not.

This is the information we have on file for you through Heartland/ECSI: ***Paper Check.***

Please review it.

***If you have already made a change on your account after our first email, you are all set and do not need to do anything further.***

- If you already have direct deposit, make sure it goes where you want it to go. If your information is correct, no action is required on your part.
- If you do not have direct deposit, we strongly recommend that you set it up through logging into your Heartland/ECSI account (information is attached regarding setting up your account)

- If you do not have any information on file with us, again we strongly recommend that you set it up through logging into your Heartland/ECSI account at [www.heartlandecsi.net](http://www.heartlandecsi.net) (further information is attached regarding setting up your account)

Our goal is to start distributing funds on April 6, 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [caresact@gallaudet.edu](mailto:caresact@gallaudet.edu). In the meantime, stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

***Lisa Clarke***

Interim Chief Financial Officer