



Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) Frequently Asked Questions: Round 1

Am I eligible for a HEERF III grant?

- To be eligible for HEERF III grant funds (round 1) you must have been a student enrolled at Springfield College in the spring '21 semester. You must also have filed a 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **OR** have filed the Springfield College HEERF III Grant Application for international students and FAFSA non-filers. A link will be emailed to your Springfield College email account if you are eligible to complete the HEERF III Grant Application. You do not need to complete both.

What can I use the grant for?

- HEERF III grant funds are intended to **reimburse** you for some expenses you may have incurred and/or some income and wages lost as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those expenses can include food, emergency housing, health care, child care, technology, course materials, and transportation.

Is the HEERF III grant taxable?

- The most recent information indicates that the HEERF III grant funds are not taxable, but you should consult with a licensed tax preparer.

When will I receive my grant funds?

- Assuming you met the eligibility requirements you can expect to receive your HEERF III grant funds by the end of July 2021.

How was the grant calculated?

- Using guidance from the US Education Department, a committee at Springfield College developed a formula to distribute the funds as widely as possible, at the same time making the grants meaningful. Federal regulations required that Springfield College prioritize domestic, undergraduate students with the greatest need (i.e. Pell Grant eligible)

Can I use the grant funds to reduce my balance due?

- Yes, HEERF III grant can be used to reduce your balance due to Springfield College. However, we will need your authorization to apply the HEERF III funds to your account. The HEERF III Funds to Account Authorization can be found on PrideNET (https://pridenet.springfield.edu/ICS/Academics/My_HEERF_3.jnz).

Where can I see the amount of my HEERF III grant?

- If eligible HEERF III grants are displayed on the award menu of My Financial Aid.

Are HEERF III grants to be reported on my FAFSA?

- No, HEERF III grant funds are not counted as income for purposes of calculating an Expected Family Contribution (EFC).