

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Student Portion

Period: January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021

As required by the U.S. Department of Education (the Department), Columbia College Chicago is providing the below information regarding the college's receipt and distribution of funding received under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260).

This disclosure does not include funds disbursed under CARES as those funds are listed in a separate disclosure on [Columbia's consumer information page](#).

1. Columbia College Chicago signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that Columbia will use the applicable amount of funds designated under CRRSAA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. Columbia College Chicago has received \$3,170,771 from the Department pursuant to our Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under CRRSAA.
3. From January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, we distributed \$2,998,950 to students under CRRSAA.
4. Columbia College Chicago estimates that 5,500 students at Columbia are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Eligibility for Federal Student Aid was an eligibility requirement during this reporting period.
5. From January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, 4,962 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under CRRSAA.
6. To determine which students received Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under CRRSAA, Columbia completed the following:
 - a. Identified students who were Title IV eligible by reviewing students enrolled for the Spring 2021 term with a valid FAFSA on file with successful database matches for 2020/21. Students were also required to be degree-seeking and meeting the published standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students had until February 5, 2021 to demonstrate that they are Title IV eligible by submitting a 2020/21 FAFSA
 - b. Awarded and refunded a need-based, one-time grant to the 4,962 students who met the standards of Title IV eligibility and were enrolled for Spring 2021. The dollar amount awarded varied from \$250 to \$800, and the dollar amount was based on the student's Expected Family Contribution to prioritize exceptionally needy students. This block grant was awarded with the understanding that all enrolled students experienced expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - c. Provided an Emergency Grant application in which Title IV eligible students who had more significant expenses and financial hardship could apply for additional funding. Students were provided a link to an online application in which they described their expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A committee of student services professionals reviewed the applications and made decisions on individual Emergency Grants which depended on the expenses described by the applicants and the overall funding available to award. The Emergency Grant application was due by March 1, 2021, 4:00 p.m. CST
7. The following instructions were provided to students:
 - a. In a college-wide announcement on January 25, 2021, students were provided the following instructions to receive CRRSAA funding:

- i. Ensure that they remain enrolled in at least one credit hour for the Spring 2021 term and have a valid FAFSA on file for the 2020/21 academic year no later than February 5, 2021
- ii. Update their direct deposit or mailing address in their student portal to ensure timely delivery of the funds.
- iii. All students who remained enrolled and demonstrated Title IV eligibility would receive a need-based grant based on their EFC, and did not need to take any further steps to receive the grant
- iv. All students who remained enrolled and demonstrated Title IV eligibility and needed to request additional funding for their expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic were provided the option to complete an electronic application for an Emergency Grant. Students were notified of the Emergency Grant application opening on February 22, 2021 and that applications were due by March 1, 2021, 4:00 p.m. CST. Students were informed that a committee would review their grant applications and make final decisions regarding awards. Students will be notified of the outcome of these committee decisions via email no later than April 2, 2021.