

Dear student,

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) released guidance related to HEERF emergency grant funding to higher education institutions.

Our institution determined funds would be allocated to the largest number of students possible due to impacts of COVID-19 related events. Pell eligible students received priority funding. However, based on our institution's determined criteria, certain non-Pell eligible students were also considered eligible for funding. Any disbursed emergency grant funds will be released to you by either refund check or direct deposit, depending on the method you have setup with the college. However, a student may have also authorized funds be applied to an eligible outstanding balance on a student account. A payment is not necessarily a reflection of your current student account balance, as these funds are disbursed directly to a student in the absence of an authorization or may not have been sufficient to cover a student's full outstanding balance.

Although you are considered qualifying based on institutional criteria, USDOE regulations require funds be used to assist with 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 child care. Therefore, any emergency grant funds disbursed to you must be used for such qualifying expenses. Your application for funding completed in the student portal confirms you have a financial need due to COVID-19.

Our staff are available and willing to assist you with any additional questions you may have at this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them at: CARES@Columbiastate.edu .

Stay safe!