

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II 84.425Q Proprietary Institution Grant Funds for Students Quarterly Report

On February 16, 2021, New York Film Academy entered into an agreement with the US Department of Education to award Higher Education Relief Funds for Proprietary Institution Grants for Students. Unlike the original CARES funding, this law requires that NYFA prioritize HEERF exclusively for students with “exceptional need.” The US Department of Education defines students with exceptional need as those with Pell Grant eligibility and students with an exceptionally low expected family contribution (EFC) between 0 and 5846 as determined by the U.S. Department of Education from the Student Aid Report generated by the student’s FAFSA.

On May 11th 2021, the US Department of Education announced in the Department’s final rule the term “student,” for purposes of the phrases “grants to students,” “emergency financial aid grants to students,” and “financial aid grants to students” as used in the HEERF programs, is now defined as any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in [34 CFR § 668.2](#)) at an eligible institution (as defined in [34 CFR § 600.2](#)) on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus ([85 FR 15337](#)). Thus, students are no longer required to be eligible for Title IV student financial aid in order to receive HEERF grants to students.

A revised award criteria was developed for equal access for all new and continuing students distributing funds to students in each semester in the 2021 fiscal year. This criterion has been updated to include any NYFA student that was enrolled in the institution on or after March 13, 2020, that demonstrates exceptional need through documentation submitted for review by the financial aid office.

Total Allocation	\$2,118,205	Pell Eligible or Exceptional Need	Average Award Amount
		Estimated Number of Awards	
Spring 2021	\$282,500	264	\$1,000
Summer 2021	\$601,350	312	\$2500
Fall 2021	\$617,178	275	\$2200
Spring 2022	\$617,177	275	\$2200

NYFA has contacted all Federal Student Aid recipients with an EFC between 0 and 5846 requesting that they acknowledge their HEERF funding through an online form. This acknowledgement collects their preference for receiving these funds. Students were given the option to accept direct payment or to credit their billing account for an unpaid balance. Students that requested funds for unpaid balances were contacted to complete and sign an authorization to credit their account with HEERF funding.

The following is a summary of the cumulative HEERF Funds awarded for the Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 semesters.

Eligible Students Awarded	312
Completed Acknowledgements	312
Students Paid to Date	312
Total Funds Paid to Date	883,850

Any student who is not currently eligible for a Pell Grant and has experienced a significant financial hardship through loss of family income or assets may notify their financial aid office of these changes for an updated review of their financial aid eligibility using the link provided below.

[Link to Income Loss Appeal Form](#)

Any request of this type must include documentation to substantiate the loss of income. Examples of required documentation may include, statements of unemployment benefits, current paycheck stubs showing reduced hours or pay rates, or documentation of income loss for self-employed individuals.