

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Reporting

On April 27, 2020 New York Film Academy (NYFA) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution intends to use, no less than \$869,363 (50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

All students currently eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 that have completed the designated online application and the required EFT authorization forms will qualify for an award from the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

The online application (link below) was designed to collect and document the student's expenses related to the conversion to remote learning and changes to campus operations. Eligible expenses include food, housing, course materials, software licenses, technology, health care and childcare.

<http://www.nyfa.edu/caresgrant>

Students that have completed the online application but have not confirmed their eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 have been contacted to complete a Free Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA). A link to the FAFSA is included below.

[Link to the FAFSA Application](#)

A grant award amount criterion has been developed using an equitable distribution of the total amount of funding, divided by the number of actively enrolled grant applicants, distributed over the semesters affected by the pandemic. The cash grant awards will be paid directly to students that have documented their additional expenses due to changes in campus operations resulting from the pandemic. An additional fund amount has been reserved for students with the highest need and will be awarded on a case by case basis using professional judgement by the financial aid office.

As of September 30th, 2020, NYFA notified 470 NYFA students who were estimated to be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus, eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

As of April 10, 2021, 372 students have completed the online application for the HEERF funding. A daily report of new online applications is sent to the financial aid office and new awards are created weekly.

Application and Award Summary 04/10/2021

Student Summary Recorded on 09/30/2020	Number of Students
Estimated Eligible CARES Grant Recipients	470
Completed CARES ACT Online Application	372
Awarded CARES Act Funds	365
Total Awarded Funds as of 09-30-2020	\$711,500

Current Award Totals	
Total Authorized	\$869,636.00
Spring Awards Paid to Date	\$219,500.00
Summer Awards Paid to Date	\$265,500.00
Allocated Fall	\$225,950.00
Remaining*	\$157,686.00

*The Remaining amounts have been transferred to the institutional portion per the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 116-260) (CRRSAA).

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.

An award criterion was developed for equal access for all new and continuing students distributing funds to students in each semester in the 2021 fiscal year. A reserve amount has been designated in each semester for students that appeal for exceptional financial difficulties.

		Pell Eligible/Exceptional Need	Award Amount	Reserve Fund	Award Amount
Total Allocation	\$1,266,543.00				
Number of Students		314		108	
Spring 2021	\$422,181.00	\$314,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$108,181.00	\$1,000.00
Summer 2021	\$422,181.00	\$314,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$108,181.00	\$1,000.00
Fall 2021	\$422,181.00	\$314,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$108,181.00	\$1,000.00

The following are the amounts paid to date for the Spring 2021 semester.

		Pell Eligible/Exceptional Need	Award Amount	Reserve Fund	Award Amount
Total Allocation	\$1,266,543.00				
Number of Students		251		171.181	
Spring 2021	\$422,181.00	\$251,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$171,181.00	\$1,000.00

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 HEERF Funds awarded for the Spring 2021 semester.

Eligible Students Awarded	315
Completed Acknowledgements	277
Students Paid to Date	252

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.