

## **HEERF II FAQ's**

### **What does HEERF stand for?**

HEERF is an acronym for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

### **Where are the HEERF II funds coming from?**

HEERF II funding was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA): Public Law 116-260, signed into law on December 27, 2020.

### **What criteria did the Government use to determine eligibility for the HEERF II funding?**

Federal guidelines require universities to give priority to students with high financial need. In addition, TCU selected students who:

- were enrolled on the last day of class for the Spring 2021 term.
- have filed an official 2020-2021 FAFSA or TASFA.
- demonstrated an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) between \$0 - \$10,000 and an Annual Gross Income of \$65,000 or less.
- completed the federal verification process, if selected.

### **How are individual award amounts determined?**

Amounts are based on results of the FAFSA or TASFA, enrollment classification, and hours enrolled. Priority funding is given to undergraduate students with high financial need.

#### **Undergraduate Students**

##### **\$0 - \$5,711 EFC – (Pell Eligible)**

Full-time	\$2,000
Part-time	\$1,000

##### **\$0 - 10,000 EFC – (Non-Pell Eligible)**

Full-time	\$1,500
Part-time	\$750

#### **Graduate Students**

\$0 - \$10,000 EFC	\$750
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### **What is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and where can it be found?**

The EFC is calculated as part of the FAFSA/TASFA process and is based on a family's financial situation and household information, and is normally used to determine eligibility for need-based federal and state aid programs. The federal EFC is visible upon completion of the FAFSA and can be found on the Student Aid Report (SAR) received by students. To view the 2020-2021 federal EFC and full Student Aid Report, go to the [FAFSA website](#).

### **How will HEERF II funds be disbursed?**

Funds will be distributed directly to students using Chase Bank's QuickPay® system, a free and secure way to transfer money. Funds will not be disbursed to TCU student accounts. Students who do not currently use Chase QuickPay® will need to set up an account in order to receive funding. However, you are not required to have a checking or savings account with Chase Bank to use the QuickPay® service. Anyone with a U.S. bank account can receive money through Chase QuickPay®. When funds become available for disbursement, students will receive an email from [Chase Bank with instructions](#) on how to complete the transfer.

### **Is the bank account number the same as the bank credit/debit card number?**

No, the bank account number is not the same as a credit/debit card number. You can obtain your account information from your bank statement, mobile banking app, or from a paper check.

### **What if a student doesn't have a U.S. bank account or can't complete the QuickPay® setup process?**

QuickPay® is the easiest and fastest way to receive your money. However, if you don't have a U.S. bank account, or encounter a setup problem, please contact Financial Services at [finserv@tcu.edu](mailto:finserv@tcu.edu) or 817-257-7836.

### **Can the university apply the funds to the balance owed on a TCU student account or toward student summer/fall tuition charges?**

No. All funds will be paid directly to students. Once received, students may use the money to make a payment to their TCU student account through TCU [student payments](#).

### **When will HEERF II funds be disbursed?**

TCU is working to distribute these funds as quickly as possible. We anticipate notifying students of their eligibility during the first 2 weeks of June 2021.

Once the Chase QuickPay® account has been set up and funds accepted, the transfer of dollars from TCU to the student bank account will usually take only minutes. However, we do ask that you allow three business days before contacting the [Financial Services Office](#).

### **Are HEERF II funds considered taxable income?**

Our understanding is that these funds are not taxable. However, students should always refer to [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for guidance and the latest information.

### **If a student did not qualify for funds under the HEERF II program, but still needs help with expenses directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic, are other additional funds available?**

There may be additional sources of funding available to students who did not qualify for HEERF II assistance but continue to experience financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students with additional financial needs related to their student accounts should contact the [Office of Scholarships and Student Financial Aid](#).

**Will more funding be available later?**

TCU anticipates another allocation of federal funds, through HEERF III, sometime during the next school year.