

BAY MILLS Community College

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) CRRSAA: Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students For the Calendar Quarter Ending March 31, 2021 INITIAL REPORT Issued July 9, 2021

Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) received \$111,249, which was designated to provide financial aid grants to students, from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). The CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize students with *exceptional* need, such as students who receive Pell grants, and authorizes grants to students enrolled exclusively in distance education. Students must use the CRRSAA grants to cover expenses related to their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare. BMCC also received \$417,617 for the institutional aid, which may be used to provide additional financial aid grants to students.

The Department of Education requires reports for the calendar quarters January-March and April-June to be conspicuously posted on the College's website by July 10, 2021. Thereafter, quarterly reports are required no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter (September 30, December 31, March 31, June 30).

The following information is being provided to comply with the U.S. Department of Education's reporting requirements:

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Institutions who received HEERF I grant funds under the CARES Act were not required to submit an application for the HEERF II grant. BMCC received its HEERF II Grant Award Notification on January 19, 2021. BMCC agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the award and will use no less than \$111,249, as stated under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA, to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

2. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA.

On January 19, 2021, BMCC was awarded \$111,249 to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

As of March 31, 2021, a total of \$297,400 was distributed to students for the Spring, 2021 semester, which consisted of \$111,249 from the HEERF II student aid and \$186,151 from the HEERF II institutional aid.

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA.

For the Spring, 2021 semester, BMCC determined that 373 students were eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant out of a total of 424 students enrolled.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under CRRSAA.

As of March 31, 2021, 373 students received an emergency financial aid grant, which consisted of 139 from the HEERF II student aid and 234 from the HEERF II institutional aid.

6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA.

Our goal was to distribute the CRRSAA student grants as widely and equitably as possible, while complying with the Department of Education's regulations and guidance, and prioritizing students with the greatest need.

BMCC established the <u>eligibility requirements</u> and then determined the <u>award amounts</u> using a 3-tier approach to prioritize students with exceptional financial need based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the FAFSA. The award amounts for the Spring, 2021 semester were based on student enrollment status as of March 15, 2021.

## 7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

To distribute the funds more quickly and ensure that all eligible students receive funding, the College identified the eligible students and sent them an <u>email</u>, based on their EFC, notifying them of the funding, award amount, check distribution date, and how the funds may be used. Students were also

allowed to apply their emergency financial aid grant to their student account, if they gave affirmative, written consent. If students owed a balance, we sent them an <u>email</u> notifying them of the option and asked them to complete the attached <u>form</u>.

A <u>letter</u> was also mailed to the students with the emergency financial aid grant check.

Students who were missing their high school transcripts or GED were sent an <u>email</u> notifying them of potential eligibility.

The emails and letter included a link to the website with detailed information about the CRRSAA Student Emergency Grants, which can be found <u>here</u>.