



The Omega Studios' School of Applied Recording Arts and Sciences

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

HEERF 2

June 17, 2021 Report

Following are excerpts from the Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, Notice of Interpretation (4000-01-U):

“...On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency to respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, under section 501(b) of the Stafford Act. Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), 85 FR 15337. Soon thereafter, on March 27, 2020, Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116–136, to help Americans during the economic and health crises created by the COVID–19 outbreak. Among its many provisions, the CARES Act provided the Department with a \$14.2 billion appropriation designated as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to be distributed to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

In the midst of this continued crisis, on December 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260). This law made available an additional \$22.7 billion for IHEs under the HEERF programs, with funding appropriated for the existing (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) programs previously authorized under the CARES Act, as well as funding for a new (a)(4) program authorized under the CRRSAA.

Section 314(c) of the CRRSAA provides the following allowable uses for funds made available through that appropriation:

- (1) Defray expenses associated with coronavirus (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll);
- (2) Carry out student support activities authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, that address needs related to coronavirus; or
- (3) Provide financial aid grants to students.”

In its management of the HEERF2 funds, Omega Studio’s School has attempted to comply with the terms, conditions and requirements governing the school’s use of these funds awarded pursuant to section 314(a) (4) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)(Pub.L. 116-260)(award or grant) by the U.S. Department of Education governed by section 314 of the CRRSAA and following the terms and conditions of the Certification and Agreement (CFDA 84.425Q)((a)(4) Program)

Omega recognizes that under section 314(c)(3) of the CRRSAA, the school must make financial aid grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education), which may be used for 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. The school understands its responsibility to determine the amount and availability of each individual financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws, including non-discrimination laws. The school also acknowledges that under section 314(c)(3), it must prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. However, students do not need to be Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants in order to receive a financial aid grant.

Omega Studios' School of Applied Recording Arts and Sciences has been issued \$53,545.00 in HEERF 2 funds for qualifying students. School records indicate 148 students were enrolled on or after 3/12/2020 to present.

On May 8, 2021, an email was sent to all 148 students advising them of the HEERF2 grant and asked that the attached form be returned to the school. Whether accepting or declining the funds, all students were asked to respond.

June 10, 2021 thru June 12, 2021 the school attempted to leave message or speak with all candidates who had not yet responded to the email. By Saturday, June 12, 2021, the school had received 22 responses. As of June 17, 2021, ninety eight (98) applicants responded to the May 8 email.

The school is compiling data and finalizing its policies on determining the amount each student is eligible to receive. The amount will be based on the number of months the student was enrolled between 3/12/20 and June 17, 2021, the student's EFC, if applicable and the total number of students requesting funds. Formula details will be made available in the next report and a copy will be included with the disbursement checks.

The School plans to begin disbursing HEERF2 checks by mid-July, 2021.