

**CRRSAA Student Emergency Aid Funding
North Park University
2021 Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31, 2021) Report**

On December 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed into law the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260. The act provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the funds North Park University received as a Supplement under CRRSAA to the award made under the CARES Act for Emergency Financial Aid to students through Award No. P425E200431-20A.

1) CERTIFICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

North Park University signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 11, 2020. North Park University received initial funding under P425E200431 (CARES Act) on April 21, 2020 and received Supplemental Funding under P425E200431-20A (CRRSAA student emergency aid) on January 19, 2021.

2) AWARD RECEIVED

North Park University received a total of \$1,166,436 in student emergency funding under the CARES Act and a total of \$1,166,436 under the Supplement Award No. P425E2200431-20A (CRRSAA Supplement funding) for student emergency aid.

3) FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

As of 03/31/21, North Park University has distributed the full \$1,166,436 received under the Supplement Award No. P425E2200431-20A (CRRSAA – student emergency aid) and \$75,764 of the \$2,668,376 received in institutional aid received under P425F201480-20A (CRRSAA – institutional emergency aid) in student emergency aid grants using the methodology described below. The initial award of \$1,166,436 received under the CARES Act was fully distributed in 2020.

4) NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS – CRRSAA EMERGENCY GRANTS

To prioritize students with the greatest financial need, **1,665** degree-seeking traditional undergraduates, undergraduates in the School of Professional Studies, and RN Degree Completion were deemed eligible to receive emergency grants by a committee consisting of staff and leadership from the University’s Financial Aid Office, Student Administrative Services Office, the Business Office, Division of Student Engagement, the Office of Diversity and Intercultural Life, and the Office of Advancement.

Though there was no FAFSA requirement in the legislation, in order to determine a student’s need in an equitable and consistent manner in order to prioritize the neediest of students, the committee reviewed the information provided on the 2020-2021 FAFSA.

5) NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING CRRSAA EMERGENCY GRANTS

A total of **1,244** students have received emergency grants with CRRSAA funding Supplements - Award No. P425E2200431-20A (CRRSAA – student emergency aid) and Award No. P425F201480-20A (CRRSAA – institutional emergency aid).

6) METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY

The committee members identified above used the following methodology to determine student eligibility and award amounts.

EFC (estimated family contribution) was used to determine which eligible students would receive emergency grants and what amount they would receive. To prioritize students with the greatest financial need, the committee prioritized students with an EFC of \$9,000 or less received a \$1,200 emergency grant. A student must have an EFC of \$9,000 or below to qualify for the Illinois MAP Grant for undergraduate students, indicating high financial need. Undergraduate students with an EFC of \$9,001 to \$39,999 received \$500 in funding. Both Full-time and part-time students were determined to be eligible.

7) INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Per HEERF II regulations, students were given the option to use the grants to pay tuition if they actively opted in for this transfer of funds. Therefore, two different emails were sent to the students who were to receive student emergency grants: one to students who did not have an outstanding balance and one to students with outstanding balances for spring semester of the 2020-2021 academic year. The first emails were sent on 2/10/2021.

A student who wished to use the funds to pay their bill was instructed to complete an online form to authorize the transfer of funds. Upon receipt of the authorization, the funds would be transferred to the student's tuition account.

A student who did not currently have an account balance, but wished to reduce borrowing for the spring term, was given that option in their communication. In those cases, the funds would be transferred to the student's tuition account, and then the loans would be adjusted accordingly.

The initial emergency grant funds were distributed as soon as possible to eligible students via ACH. Students were able to provide their banking information online through Self Service to ensure the timely disbursement of funds. A separate general ledger and AR type were created to ensure that these funds remain separate from a student's tuition account.

Transfers to tuition accounts and the distribution of emergency funds directly to students via ACH was done on a weekly basis for four weeks (2/10-3/10).

Communication to Students receiving the funds without outstanding account balances:

Subject line: CRSSAA Emergency Relief Grant through North Park University

As a result of the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRSSAA), North Park University has been awarded federal funding to help students who have exhibited the highest financial need based on the information presented on their 2020-2021 FAFSA with emergency costs that have presented as a result of the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

The University has determined that, based on your need, you are eligible and prioritized for an emergency grant. Undergraduate students exhibiting the most need will be given a grant of \$1200. Another subset of undergraduate students with less need will receive \$500.

For you to receive these funds as quickly as possible, please go online to Self Service, www.northpark.edu/selfservice, and provide your account information in the Banking tab. Disbursements will be made every Friday, starting next week, and you will receive the funds shortly thereafter. If you do not have a bank account, please reply to this email, and arrangements will be made to issue you a paper check.

If you/your parent have borrowed loans this year, and would rather reduce the amount you have borrowed instead of receiving the funds directly, please reply to this email with your request.

We hope that these funds will assist you and your family in this time of need.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Office of the President

Communication to students with outstanding balances for Spring semester of the 2020-2021 academic year:

Subject line: CRSSAA Emergency Relief Grant through North Park University

As a result of the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRSSAA), North Park University has been awarded federal funding to help students who have exhibited the highest financial need based on the information presented on their 2020-2021 FAFSA with emergency costs that have presented as a result of the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

The University has determined that, based on your need, you are eligible and prioritized for an emergency grant. Undergraduate students exhibiting the most need will be given a grant of \$1200. Another subset of undergraduate students with less need will receive \$500.

You have the option to put your funds towards your outstanding tuition balance, which will lower what you owe for this term. You must actively **opt-in** to have your funds posted to your student account by completing this online form, <https://npu.wufoo.com/forms/qkc6av116ze34/>.

If you would rather receive these funds directly, please go online to Self Service, www.northpark.edu/selfservice, and provide your account information in the Banking tab. Disbursements will be made every Friday, starting next week, and you will receive the funds shortly thereafter. If you do not have a bank account, please reply to this email, and arrangements will be made to issue you a paper check.

We hope that these funds will assist you and your family in this time of need.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Office of the President

For faculty/staff:

As a result of the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRSSAA), North Park University has been awarded federal funding to help students who have exhibited the highest financial need based on the information presented on their 2020-2021 FAFSA with emergency costs that have presented as a result of the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

After careful consideration about how to disburse these funds, it was determined undergraduate students exhibiting the most need will be given a grant of \$1,200. Another subset of undergraduate students with less need will receive \$500. Eligible students are being contacted directly regarding these funds.

Students who have outstanding balances for the spring term will have the option to put their grant funds towards their tuition, but must actively opt in. Students who do not owe for the spring (or opt to receive the funds directly) will be directed to enter their account information in the Banking tab in Self Service so that they can receive these funds via ACH. Students without valid bank accounts will be issued paper checks. Funds will be disbursed within the coming weeks.

If you encounter students who have questions, you can direct them to NPUCARESAct@northpark.edu. Staff in the Business Office and Student Administrative Services will be administering this program.

Thank you for your time.

Office of the President