



Cornell University

Dear Student,

I hope this letter finds you thriving in your Cornell experience. I'm writing today with an update regarding the upcoming distribution of federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant assistance for students.

The Coronavirus Assistance, Relief and Economics Security Act (CARES, 2020), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA, 2021), and the American Rescue Plan, (ARP, 2021) provide HEERF funds intended to ensure that learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cornell University received and distributed \$6,490,000 to many students enrolled during the Spring of 2020, and expects to distribute an additional \$23,000,000 in HEERF funds to eligible students mostly during the Fall 2021 semester. Cornell is required to prioritize delivering HEERF Emergency Grants to students with greatest documented financial need. Students who receive grants may use them for any portion of the cost of attendance or for any emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, including but not limited to tuition; food; housing; health care; or child care. **You have been identified as one of the students eligible for a HEERF Emergency Grant distribution.**

Cornell will begin distributing HEERF Emergency Grants September 13, 2021.

First: once it has been posted to your account, you can view the amount of your HEERF Emergency Grant in your Cashnet account. Information and instructions for accessing your Cashnet account are located on the [Office of the Bursar's website](#).

Next, the Office of the Bursar will distribute and deliver HEERF Emergency Grants to you by direct deposit or by paper check.

If you are enrolled in [direct deposit](#) for bursar refunds, your HEERF funds should post to your designated bank account in 2-3 business days. You can also change your refund method to [direct deposit](#) now, or update your banking information, by logging in to the [Nelnet](#) refund system. (Do this within 24 hours of this email notification).

- If direct deposit is not selected, a **paper check** will be available 7 business days after the date that the funds post to your account. You can either make an appointment via [Cornell Chatter](#) to pick up your paper check from the Office of the Bursar, or you can email bursar@cornell.edu using your Cornell email address, and in that email provide a current address where you would like to receive your check via standard mail.

If you have any questions about how to access your profile or make changes to your refund method, please contact the Office of the Bursar at bursar@cornell.edu or Monday - Friday, 10am-1pm/2-4pm, 607-255-2336.

How you spend HEERF Emergency Grant funds is your choice:

- No part of your HEERF funds will be applied or used to offset any other existing charges, debts, or unpaid balances in your Cornell account.
- Your HEERF Emergency Grant is not subject to Federal tax or withholding.
- Your HEERF Emergency Grant will not impact any existing financial aid awards and will not be included in evaluating your future eligibility for Cornell financial aid.

You can find additional information about the allocation and delivery of HEERF Emergency Grants on the Cornell University COVID-19 Response page, under [HEERF Emergency Funding](#), which is updated regularly to describe new developments in funding and awarding: <https://covid.cornell.edu/cares-act/>

If you have any questions not answered above, please send them to caresfund@cornell.edu.

With warmest wishes,

Jonathan Burdick
Vice Provost for Enrollment
Cornell University