Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II
CRRSAA, which established and funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II), directs institutions to use this new federal funding to provide direct emergency financial grants to students for expenses related to any component of their cost of attendance, including: tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health) and child care.

Eligibility for CRRSAA Funding Through HEERF II
To establish eligibility for funding at UCSB, undergraduate students are required to complete the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to accurately determine financial need.

COVID CRRSAA Grant
UCSB Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships has established the COVID CRRSAA Grant to make direct awards to eligible undergraduate students. Award amounts are based on financial need: Pell Grant recipients received the largest awards, followed by non-Pell Grant recipients that were otherwise grant eligible, and non-grant recipients with demonstrated financial need received the most modest awards. Targeted populations in each of the three categories received special consideration, including: student parents, formerly incarcerated students, former foster youth, unaccompanied homeless youth and students with an approved dependency override appeal. A total of 11,193 students received awards ranging from $450 to $1,250, equaling $9,690,350 in emergency funding.

Institutional Support for Dream Scholars - UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant
Current guidance excludes Dream Scholars from being considered for funding through CRRSAA. However, this population is eligible for state and institutional aid, and because we recognize that Dream Scholars are also affected, UCSB Financial Aid & Scholarships has committed funding to award undergraduate Dream Scholars using parallel eligibility criteria. Eligible Dream Scholars with a California Dream Act Application have been awarded the UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant. Award amounts range from $450 to $1,250.

Awarding Timeline
Undergraduate students were awarded on March 3, 2021. If you were determined eligible, you can view your COVID CRRSAA Grant or UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant on My Aid Status.
Refund Timeline and Processing
FAFSA applicants receiving the COVID CRRSAA Grant will be refunded in full. This means that funds will not be applied to any outstanding balance on BARC.

California Dream Act applicants receiving the UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant may see adjustments to other aid to ensure compliance with Cal Grant regulations. Funding for this grant is provided by UCSB, as we are committed to providing parallel funding for Dream Scholars, but awards must be counted for Cal Grant purposes. Typically, students will only see reductions to previously accepted loans.

Students enrolled in eRefund (direct deposit) with BARC can expect to receive their funding during the week of March 8th. If you are not signed up for eRefund, a refund check will be mailed to the permanent mailing address you have on file with BARC and is expected to be received during the week of March 15th.

Appealing for Support
We recognize that all students have been affected by the current situation in one way or another. Though we were not able to award all students, we have established an appeal process so that students can notify us of their circumstances. If you are a student that did not receive the COVID CRRSAA Grant nor the UCSB COVID19 Relief Grant but have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19, please complete the appeal available here. This process is open to undergraduate students only and will be open between March 3rd and April 1st.

Graduate Student Support
The Graduate Division will soon be awarding eligible students through their established process. More information will be provided in a forthcoming message from the Graduate Division.

International Student Support
International students who have experienced financial hardship as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic can reach out to the Financial Crisis Response Team to be considered for emergency funding. Please email Financialcrisis@sa.ucsb.edu

Summer Emergency Awards:
We understand that enrolling in Summer courses plays a critical role in ensuring that students earn their degree in a more timely manner. Since financial aid availability for Summer is typically more limited, approximately $1.4 million has been set aside for Summer emergency awards.