



May 26, 2021

TO: THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

FROM: SANFORD C. SHUGART
President

RE: SUMMER 2021 DISBURSEMENT OF CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND
RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CRRSAA) STUDENT
FINANCIAL AID GRANTS

On December 27, 2020, the President signed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). Under CRRSAA, the United States Department of Education (ED) has made available \$21.2 billion to distribute to institutions of higher education to ensure learning continues for students during the COVID-19 pandemic through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II). Valencia College will receive a total of \$59.5 million in CRRSAA funds from ED. Of this amount, at least \$13.8 million must be used for student aid.

At its February 2021 meeting, the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College approved a plan for disbursement of HEERF II student aid in Spring 2021. Following this plan, the college distributed a total of \$6.4 million in HEERF II emergency aid to 16,073 students in Spring 2021.

For the Summer 2021 semester, Valencia College will follow an identical process as it did in Spring 2021 to identify students who are potentially eligible to receive HEERF II emergency aid. Proposed award amounts for Summer 2021 have been increased compared to Spring 2021 in order to exceed the minimum required amount of student aid to be distributed from HEERF II funds. The college plans to begin distributing HEERF III aid to students in Fall 2021.

In designing the disbursement plan and in actually distributing these funds, Valencia has followed, and will follow, the requirements of CRRSAA as well as the requirements, instructions and guidance provided by the United States Department of Education and Federal Student Aid.

Summer 2021 Disbursement of Aid

The college will identify potentially eligible students who are registered in at least one course in Summer 2021, are classified as degree-seeking, and who have a valid 2020-21 FAFSA on file.

On July 14, 2021, the college will send an email to all CRRSAA aid-eligible students with information about how to access a CRRSAA aid application. The application will only be available to students eligible to receive CRRSAA aid and will only be visible to students after they have logged into Atlas. The CRRSAA aid application will ask students to confirm that they have financial need related to the cost of attendance or emergency costs related to COVID-19 (such as tuition, food, housing, health care, or childcare). Applications will be due by July 27, 2021.

To fulfill the requirement of demonstrating preference to students with exceptional need, Summer 2021 CRRSAA aid-eligible students who have an estimated family contribution (EFC) of zero and who complete an application for aid will receive a grant in the amount of \$1,200. EFC is an index number used to calculate how much financial aid students are eligible to receive; an EFC of zero reflects maximum aid eligibility. CRRSAA aid-eligible students who submit an application but do not have an EFC of zero will receive a grant in the amount of \$800.

The College's plan as presented has been drafted in consultation with outside counsel, expert in federal funding matters such as presented here. The consulting attorneys will be providing Valencia with a formal written legal opinion expressing their agreement that the College's plan is compliant with the requirements of the law and related official guidance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College authorize the College to disburse CRRSAA (HEERF II) student financial aid funds in Summer 2021 in accordance with the plan as presented, and that the Board further authorize the College to adjust the disbursement plan in a compliant manner as necessary or appropriate in the event new official guidance is issued with respect to Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) disbursements.



President