

HEERF II (CARES II) MSI Funds Guidance

HEERF II MSI funding is now available (for simplicity, we will refer to these funds as CARES 6). These funds are similar to the HEERF II Institutional funds. The timeline for the use of these funds is one calendar year from the date of your institution's award of this portion of the HEERF II funding.

Cares 6 funds can be used for expenditures "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus" **first incurred on or after December 27, 2020 through June 30, 2021.**

- MSI Funds **CAN** be used for:
 - Expenses associated with coronavirus including:
 - Lost revenue e.g. rentals, fees, commissions, sales, etc.
 - Reimbursement for expenses already incurred. These expenses must have occurred on or after December 27, 2020.
 - Technology costs associated with a transition to distance education
 - Faculty and staff trainings
 - Payroll
 - Student support activities authorized by the Higher Education Act (HEA) that address needs related to coronavirus, including but not limited to:
 - TRIO and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program activities to the extent that those activities address coronavirus needs;
 - Supporting the transition to virtual activities;
 - Purchasing PPE; and
 - Supporting other innovative learning methods that would allow an institution to engage in student support activities authorized under the HEA during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Additional financial aid grants to students that meet the HEERF II requirements for Student Grants (guidance on these new requirements is being provided USG institutions separately). The Department of Education has urged institutions to "devote the maximum amount of [Institutional] funds possible to financial aid grants to students," especially for students with the most significant financial needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- MSI Funds **CANNOT** be used for:
 - Payment to contractors for the provision of pre-enrollment recruitment activities.
 - Endowments.
 - Capital outlays associated with facilities related to athletics, sectarian instruction, or religious worship.
 - Senior administrator and/or executive salaries, benefits, bonuses, contracts, incentives, cash, or other benefit.

The HEERF II expanded use of funds authority also applies to any unexpended CARES Act Institutional (Cares 2) or HBCU/MSI/SIP (Cares 3) funds at our institution.