

# YOU at COLLEGE

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Informational Toolkit

### Summary

The **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)** was signed into law on March 11, 2021, through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), providing \$39.6 billion in funding to institutions of higher education to support student needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2022, the U.S. Department of Education extended the performance period for all open grants under HEERF until **June 30, 2023**.

HEERF grants are in addition to funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, all of which total \$76.2 billion in emergency funds available to institutions of higher education to support students.

For updates and news related to HEERF funding, please view [this link](#).

### Using emergency relief funds to partner with YOU at College

Funding dispersed through HEERF is available for use by institutions to invest in YOU at College partnerships related to any of our solutions: [YOU for Students](#), [YOU for Faculty & Staff](#), [Nod](#), and/or [FindHelpNow](#). The YOU at College founding principle is that a comprehensive approach to well-being is a key driver of student success, retention, and graduation. In line with the aims of HEERF, YOU at College helps institutions of higher education support student needs related to mental health and well-being, provides 24/7, confidential access to critical resources, and helps build a lasting impact on college campuses. If you are an administrator looking for a YOU at College partnership, please send an email to [inquiries@gritdigitalhealth.com](mailto:inquiries@gritdigitalhealth.com) or [request a demo](#) to strategize on ways your HEERF dollars can cultivate a campus-wide culture of well-being.

### Guidance for using HEERF to support mental health and well-being

1. Institutions can use HEERF Grants to invest in the mental health resources and services YOU at College provides to support students, faculty, and staff affected by the pandemic, as well as those who were struggling prior to the pandemic. Allowable uses of HEERF include initial investments in mental health resources and services that will continue to provide long-term support after HEERF funding expires.
2. Grantees have broad flexibility to use HEERF to support mental health needs. This funding can support initial investments in high-impact mental health projects related to the pandemic and also to establish the groundwork for long-term mental health resources. These efforts can mitigate long last impacts on the mental health of students, faculty, and staff who experienced struggles, isolation, and uncertainty caused by COVID-19.

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3. The pandemic increased stress and challenges for students, faculty, and staff who may need additional care to recover. Even when care is available, there are often barriers that students, faculty, and staff may face when reaching out for help. HEERF can be used to make care more accessible to the institution's community in support of pandemic-related recovery.
4. Mental health is a campus-wide issue that can affect all students, faculty, and staff. The responsibility for campus mental health does not just lie with the institution's counseling center. Resources should reach all aspects of campus life to create a culture of care on campus. HEERF grants can be used to provide short-term supports for students as an initial investment, as well as for long-term planning, where these efforts are part of the institution's response to supporting its community in response to the effects of the pandemic.

For additional information on this guidance for use of HEERF grants, please reference [this link](#) from the United States Department of Education.

This document is intended for informational purposes only and should not be used without consultation from advisors. YOU at College is not responsible for any changes to HEERF, nor any inaccuracies with respect to the above information. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the U.S. Department of Education [website](#).