

Report on Awards, Expenditures, and Uses of Federal Funds Related to the Coronavirus Pandemic

**In response to Section 63, Special Provisions Relating Only to
State Agencies of Higher Education, Fiscal Years 2022-23, General
Appropriations Act**

July 2022

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Agency Mission

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is to build a Talent Strong Texas, acting in partnership with Texas institutions of higher education to equitably support Texans graduating with postsecondary credentials of value and fostering the skills necessary to spur the innovation vital to the Texas economy.

Agency Vision

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

Agency Philosophy

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.

The THECB's core values are:

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and welcome every opportunity to educate stakeholders about our policies, decisions, and aspirations.

Efficiency: We accomplish our work using resources in the most effective manner.

Collaboration: We develop partnerships that result in student success and a highly qualified, globally competent workforce.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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Executive Summary

General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, Article III, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, added a new section, Section 63, which included a new reporting requirement for institutions of higher education related to federal funds received for the COVID-19 pandemic from state or federal agencies:

Sec. 63. Information Related to the Coronavirus Pandemic. *Each institution of higher education that has received federal funds related to the coronavirus pandemic from a state or federal agency shall report the amount of the awards, expenditures, and uses of those funds to the Higher Education Coordinating Board. The agency shall report the information collected to the Governor, Legislative Budget Board, and any appropriate standing committee in the Legislature in January and July of each fiscal year. The format and content of the report shall be specified by the Legislative Budget Board in consultation with the Higher Education Coordinating Board.*

To meet this legislative requirement, the Legislative Budget Board, in consultation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) and institutions of higher education, developed a collection for information on awards, expenditures, and uses of funds in Fiscal Years 2020 and beyond. Future collections will occur every six months and data will be updated for each subsequent report. The Coordinating Board and Legislative Budget Board will continue to work with institutions of higher education to evaluate and refine data reporting procedures.

Introduction

Data Collection Overview

In response to a new legislative requirement introduced by General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, Article III, Section 63, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, institutions of higher education (IHEs) submitted data to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The survey was divided between awards and uses of federal COVID-19-related funding. General academic institutions, health-related institutions, state and technical colleges, community colleges, system agencies, and system offices are subject to the collection. The initial collection requested information on awards, expenditures, and uses of the federal funding in Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021. Subsequent data collections will occur every six months, according to the statutory requirement, and will include another six months of data reported by the IHEs.

The awards section of the collection asked institutions to report how much funding was awarded under major pieces of COVID-19-related federal legislation. This included the following federal coronavirus pandemic-related legislation:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act
- American Rescue Plan Act
- Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act
- Other legislation not specified previously
- Pass-through funds received from other state or local entities or through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements

In the Uses section, institutions were asked to report on expenditures and obligations of the funding using similar categories to federal reporting requirements. These sections are:

- **Student Financial Support Services** — includes subcategories for emergency financial aid grants to students; reimbursements for tuition, housing, room and board, or other fee refunds; tuition discounts; covering the cost of providing additional technology hardware to students or technology fees; providing for high-speed internet to students; subsidizing housing costs for students; clearing student debt and/or covering student unpaid or outstanding balances to the institution.
- **Faculty/Staff Support & Instruction Delivery** — includes subcategories related to faculty and staff training, equipment, and technology to facilitate remote instruction.
- **Campus Safety and Operations** — includes subcategories related to managing the spread of COVID-19.
- **Lost Revenue Replacement** — includes subcategories for lost revenue from academic sources; lost revenue from auxiliary services sources (e.g., canceled ancillary events); and lost revenue from patient services.
- **Research** — includes expenditures used to support research activities.
- **Pass-Through Funds** — includes expenditures passed through to other state or local entities.
- **Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)** — includes subcategories for financial aid, reskilling and upskilling grants, accelerating credentials grants, completion grants, online learning, and reporting modernization grants, as well as other new categories that are made available to institutions.

- **Other** — includes items that did not fit into other categories.

Additionally, institutions were asked to provide data on the number of students assisted with financial support services. Due to differences among institutions and data systems, institutions were unable to provide this data consistently for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 and reported the number of students aided as either duplicated or unduplicated. A duplicated student count reports each instance a student received a type of aid across semesters within a fiscal year. An unduplicated student count reports a student once in each state fiscal year, regardless of the number of academic semesters that student received a particular type of aid. For Fiscal Year 2022, institutions have been requested to provide only unduplicated counts.

Overview of Major Federal Acts

Institutions of higher education received federal appropriations related to the COVID-19 pandemic primarily through three federal pieces of legislation: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Two funding streams provided in the legislation, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) and the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, comprise the majority of federal funds received by institutions. Institutions may have also been eligible for certain funds provided through the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Some institutions may have been eligible for federal funds provided through other funding streams as well.

HEERF and GEER Awards

Although there were some differences in how HEERF awards were distributed across the three primary pieces of federal legislation, each act allocated funds through four main purposes: emergency student aid, institutional support, additional support for historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, and supplementary funds for institutions with the greatest unmet need. Funds were awarded primarily based on the number of full-time Pell Grant recipients and non-Pell Grant recipients, and the number of students already enrolled online pre-pandemic. GEER awards passed through from the Office of the Governor to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which distributed funds to institutions through various programs.

The CARES Act distributed money to institutions of higher education primarily through the HEERF. Apart from certain subpart programs, institutions were required to spend at least 50% (the Student Portion) of their first allocation of HEERF funds (HEERF I) on emergency aid grants for students. The major categories within HEERF I were:

1. **Student Portion:** restricted to the provision of emergency aid grants to students for the purpose of expenses related to disruption caused by the coronavirus. Eligible expenses include “cost of attendance,” room and board, educational resources, technology, healthcare, and childcare.
2. **Institutional Portion:** restricted to expenses related to changes to the delivery of instruction related to the coronavirus pandemic and, with certain restrictions, lost revenue. Institutions may also use these funds to make additional emergency aid awards to students beyond those required in the Student Portion.
3. **Historically Black Colleges and Universities:** may be used for lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll. The U.S. Secretary of Education awarded these funds based on eligibility requirements tied to the definition of historically Black universities established in the federal Higher Education Act of 1965.

4. **Minority-Serving Institutions:** awarded by the federal Secretary of Education to institutions that are eligible to receive funds under certain other programs for the benefit of certain ethnic or racial groups.
5. **Strengthening Institutions Program:** awarded on application by the federal Secretary of Education to institutions that are not eligible for grants under certain other programs.
6. **Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education:** funds for institutions that received less than \$500,000 under other HEERF I programs to increase their allocation to \$500,000.
7. **Institutional Resilience and Expanded Postsecondary Opportunity (IREPO):** competitive grant program administered by the U.S. Secretary of Education with the aim of improving operations post-COVID.

The CARES Act also included the first of two allocations of GEER funds to governors of states to make subgrants to educational entities and institutions to prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19. This legislation required governors to award funds within one year of receiving them and states maintain support for elementary, secondary, and higher education at least at the average of the preceding three fiscal years.

CRRSAA was passed after the CARES Act and included the HEERF II allocation of funds. The primary restriction on the use of these funds was to spend the same amount of their main allocation on student emergency aid grants as they had under HEERF I (the Student Portion). Any remaining funds from the primary allocation are considered the Institutional Portion. HEERF II included the same categories of funding as HEERF I, except that IREPO grants were not funded.

CRRSAA also included the second and final allocations of GEER funds. Higher education provisions relating to GEER were similar to the previous round.

The ARPA included the third and final allocation of funds through HEERF (i.e., "HEERF III"). The funding structure was nearly identical to the HEERF II allocation. The legislation once again required at least 50% of funding provided to public and nonprofit institutions be allocated to students for emergency aid.

Provider Relief Funds

Health-related institutions of higher education may also have been eligible for Provider Relief Funds allocated through the CARES Act, CRRSAA, ARPA, and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. This fund serves eligible providers with healthcare-related expenses and lost revenues attributed to COVID-19, including providers who provided diagnostic services, testing, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19.

These payments may be pre-payments, prospective payments, or retrospective payments, and providers may use them to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Additionally, funds may be used for related expenses or lost revenues attributable to coronavirus. Funds may not be used in circumstances where another source has reimbursed or is otherwise obligated to reimburse the expenses or revenue losses. Other restrictions not listed here may also apply.

Other Coronavirus-Related Stimulus Funds

Finally, certain institutions were eligible for and received funds through a number of other federal programs, including but not limited to the following:

- Women, Infants, and Children program

- Small Business Development Center program
- Institute of Museum and Library Sciences program
- Registered Nurses in Primary Care program
- Public Assistance program (through FEMA)
- Emergency Management Program (through FEMA)
- Crisis Counseling program
- Telehealth Resource Centers program
- Promotion of Humanities program
- Child Care Development Block Grant program
- Head Start program
- Community Health Centers program (through the Department of Health and Human Services)
- Economic Adjustment Assistance program (through US Department of Commerce)
- Area Health Education Centers program
- Centers of Excellence programs
- Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement program (through the Health Resources and Services Administration)
- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part D program (through the Health Resources and Services Administration)
- Center for Disease Control grant programs
- Hospital Preparedness program
- Grants-in-Aid to Airports program

Each of these programs has specific guidance set by the administering agency, and allowable purposes will vary.

Data Summarization and Future Reporting

Given the ongoing nature of the data collection, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will maintain and summarize the data collected each six months in Excel files. The data collections have summary tabs to provide users with pertinent facts and information about the most recent data collection.

The data collections and summary files for each sector can be found in the [Section 63 Report section of the THECB website](#).

Texas Higher Education

COORDINATING BOARD

This document is available on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website:
<http://highered.texas.gov>.

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