

Siena Heights University CRRSA Act Student Aid Report #2 (09/30/2021) FINAL

PR/Award No. P425E201321-20A

Introduction

In accordance with the reporting requirements of Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Siena Heights University (SHU), an institution receiving funds under section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, is providing the following information.

Acknowledgment of Funding and Certification

SHU acknowledges that the University signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education's Certification and Agreement. The institution further certifies it will use a minimum of 50% of the funds or \$772,940, received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act and an equal amount received under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Total Awards

SHU received a total of \$2,914,879 under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act, of which at least \$772,940 was provided directly to students impacted by campus disruptions due to the novel coronavirus.

Funds Distributed to Date

On April 14, 2021, SHU awarded a total of \$56,252.65 in CARES Act and \$733,232.35 (95%) of CRRSA Act funds for a total \$789,485 in support to all known qualified Title IV students by granting PELL eligible full- and part-time students the amounts of \$750 and \$550, respectively. All other qualified full- and part-time students received \$425 and \$215 respectively. Since April 14, 2021, an additional \$2,973.20 was released to eligible full- and part-time students for extenuating circumstances. On July 2, 2021 an additional \$400 was released for extenuating circumstances. The remaining funds of \$36,334.45 for extenuating circumstances was released with HEERF III ARP Act funds. Under Section 314(a)(1) CRRSA Act, as of September 30, 2021, SHU has awarded 1,770 eligible students a total of \$792,858.20.

Student Eligibility

SHU determined a total of 1,770 students were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and therefore qualified to receive CRRSA Act emergency financial aid grants. Initially 1,770 eligible students received their grant support as of April 14, 2021. Additionally, SHU chose to hold back \$39,707.65 of the CRRSA Act funds for students with justified circumstances. As of June 30, 2021, 12 prior eligible full- and part-time students have received additional CRRSA Act support through an application process for extenuating circumstances. As of September 30, 2021, one additional student received additional CRRSA Act support.

Method Used to Determine Which Students Received Aid and How Much

SHU is committed to assisting all eligible full- and part-time students that have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to the greatest extent possible with the CRRSA Act funds to cover financial needs that include food, housing, technology, course materials, health/child care, and other related costs. The

University awarded \$56,252.65 of CARES Act and \$733,232.35 of CRRSA Act support to all known Title IV PELL eligible students by awarding \$750 and \$550 for all full- and part-time students respectively. All other qualified full- and part-time students received \$425 and \$215 respectively. The status of full- and part-time students was based on Winter 2021 enrollment. SHU considered degree-seeking undergraduate students enrolled in twelve (12) or more semester hours to be full-time for undergraduate and nine (9) semester hours for graduate studies. Students with credit hours of less than 12 for undergraduate and 9 for graduate are considered part-time.

After eligibility was established by Student Accounts and Financial Aid, an email was sent to students on March 31, 2021 allowing them to designate their refund directly to their student account. 40 students elected to have their grant applied to their student account. 1,730 students chose to have a direct refund and were processed through SHU's independent third-party vendor, BankMobile Disbursements.

In addition to the standard relief payments made available to eligible students, \$39,707.65 of CRRSA Act support funding is being used for extenuating circumstances experienced by students in addition to the original relief payment. Students are required to apply online through an easy web-based drop-down menu application. Students determined eligible for the standard payment and students eligible for Title IV, but did not file a FAFSA, may apply for the carved out additional support. The use of the additional support is determined by a campus community committee led by the University's Dean for Students, along with a faculty member and the Director of Student Accounts.

University students not eligible for CRRSA Act funding are encouraged to apply for support through the Saint's Strong Fund with an online application. The fund was established specifically to assist students with emergency needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding source is donations received from trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, and other friends of the University.

Instructions or Directions Given to the Students

On March 31, 2021 an email was sent to all eligible students indicating they would receive an emergency grant provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) aimed at helping students during the pandemic. The funds may be used for any portion of a student's cost of attendance (e.g., tuition and fees, room and board, cost of books, supplies, transportation), or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

The Office of Marketing and Communication developed a Coronavirus Information page directly on SHU's web site located at www.sienaheights.edu. Within that is a dedicated webpage that includes the CRRSA Act funding Grants FAQs, which links to the application for the Extenuating Circumstances and Saint's Strong grants (www.sienaheights.edu/shucaresfaq). Additionally, SHU offers a Daily Announcement email service that goes to all students, faculty, and staff. Within the publication is an alert notification entitled Latest SHU Coronavirus Updates with links to access the University's Coronavirus response and FAQs web pages.