



Illinois Board of Higher Education

JB Pritzker, Governor
John Atkinson, Chair • Ginger Ostro, Executive Director

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Request for Proposals FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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The Illinois Board of Higher Education released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on July 21, 2020. Applications are due August 20, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. [Full details are on the IBHE website.](#) This document provides answers to frequently asked questions pertaining to the RFP.

Who is eligible to apply for the GEER Fund RFP?

Eligible institutions are Illinois public and non-profit, independent four-year institutions of higher education that hold regional accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission.

How is "rural" defined for the application?

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designates counties as Metropolitan, Micropolitan, or Neither. A Metro area contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population, and a Micro area contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) population. All counties that are not part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) are considered rural. Micropolitan counties are considered non-Metropolitan or rural along with all counties that are not classified as either Metro or Micro. Additional information is available in OMB Bulletin 20-01 via this link:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Bulletin-20-01.pdf?#>

Can funds be used for scholarships or other forms of student financial assistance?

The purpose of the GEER Fund RFP is to support postsecondary learning and attainment of minority, first generation, rural, and Pell-eligible students. Funding may be used to provide targeted forms of financial support to mitigate barriers to initial or ongoing enrollment of these students. Applicants should indicate the rationale and evidence for these forms of financial assistance as part of their plan.

May funds be used for international students?

No. Funds should be used for services directed to domestic students.

Add the additional question between these two current questions.

What is the funding source of these monies?

This grant is funded through the Education Stabilization Fund Program Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (CFDA No. 84.425C) from the U.S. Department of Education ("GEERF"), for the purpose of providing local education agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education-related entities with emergency assistance as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19).