

APPROVED

AUGUST 10, 2021

Item #C-4
August 10, 2021

**SUPPLEMENTAL GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF (GEER) FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: An additional \$5,043,738 was made available to IBHE by the Governor and the Illinois State Board of Higher Education from the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) program to distribute to the 12 public universities. IBHE will distribute these supplemental funds, as the agency did with the initial funds, based on a formula based on enrollment and the proportion of undergraduate students who are eligible for federal Pell grants. This funding was made available via the COVID Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The goal of this program is to overcome barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic to student enrollment or continuation in their studies, particularly for low-income, first-generation, and students of color.

This additional GEER funding supplements the initial allocation of \$27,023,879 made to public universities in Fiscal Year 2021 and reappropriated for Fiscal Year 2022.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the allocation of an additional \$5,043,738 in GEER funds to Illinois' public universities in the amounts specified in Attachment A and authorize the Executive Director to execute and deliver all necessary documentation to affect such allocations of GEER supplemental funds.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**SUPPLEMENTAL GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF (GEER) FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, the U.S. Department of Education awarded funding to Governors for the purpose of providing institutions of higher education (IHEs) emergency assistance as a result of the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). These federal funds are authorized by Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law No. 116-136 (March 27, 2020), and subject to all other applicable laws. The intent of these GEER monies is to support the ability of the institutions to continue to provide educational services and the ongoing functionality of the institution. The funds are to be used to provide emergency support through grants to IHEs serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution.

Public universities received \$27,023,897 in funding from the original allocation of GEER funding the state received from the CARES Act. This supplemental allocation adds \$5,043,738, to bring the total to \$32,067,616 (see Attachment A below). Funding is allocated based on the average number of Pell eligible students a university enrolled in the fall term, over three years but weighted to take into account the proportion of the undergraduate enrollment who is low income (Pell eligible). This emphasizes that low-income students have fewer resources and their families were more likely to be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also recognizes that an objective analysis of the resources available to schools with higher proportions of low-income students also have fewer resources to draw on themselves.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the allocation of an additional \$5,043,738 in GEER funds to Illinois' public universities in the amounts specified in Attachment A and authorize the Executive Director to execute and deliver all necessary documentation to affect such allocations of GEER supplemental funds.

Attachment A: Allocations

GEER Funding Allocations to Illinois Public Universities			
	Original	Supplemental	Total
School Name	Allocation	Allocation	Funding
Chicago State University	\$ 1,133,715	\$ 210,907	\$ 1,344,622
Eastern Illinois University	\$ 1,116,569	\$ 208,426	\$ 1,324,995
Governors State University	\$ 1,233,795	\$ 230,308	\$ 1,464,103
Illinois State University	\$ 1,983,569	\$ 370,266	\$ 2,353,836
Northeastern Illinois University	\$ 2,915,146	\$ 544,161	\$ 3,459,307
Northern Illinois University	\$ 2,945,856	\$ 549,893	\$ 3,495,749
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	\$ 2,068,901	\$ 386,195	\$ 2,455,095
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	\$ 1,598,717	\$ 298,427	\$ 1,897,144
U of I at Chicago	\$ 7,069,198	\$ 1,319,584	\$ 8,388,782
U of I at Springfield	\$ 465,461	\$ 86,886	\$ 552,347
U of I at Urbana/Champaign	\$ 2,270,257	\$ 423,781	\$ 2,694,038
Western Illinois University	\$ 2,222,695	\$ 414,903	\$ 2,637,598
TOTAL	\$ 27,023,879	\$ 5,043,738	\$ 32,067,616