

**APPROVED**  
**AUGUST 10, 2021**

Item #C-6  
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**GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF GRANT FUND FOR  
COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT ALLOCATION**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** IBHE received an allocation of funds through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) program under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), passed on December 28, 2020, the second COVID-19 relief package. If approved, the Executive Director will issue a request for proposal (RFP) to private Illinois not-for-profit colleges and universities to compete for a total of \$1 million.

**Action Requested:** Granting the Illinois Board of Higher Education Executive Director authority to issue a competitive RFP for the awarding of \$1 million to private Illinois colleges and universities, to help them address learning renewal and social emotional needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF GRANT FUND FOR  
COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
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Under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, the U.S. Department of Education awarded funding to Governors for the purpose of providing educational institutions 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 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), Public Law No. 116-260 (December 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 provisions of CRRSA for GEER funding are the same as they were for the CARES Act GEER funding.

The IBHE awarded an earlier allocation of \$3 million in CARES Act GEER program funds through competitive grants to four public universities and five private, non-profit colleges and universities. These resources were to be used to overcome barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic to student enrollment or continuation in their studies, particularly for low-income, first-generation, and minority students.

The state is allocating \$1 million from its CRRSA GEER funding for competitive grants to private Illinois not-for-profit colleges and universities. Funds will be used by institutions to support the initial or ongoing enrollment of students most impacted by the pandemic, particularly low-income, first-generation, and minority students. Proposals must address supports for learning renewal and overall student well-being in conjunction with evidence-based strategies outlined in the Illinois P-20 Council's "Learning Renewal Guide."

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants the Executive Director the authority to issue an RFP for the distribution of \$1 million in grant funds from the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief (GEER) program, available through Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), for private Illinois not-for-profit colleges and universities.*