

APPROVED
AUGUST 10, 2021

Item #C-7
August 10, 2021

**GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF (GEER) FUND
ALLOCATION TO PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS (CRSSA)**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: IBHE has received from the Governor’s Office and the Illinois State Board of Education an allocation of \$9.5 million in funding from the federal Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) program the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), passed on December 28, 2020, the second COVID-19 relief package. Funds will be distributed to the public universities through a formula based on enrollment and the proportion of undergraduate students who are eligible for federal Pell grants. 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. Funds will be used by institutions to support learning renewal and social/emotional supports for students, in conjunction with evidence-based strategies outlined in the Illinois P-20 Council’s “Learning Renewal Resource Guide” and IBHE’s strategic plan, “A Thriving Illinois”.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the allocation of \$9.5 million in CRSSA GEER funds to Illinois public universities, as outlined in Attachment A, based on the formula that emphasizes the number and proportion of Pell eligible students at each university.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF (GEER) FUND
ALLOCATION TO PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS (CRRSA)**

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 under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), passed on December 28, 2020, the second federal relief package. The intent of these GEER monies is to support the ability of the institutions to continue to provide educational services. The provisions of CRRSA for GEER funding are the same as they were for the CARES Act GEER funding.

Under the first GEER program (funded through the CARES Act—the first relief package) IBHE received from the Governor's Office and the Illinois State Board of Education an initial \$27,023,979. An additional \$5,043,738 was subsequently provided to IBHE and is the subject of another Item for approval on this August agenda. The programs funded through these grants are to encourage enrollment and retention of low-income, students of color, and rural students whose enrollment might be at risk as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the second GEER program, IBHE received from the Governor's Office and ISBE \$9.5 million for award to Illinois' public universities. Funding will be distributed with a formula based on the number and percent of Pell students, similar to the initial GEER program. Funds will be used by institutions to support learning renewal and social/emotional supports in conjunction with evidence-based strategies outlined in the Illinois P-20 Council's "Learning Renewal Resource Guide" and the recommendations of the IBHE Strategic Plan, *A Thriving Illinois*.

NOTE: In addition to the GEER 2 (CRRSA) grant funding outlined in this item, the \$250,000 for the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, and the \$1 million competitive grant program for private colleges and universities, GEER 2 will provide \$575,000 over two-years to allow IBHE to staff to oversee the project and promote the P-20 Council's Learning Renewal principles, in addition to \$425,000 to ICCB for the same purposes. It also will provide IBHE with \$250,000 to fund a digital "Stay the Course" ad campaign, to encourage students to continue their educational progress to completion. The Illinois Community College Board will receive \$150,000 to help supplement a like campaign with the state's community college Presidents.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to award \$9.5 million in funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)

Governor's Emergency Educational Relief (GEER) program to Illinois' 12 public universities as enumerated in Attachment A.

Attachment A: Allocations

GEER 2 Funding Allocations to Illinois Public Universities	
University	GEER 2 Allocations
Chicago State University	407,613
Eastern Illinois University	403,671
Governors State University	447,928
Illinois State University	709,272
Northeastern Illinois University	700,856
Northern Illinois University	1,196,840
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	755,603
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	624,059
U of I at Chicago	2,461,756
U of I at Springfield	164,798
U of I at Urbana/Champaign	787,393
Western Illinois University	840,211
TOTAL	9,500,000