

# OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



Hi {#First Name#},

I am pleased to inform you that you will be receiving a federal higher education emergency relief fund financial aid grant. I know that you will find these funds helpful.

CUNY received these funds from the U.S. Department of Education to provide eligible students with financial help that may be used to pay for any component of attending college or for emergency costs that are due to the COVID-19 pandemic such as food, housing, health care – including mental health care – or childcare.

## Pay CUNY Balances

You have the option of applying the emergency grant funds to pay eligible tuition and fees on your CUNYfirst account balances. To do this, please complete the Student Permission Agreement in the Student Center under the To Do List section, listed as Fed ARPA Student Grant Fall. This choice is optional but the benefit of granting this permission is that it quickly erases or reduces applicable outstanding tuition and fees owed to CUNY. Alternatively, you can have the funds directly refunded to you to cover other college costs or pandemic-related expenses.

You can view your grant award on your CUNYfirst Student Center by clicking on View Financial Aid. If you do not wish to apply the grant funds to your student account, or if there is a credit after it is applied, the funds will be directly refunded to you. Your Account Activity in CUNYfirst will list a Refund of Financial Aid transaction within 14 days of this letter. If you have signed up for direct deposit, your funds will be

available in your bank account about three business days after the 14 day mark. Allow 7-10 days for mail delivery if you have not signed up for direct deposit.

I urge you to sign up for direct deposit instead of receiving a check by mail. To sign up, visit [www.cuny.edu/studentrefunds](http://www.cuny.edu/studentrefunds) and log into your CUNYfirst Self Service account. You may also confirm your direct deposit account or verify your mailing address under Campus Finances or Campus Personal Information.

### **Grants Amounts are Based on FAFSA**

These federal financial aid grants are funded through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in March. All eligible students will receive a minimum base grant amount, which was calculated by CUNY using Fall 2021 enrollment data and information from student FAFSA applications. Grants to individual students may be higher based on factors including the Estimated Family Contribution from the student's FAFSA, whether the student is part-time or full-time, and reported dependents on FAFSA.

For questions about the HEERF III grant program, please refer first to our list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). If you still have questions, please contact your [campus Financial Aid Office](#). To continue to keep abreast of financial aid developments visit the [Student Continuity page](#).

On behalf of CUNY, I thank you for choosing the nation's premier public urban university to pursue your education, and wish you and your family a good and hopeful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

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