



BY THE NUMBERS: Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities and Higher Education Emergency Relief in 2021

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) provided historic funding to institutions of higher education (IHEs) and their students to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Through HEERF, Congress provided more than \$76 billion in emergency assistance, including one of the largest infusions of support ever provided through President Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP). The ARP included more than \$190 million to Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs). Since the start of 2021, over 24,000 TCU students are estimated to have received direct financial aid as a result of HEERF support.¹

Here's how HEERF helped TCCUs and their students in 2021:

HEERF Provided Critical Direct Aid to TCCU Students

- TCCUs delivered over \$37 million dollars via emergency financial aid grants to students.
- Nearly 70% of TCCU students received a grant, with more than 14,000 students receiving an average of over \$2,600 each.
- TCCUs spent \$21 million, or 23% of their institutional funds on additional emergency aid to students. They spent more institutional funds on student aid than any other institutional category.

Emergency Aid Kept Students Enrolled

- Every TCCU said HEERF allowed them to keep students enrolled who were at risk of dropping out by providing financial support.
- Every TCCU stated that HEERF enabled them to keep students enrolled by providing them with computers and internet access.
- Almost half of TCCUs spent more than \$6.3 million on discharging unpaid student balances.

¹ This total includes the number of students reported to have received funds in 2021 and the projected number of students who will receive funds in 2022. To get the projected number, the Department used HEERF spending data, including spending from student aid funds in 2022, the percentage of institutional funds spent by institutions on additional emergency aid grants, and the average student award. The projected number may include students that received funds in both 2021 and 2022.