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**Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund**

**Kentucky Postsecondary Education Recovery Grant Program**

The Commonwealth of Kentucky will distribute $13.8 million through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund to postsecondary institutions to help campuses respond to the impact of the pandemic on their students, faculty, and staff. The GEER Postsecondary Education Recovery Grants will be distributed and administered by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE).

The priority for GEER Postsecondary Education Recovery Grants is to help address costs associated with the expansion of remote learning and support services, including enhancing the quality of programs, providing equitable access to programs, and increasing non-academic remote support systems for current and prospective students. Funding may also be used to support operational recovery, including costs related to planning, manpower, equipment and supplies as campuses prepare to reopen for in-person instruction.

**Funding Allocation**

*Emergency Reserve Pool:* $1.5 million of the postsecondary GEER funds will be held in reserve by CPE to respond to unforeseen emergency situations public colleges and universities may encounter throughout the 2020-21 Academic Year. According to guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education, states have up to one year to expend GEER funding. Unforeseen costs may include expenses relating to the need for additional personal protective equipment (PPE), isolating and housing infected students, emergency grants to students affected by the pandemic, among other pandemic-related costs. CPE will develop an application process and distribution methodology for the $1.5 million reserve pool.

*Private, Non-Profit Grant Pool:* $1 million is reserved for distribution to Kentucky’s private, non-profit, Title IV-eligible independent colleges and universities to be split equally among the institutions for a grant period of one year (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). The grants will support programs and strategies to help institutions respond to the impact of COVID-19 on their campus community and operations. See *Appendix A* for distribution detail.

*KCTCS Campuses:* $2.5 million of the postsecondary GEER funding is reserved for Kentucky’s community and technical colleges and will be distributed through the KCTCS central office based on a methodology and application process negotiated and agreed to by CPE. The distribution plan will prioritize campuses with the highest need and most significantly impacted by the coronavirus.

*Public Universities:* $8.8 million in Postsecondary Education Recovery grants will be distributed to the Commonwealth’s public universities with each campus receiving a $440,000 base amount to help with the challenges they face. The remainder of the money is being distributed based on the proportion of General Fund that each school receives for instruction. This allocation methodology reflects the institutions’ total General Fund minus debt service and any appropriations for mandated public service and research programs.  What remains, or the adjusted net in this case, is the General Fund amount used by the institution to educate students. See *Appendix B* for distribution detail.

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| Grantee | Amount |
| EKU | $997,300 |
| KSU | $608,200 |
| MoSU | $762,300 |
| MuSU | $814,100 |
| NKU | $900,900 |
| UK | $2,082,600 |
| UofL | $1,577,300 |
| WKU | $1,056,900 |
| TOTAL | **$8,800,000** |

**Allowed Use of Funds for Postsecondary Education Recovery Grants**

* Redesign of lectures, assignments, and assessments to better suit a remote learning environment and emphasize effective classroom interaction.
* Implementation high impact practices, such as collaborative assignments and projects, virtual internships, and other on-line work-based experiences.
* Strategies, equipment and materials to ensure on-line programs are accessible and effective for students, regardless of their socio-economic background, where they live, or their physical limitations.
* Targeted financial aid for low-income and other high need students or to provide additional financial support for students entering high-demand healthcare and other emergency response fields.
* Implementation of effective student advising services, and social, emotional, and mental health counseling, particularly in a remote learning environment.
* Mentoring and advising programs for first-time students and students returning to a college environment after a break in their programs, including on-line advising, information tools and student success coaches.
* Costs associated with testing, contract tracing, and the purchase of personal protective equipment.
* Strategic planning efforts to help prepare the campus community to respond to multiple possible fall semester scenarios and program delivery requirements.
* New evaluation protocols to ensure students continue to make progress during periods of remote learning as well as a possibility that instruction may be disrupted in the future.

**Program Requirements**

* GEER Postsecondary Education Recovery Grants are not to be used for payments to administrators and executives of colleges and universities nor are they to be used to reimburse the campus for grants to students or expenses incurred prior to June 1, 2020.
* No portion of Postsecondary Education Recovery grants may be used for administrative overhead costs.
* Campuses are encouraged to leverage grant funds through collaboration with other institutions on programs, services and equipment/supply purchases.
* Any funding that has not been expended by June 30, 2021 must be returned to CPE for reallocation to the Emergency Reserve Pool.
* Additional requirements outlined in the CARES Act for states and GEER Fund subgrantees:
  + Entities receiving grants shall to the greatest extent practicable continue to pay employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.
  + States are not required to use GEER Funds for remote education, but the USDOE encourages states “to focus these resources on ensuring that all students continue to learn most likely through some form of remote learning.”
* All campuses are required to enter into a contractual agreement with CPE to adhere to the program requirements and allowed use of funds, provide a mid-term report detailing grant expenditures by December 1, 2020, and a final report by June 30, 2021.

**Grant Agreement Information**

*For Public Universities and Private, Non-Profit Institutions*: Signed agreements are due to CPE by June 30, 2020 in order for campuses to draw down GEER Postsecondary Education Recovery Grants. The The agreements can be downloaded here: xxx.xxx.xxx. If a campus opts to not to receive a GEER Postsecondary Recovery grant, those funds will be reallocated to the Emergency Reserve Pool housed at CPE.

*For KCTCS campuses*: Information about the funding allocation for each campus and the process for accessing grants will be sent to each KCTCS college president by the KCTCS central office no later than June 20, 2020. If a campus opts to not receive for a GEER Postsecondary Recovery grant, those funds will be reallocated to the Emergency Reserve Pool housed at CPE.

*Emergency Reserve Pool Grants:* A separate application process will be developed for the $1.5 million Emergency Reserve Pool and will be launched after the start of the Fall semester. Kentucky’s public universities and KCTCS campuses are eligible to apply for the emergency grants.

**Reporting and Accountability**

Each postsecondary institution receiving funding through the GEER Postsecondary Education Recovery Grant program is required to submit a mid-term progress report to CPE detailing programs and expenditures by December 1, 2020, and a final report on June 30, 2021. CPE will provide additional information about the required report format in early Fall.

Mid-term and final reports will be publicly available and posted to CPE’s website for all campuses (public and private) receiving funding through the GEER Postsecondary Education Recovery Grant Program.