



*The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) program is providing emergency assistance to higher learning institutions across the country. Trane can help educational leaders create a strategy to access and utilize these available funds to help make generational facility improvements, enrich the learning environment, and keep students on campus.*

***Information below pertains to non-profit higher education institutions.***

## Stimulus Opportunities

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (HEERF II) and American Rescue Plan Acts (HEERF III) provides **\$61 billion** in funding to institutions of higher learning (IHEs). The funding is distributed by the U.S. Department of Education directly to the IHEs to be used for student and campus objectives.



*Institutions generally must expend their HEERF grant funds **within one year** from the date when the Department of Education processed the most recent obligation of funds for each specific grant (including funds from prior rounds)*



*Institutions must draw down any amount of its grant funds **within 90 days** of the date of each award*



**Quarterly** mandated reporting requirements

### HEERF II

**December 2020 – \$21B**

The institutional portion of the HEERF II funds allows learning institutions to address HVAC and facility improvements in response to health mitigation practices. Institutions of higher learning may also be able to address deferred maintenance issues where a COVID risk reduction can be justified.

See Relief Funds Comparison Chart [here](#).

### HEERF III

**March 2021 – \$40B**

For HEERF III, institutions of higher learning are required to use additional funding to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines. IHEs will be required to report how the funds are spent, and campus safety and operations are allowable categories. Better ventilation and better indoor air quality can help campuses to improve the environment and address the substantial losses of revenues being experienced.



Clinical depression increased 90% among college-aged young adults in the first few months of the pandemic. The students' screen time more than doubled, socialization decreased by over half, and average steps taken declined from 10,000 to 4,600 per day.<sup>1</sup>

~ National Academy of Sciences, March 2021

## Several Uses for HEERF III Funds



The **installation** or **renovation** of an **HVAC system**, to help with **air filtration** to address the spread of COVID-19. **Enhancing ventilation** in classrooms or common areas.



Institutions are required to spend a portion of their institutional share to **implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus** in accordance with public health guidelines.

## Increasing Enrollment

Pre-pandemic, the collaborating of people and ideas is what defined the college experience. Now, the effects of COVID-19 have brought many trends of higher education into the limelight. There is an increased appreciation of greater public health that will mold the design of campuses as we move ahead. This is an opportunity for campuses to take funds and make long-term investments to modernize buildings that will promote the accomplishments of students while providing the atmosphere necessary to communally learn. "After being in quarantine for the better part of a year, if not a year, many people -- and that includes students -- are anxious to get back to some semblance of normal," said David Hawkins, chief education and policy officer for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

## Ready for Now. Resilient for Tomorrow.



Trane's Wellsphere™ is a holistic approach to building wellness. It's a multi-disciplinary collective of experts using world class technologies and services to help improve your campus buildings.

HVAC upgrades can balance immediate reopening efforts and continuing resiliency for institutions of higher education operations. This allows buildings to reopen with minimized impact on student learning. Click [here](#) for more information.

There is evidence from ASHRAE® and other sources that HVAC technologies can mitigate the risk of exposure to infectious aerosols in built environments; however, the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and mitigation of COVID-19 in buildings is yet to be tested and confirmed.

**Put your trust in the Trane brand to help your campus evaluate, track, and create the best strategy for the use of these federal stimulus programs.**

For more information, contact: [www.trane.com/contactus](http://www.trane.com/contactus)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/9/e2016632118>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/03/12/why-colleges-are-racing-tell-students-they%E2%80%99ll-be-open-person-fall>