



## Initial Report

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (signed into law on March 11, 2021) directs institutions receiving Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to submit periodic reports describing the use of funds.

CRRSAA and ARP require an initial report providing information on MIT's intended use of the HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The article below was originally posted on MIT's webpage on April 15, 2021 and provides the information required by the U.S. Department of Education in its May 13, 2021 notice in the Federal Register (86 Fed. Reg. 26213) and thus serves as the initial report for MIT.

## MIT to apply for new round of Covid-19 funds for colleges and universities

April 15, 2021

**We estimate thousands of MIT students – undergraduate and graduate – will be eligible for some form of relief thanks to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund program.**

MIT has decided to apply for the \$16.4 million in federal funding we are eligible to receive through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), a program created by Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of Education, in order to address a range of student needs arising from the impact of Covid-19. We are working on exactly how we intend to allocate the funds, and will provide information to eligible students as details are worked out. Our priorities are need-based grants to students and stipends for graduate students whose research, including field work and other degree requirements, was interrupted by Covid-19 and who therefore require additional time to graduate. We estimate that at least 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students at the Institute will receive need-based financial support thanks to the funding.

The HEERF funds that MIT will receive are part of new resources that Congress made available through the American Rescue Plan, which became law last month, and through a supplement to the CARES Act that was signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. We appreciate that lawmakers were deliberate and thoughtful in crafting these programs to help students who have been disadvantaged by the pandemic. In laying out the amount of funding each

individual institution of higher education is eligible to receive in accordance with the law, the Education Department has expressly considered factors such as differences in student populations and in the underlying fiscal health of universities (taking into account the size of a university's endowment, for example).

As described in this statement last summer, MIT's senior leaders reluctantly decided not to apply for the Covid-19 funds allocated to higher education institutions in the first CARES Act. This time around, there can be no doubt that Congress intended all colleges and universities to be eligible for these funds for the benefit of their students and communities. These new pandemic-related funds will be in addition to the financial aid and other student support typically provided by MIT.

With regard to the ongoing impact of the pandemic on our nation and the world, the faculty, staff and research labs of MIT will continue to do all they can to help.