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**Illinois State University has received \$8,080,711 from the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide emergency financial aid grants to eligible students due to the financial impact of coronavirus. The federal government requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. Since many students have been impacted financially by the coronavirus, the Financial Aid Office used the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to identify students with the most financial need. To date, over \$7,200,000 of the funds have been awarded to more than 8,300 eligible students. Students receiving awards were notified on Tuesday, March 9.**

**Students that did not meet the initial awarding criteria and can demonstrate extenuating financial need may submit a detailed explanation for consideration of grant funds through an online application process. The application will be posted on March 19, 2021 to the [Financial Aid Office website](#).**

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