In response to the economic hardships caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the federal government authorized three separate stimulus packages.

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law to provide fast and direct economic aid to the American people negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) in the amount of $14 billion was allotted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to distribute to U.S. institutions of higher education. Cal State LA received funding of $18,957,083 for institution, $2,834,964 for Minority Serving Institution (MSI) program, and $18,957,083 for students. (See https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html from ED for HEERF I information.)

On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) was signed into law giving ED an additional $22.7 billion through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) to distribute to higher education in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. Cal State LA was allocated HEERF II funding of $42,948,478 for institution, $4,037,818 for MSI, and $18,957,083 for students. (See https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/crrsaa.html from ED for HEERF II information.)

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) was signed into law and provided $39.6 billion under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) to ensure student learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cal State LA received $108,113,372 through HEERF III. Federal guidelines earmarked at least $54,097,891 of $108,113,372 for students. (See https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arp.html from ED for more information on HEERF III)

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) developed a helpful comparison chart of HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III. https://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/documents/HEERF_Funds_Comparison_Chart.pdf. Some differences between HEERF I, II and III are allocation formula distribution to students and the allowable uses of student and institution portions.


In addition, the California State Auditor (CSA) has identified COVID-19 Funding - HEERF as high-risk area and announced that it will audit the University of California and California State University. (See http://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/scope/2021-611 for audit scope and objectives)