

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) is administering \$21.4 million through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to assist the Tennessee higher education enterprise in dealing with challenges that have been created by the pandemic.

## **Coronavirus Relief Fund Scope**

Eligible institutions proposed funding for efforts associated with preventing the spread of COVID-19 (*e.g.*, expenses associated with social distancing) and the transition to online learning. Reimbursement for expenses incurred prior to contract start dates and lost or foregone revenue are not allowed under the scope of the CRF. Only projects paid and received between August 15, 2020 and November 15, 2020 were eligible for funding through CRF.

### ***Social distancing projects include:***

- Adapting classroom configurations,
- Modifying student housing to comply with COVID-19 health precautions,
- Supporting physical plant costs, or
- Subsidizing non-executive payroll expenses for faculty/staff dedicated to mitigating COVID-19.

### ***Transition to online learning projects include:***

- Expanding and supporting online instruction,
- Increasing students' access to technology, including laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, and digital subscriptions, or
- Subsidizing payroll expenses for new personnel or extended duties of existing non-executive personnel.

## **Participating Institutions of Higher Education**

CRF grants were open to accredited public and private, nonprofit institutions of higher education (IHEs) domiciled in Tennessee. Notices of Intent (NOIs) were required to be submitted to THEC by July 17, 2020. Based upon successful submissions of NOIs, all public universities, all public community colleges, and 33 private institutions were invited to submit proposals no later than July 31, 2020. All eligible institutions were approved for funding after thorough review by THEC staff.

## **Award Amount Determinations**

Funds were awarded to successful IHEs based on the proportionate share of low-income students the institution serves.

## **Monitoring**

THEC staff communicate regularly with campus CRF program directors to troubleshoot problems and ensure appropriate implementation and reporting. THEC staff are monitoring all institutions through monthly reports detailing completed and ongoing projects, budget reconciliations, and supporting documentation identified by THEC's Internal Auditor and Horne, LLC. All projects have been assessed for risk and THEC staff meet weekly to discuss progress and mitigate any issues. IHEs will submit an inventory of identified supplies (*e.g.*, electronics and medical equipment) purchased with CRF grants funds and refund remaining funds before closing out their respective contracts.

## CRF Timeline

