CARES Act-Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Funds

• Nearly $14 billion directly to institutions
• Not subject to the “maintenance of effort”
• 90% distributed to public/private/for-profit colleges on a formula (75% based Pell student FTE, 25% on non-Pell FTE)
• Remaining 10% distributed under Title III, V, VII of HEA
• At least 50% of the aid must be spent on students through emergency grants
CARES Act-Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Funds-Student Emergency Grant Aid

• $6.28 billion to public, private, and for-profit institutions

• Emergency grant aid to students through checks or debit cards. Cannot be posted to student accounts.

• Institutions cannot use this money to reimburse themselves for refunds for housing & meal plans. They can only reimburse themselves for emergency aid given to students after March 27th.

• Students must be Title IV participants or Title IV eligible to receive aid. Undocumented, DACA, and international students are ineligible.

• Students already in the system will likely have a natural advantage, as they have checked all the boxes for eligibility.
CARES Act—Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Funds—Institutional Emergency Grant Aid

• $6.28 billion to public, private, and for-profit institutions
• Secretary DeVos states that these funds cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.
• DeVos encourages institutions to use the funds to expand remote learning programs, strengthen IT capacity, and train faculty and staff for remote learning.
• Can also be used for student emergency grant aid
Stimulus IV

• Interim stimulus package expected to pass soon directed at small business
• Congress is expected to take up another major stimulus package in May
• Bipartisan support for a rescue package to states.
SHEEO Federal Advocacy

• SHEEO has asked for $31.2 billion in economic assistance to states for higher education.

• We urged the Federal Reserve to extend the Main Street Lending Program to nonprofits/public institutions

• Endorsement of extended tax credits to public entities for extension of employee benefits

• Endorsement of aid for broadband extension
Other issues

- Higher Ed Act discussions on pause
- Visas **suspended** as of March 20th
- New Title IX rules could be released at any day
- Department reaches a settlement on the borrower defense cases
- Distance ed regulations
SHEEO Emails

• We have a daily higher education policy email
• The latest reports, government documents, and news clippings
• Both state and federal policy
• Available at https://sheeo.org/sheeo-newsletter-signups/
Discussions

• What is your legislative strategy for the governor’s fund? Is it coordinated with K-12?
• How does your institutions plan on using the federal stimulus funds?
• What are the main higher ed policy issues in your states that have emerged in the past month?
• How can SHEEO be of assistance?