

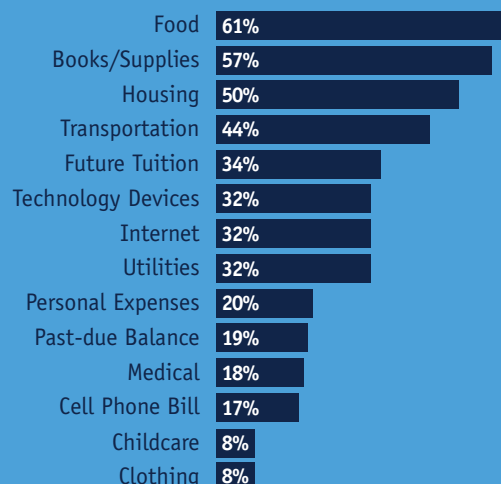
In March 2020, Congress passed the CARES Act, a stimulus package to address the economic crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act introduced the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that provided emergency aid grants to institutions with the requirement that they spend a certain percentage on direct grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus

operations due to COVID-19. There were also additional HEERF dollars through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) in December 2020 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act in March 2021. NASFAA published various reports aimed at evaluating student and institutional experiences with HEERF funding.

## Students used grants provided through HEERF funds to cover multiple needs during the pandemic.

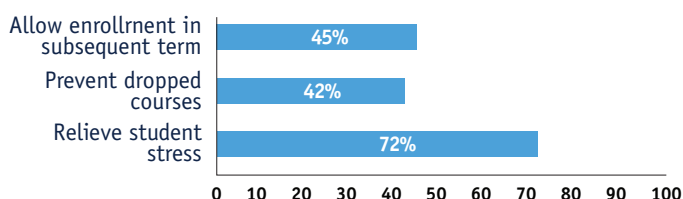
- The top need reflected was food, followed by books and housing
- 1 in 5 had past-due balances and one-third applied funds to future tuition
- 4 in 10 used funds for transportation
- Open-ended comments allowed students to describe experiences of using grants to address job losses, medical expenses, insurance needs, preventing eviction, and more

Percent of students who selected each use



## HEERF emergency funding supported positive outcomes:

Student outcomes observed among institutions that set outcomes goals for HEERF recipients



To learn more about how COVID-19 relief funds were used at institutions of higher education, visit the following reports:



[An Evaluation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Funding for Postsecondary Institutions](#)



[Evaluating Student and Institutional Experiences With HEERF](#)