

Higher Education Emergency Fund – CRRSAA (HEERF-II) – Student Emergency Funds at BGSP – *Spring 2021* – 30-day report (also the final report)

The Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis (OPEID 03194300) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economics Security (CARES) Act in April 2020. On January 14, 2021 the U.S Department of Education announced an additional \$22.7 billion available to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is allocated to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF-II) by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRSAA).

BGSP's allocation of funding received through HEERF-II to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students is **\$12,803**. The CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize student with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. As a graduate-only institution, BGSP students are not eligible for Pell Grants, and a decision was made to open an application process instead for these emergency grants to assess need.

All domestic students enrolled at BGSP, NYGSP, and ICPS (BGSP in NJ) in the Spring 2021 semester were notified of the opportunity to apply for the COVID-19 Expense Grant. The grant was created to refund students for any incurred unexpected expenses since the start of the declared national emergency, in certain categories, up to \$600/student. Eligible expenses included the following:

- Technology to assist with distance learning (i.e., computer or device purchase, Wi-Fi extenders, router upgrades)
- Health care expenses related to a COVID sickness (self or dependent)
- Unexpected childcare costs (i.e., for a school-aged dependent child)
- Unexpected travel costs (i.e., plane tickets to relocate from Boston during remote learning)
- Added utility expenses (i.e., heating, electric, or internet service)

Students were asked to reply by email with documentation of expenses. Reminder emails were sent twice, to ensure all students had the chance to apply. Refunds were issued to students in the form of a mailed direct refund check. These checks were mailed on May 27, 2021.

As of this posting (6/9/2021) BGSP issued the full **\$12,803** in HEERF-II Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to **22** students. This report is therefore a final report since the funds are fully spent.