



Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner

Memorandum

To: Rhode Island Public Higher Education Institutions  
CC: Council on Postsecondary Education  
From: Commissioner Shannon W. Gilkey  
RE: GEER Public Higher Education Sub Grant Opportunity  
Date: March 24, 2021

---

Overview: Under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (RIOPC) was awarded GEER Funds to support any public institution of higher education in carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in section 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act or the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs. GEER funds may also provide emergency support through grants to public institutions of higher education serving students in Rhode Island that have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institutions.

**Higher Education Initiatives:** \$520,000 in GEER Funds will be provided to support innovation and institutional effectiveness at public higher education institutions that have been most financially impacted by COVID-19 to support their ongoing operation. Financial impact will be assessed based on impact to enrollment and projected net losses. Eligible institutions must have a decrease in enrollment of 10% or more due to the pandemic and projected net losses greater than \$8 million.

Institutions may propose to access these resources through a subgrant process. Proposals must address institutional effectiveness and outline specific opportunities for further growth in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific attention, per the direction of the Governor, will need to focus on improvement/expansion of the following areas:

- Dual credit offerings and enrollment support
- Recruitment and matriculation of students from Rhode Island preK-12 school districts
- Transfer articulation and seamless transfer pathways from CCRI

**Timeline:** RIOPC will present the recommended proposal to the Council on Postsecondary Education on April 21, 2021 and allocate the resources to the public institution of higher education no later than May 14, 2021.

**Reporting:** RIOPC will provide monthly updates to the Council on Postsecondary Education on all GEER grant funds and provide an evaluative report by December of 2021.