

# STUDENT-READY RELIEF

## Using HEERF to Fund Equitable Student Success

### ABOUT OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES (OER)

Open educational resources are free or low-cost course materials that are publicly available and can be used, adapted, and redistributed by college instructors. When instructors use OER for their classes, they remove the out-of-pocket textbook expense that often leads financially-stressed students to delay or avoid purchasing their course materials. **Institutions that use OER are more student-ready because they ensure equitable access to the learning materials students need to be successful.**

## OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES

### IN THE PANDEMIC

Students have experienced significant financial instability as a result of the pandemic, and find it more difficult than ever to pay for expensive textbooks. COVID-19 also forced all instruction into the virtual space and many colleges expect to integrate virtual course components even as campuses reopen. OER makes course materials free or low-cost and can allow for digital delivery, tackling two of the key accessibility constraints introduced by COVID-19.

### EQUITABLE DESIGN

Use these tactics to design an equitable and effective OER strategy:

- Use salary incentives, small grants, or release time to encourage faculty to adopt or create OER in one or more of their courses
- Develop and foster an inclusive community of practice and widespread professional development to encourage learning, sharing, and growth of OER adoption
- Survey students to ensure their experience in OER courses is high-quality, academically rigorous, and financially helpful

### HOW HEERF CAN HELP

Use HEERF to fund these activities:

- Provide salary incentives to those who adopt or create OER
- Secure professional development for faculty
- Add internal or external capacity to facilitate the community of practice



### ABOUT STUDENT-READY STRATEGIES

Student-Ready Strategies (SRS) is a woman-owned consulting and technical assistance organization that believes every student can succeed and supports transformative efforts to ensure they do. Learn more at <http://studentreadystrategies.com>