

ARP: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) Reporting – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2). The ARP appropriated approximately \$39.6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Taken together, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116-136), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), and the ARP represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III, respectively.

As announced in the Department’s final rule, “[Eligibility To Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Under HEERF](#)” (May 14, 2021, 86 FR 26608) (final rule), the term “student,” for purposes of the phrases “grants to students,” “emergency financial aid grants to students,” and “financial aid grants to students” as used in the HEERF programs, is now defined as any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in [34 CFR § 668.2](#)) at an eligible institution (as defined in [34 CFR § 600.2](#)) on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus ([85 FR 15337](#)). Thus, students are no longer required to be eligible for Title IV student financial aid in order to receive HEERF grants to students.

The Department of Education encourages institutions to report as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the publication of this notice or 30 days after the date the Department first obligated funds under HEERF I, II, or III to the institution for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, whichever comes later. The Department of Education directed that the information below must be updated and accessible to the public no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter (September 30, December 30, March 31, and June 30).

1. UW-Superior received the Grant Award Notification (GAN), dated 5/25/21 indicating the \$2,421,087 student funding, pursuant to section 2003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2) are governed by section 2003 of the ARP and section 314 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260) and the terms and conditions of the Supplemental Agreement attached to this GAN.
2. Total to spend on students = \$2,421,087 allocation
3. Total Amount of HEERF III Grants distributed to students as of:
 - a) 8/4/21: \$1,500
 - b) 9/30/21: \$1,362,000
 - c) 12/31/21: \$1,404,750
 - d) 3/31/22: \$2,411,821
 - e) 5/31/22: \$2,421,087
4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in the program and thus eligible to receive HEERF III Grants as of:
 - a) 8/4/21: 895
 - b) 9/30/21: 2,439
 - c) 12/31/21: 2,517
 - d) 3/31/22: 2,835
 - e) 5/31/22: 2,869

5. Total number of students who have received HEERF III Grant as of:
- f) 8/4/21: 2
 - g) 9/30/21: 2,439
 - h) 12/31/21: 2,517
 - i) 3/31/22: 2,835
 - j) 5/31/22: 2,869
6. HEERF III funds were used for emergencies, by request, for students enrolled in the summer term of 2021 and only resulted in two awards.

In our second awarding period, all degree-seeking students enrolled by the date of disbursement (9/8) were eligible to receive HEERF III funds in the amounts of \$750 to \$0 EFC students and \$500 to all others. These same thresholds and amounts were used with our GEO 2 awarding in November 2021.

7. The two awards in the summer were communicated directly to those students as well as how to receive those funds. For our September 8 disbursement, students were notified via campus email of their award. Students who had enrolled in direct deposit received those funds directly through that manner. Students who were not enrolled in direct deposit were issued a physical check. All students were provided information about how to access those funds, either through direct deposit or check.

The remaining funds will be reserved for students for the academic year of 2021/2022, and is planned to be spent as follows:

- All direct refunds; no option for student account payment
- Disbursement 9/8/21
- Criteria include:
 - a) Every student that is degree-seeking
 - b) Must be enrolled on date of disbursement
 - c) \$750 to \$0 EFC students and \$500 to all others
- Actual run will occur just prior to the disbursement date.
- BCC email to all students receiving funds notifying them of the award.
- Goal is to spend approximately \$1.2 Million.
- Second run will occur after GEO 2 enrollment date in October for anyone that was missed. Disbursement date is slotted for November 3, 2021.
- A third run to spend the remainder of the funds will occur for spring semester, with same guidelines. Disbursement date is slotted for February 2, 2022.