

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Overview

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP), signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP was designed to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on students' educational attainment by targeting the highest need students to help meet their basic financial needs. The full published report of the ARP may be found on the FederalRegister.gov website or by clicking [here](#).

Please note that the following information applies exclusively to ARP (HEERF III) student funding. For information regarding the CARES Act (HEERF I) or CRRSAA (HEERF II), please use the following links:

[CARES Act](#)

[CRRSAA](#)

ARP General Eligibility

- Must be a currently enrolled student at Pomeroy College of Nursing at Crouse Hospital

Eligible Students

- The student must be enrolled for the fall 2021 semester/term as of October 12, 2021
- The student has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and has an emergency financial need for an allowable expense.
- The student must complete the HEERF III (ARP) Emergency Grant application via MOODLE which includes self identifying any mitigating circumstances experienced.

Qualifying Expenses

Grants awarded are intended to reduce financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples of COVID-19 related expenses eligible for grant consideration include, but are not limited to:

- Cost of attendance expenses
- Childcare Expenses
- Technology related needs expenses
- Medical/health-related expenses due to COVID-19 (including mental health care)
- Food
- Housing (rent/utilities)

Non-Qualifying Expenses

Per federal guidance, emergency cash grants to students cannot be applied by the institution towards outstanding balances and must be disbursed directly to the student.

Award Determination

Funds were awarded to students who met the eligibility requirements (above). The institution issued payments in one of three tiers to all eligible students using a combination of a scoring matrix from the Moodle ARP survey and students' self-reported mitigating circumstances. In applicable cases, students' FAFSA-derived federal EFC was used in assisting the institution with making determinations. These funding tiers went as follows:

- Group 1: a sum of \$9,743 was set aside for additional mitigating circumstances, which was disbursed on a case by case basis
- Group 2: \$1,224.87 per student
- Group 3: \$834.13 per student

Institutional Eligibility and Compliance

The College established eligibility for CARES Act/HEERF I/II/III funding by submitting a signed Certification and Agreement to the Department on April 24, 2020.

- To ensure compliance with ARP/HEERFIII program requirements, the College drew down 50% of its allotted student portion of funding, \$171,804, for the sole purpose of disbursing to students for assistance with the aforementioned expenses in the Fall 2021 semester/term.
- The College intends to use the remaining 50% of the student portion of the ARP/HEERFIII funding for disbursement per federal guidance in the Spring 2022 semester/term.
- The College will use the remaining institutional portion of CRRSAA (HEERFII) and ARP (HEERFIII) funding for educational infrastructure costs associated with safely providing program content following the March 11, 2020 campus disruption, and the continued associated costs with maintaining campus safety.

Disbursement of Funds

There were 156 students eligible to receive ARP/HEERFIII funds, which were drawn down from the federal G5 portal on October 27, 2021.

- Total amount awarded to students: \$171,804
- Payment was issued to all 156 students on October 29, 2021 in the form of paper checks mailed to the students' permanent home address as listed in SONIS.

Notification and Guidance

Students received an email outlining the details of the ARP/HEERFIII per the most recent guidance issued by the [Department of Education](#). Students were directed to the Financial Affairs Officer for further guidance where needed.

Tax Information

Our current guidance regarding ARP funding provided to students is that it will not be taxable, and is considered official federal disaster assistance. However, this funding will appear in Box 5 of each recipient's IRS Form 1098-T for filing purposes. The College will continue to monitor appropriate regulatory channels for updates regarding the ARP and how it may affect tax filing and/or future financial aid applications.