

## **Coronavirus Response and Relieve Supplement Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) - Student Emergency Financial Aid Grants: Quarterly Report as of December 31, 2021**

Western New England University signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and we are providing assurance that we have used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grant to Students

The total amount of funds that Western New England University has received from the Department of Education and will receive is a total of \$4,824,900 pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) (a) (4) as of the date of submission for quarterly submission as of December 31, 2021 is **\$4,812,298**.

The estimated total number of students at Western New England University that are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under CRRSAA is 4,177 and ARP (a)(1) (a)(4) is 5,928.

The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under CRRSAA and ARP as of December 31, 2021 is **3,547**.

### **CRRSAA**

The method used to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under CRRSAA was a formulaic calculation.

Undergraduate students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) between \$0 - \$5,702 and were enrolled in at least 6 credits in both fall and spring semester in academic year 2020-2021 received \$1,500, if enrolled in one semester the award was \$750. Undergraduate students with an EFC between \$5,703 - \$9,999 and were enrolled for at least 6 credits in both fall or spring semester in academic year 2020-2021 received \$700, if enrolled in one semester the award was \$350.

Graduate students with an EFC of \$0 - \$9,999 and were enrolled for at least credits in two semesters in academic year 2020-2021 received \$700, if enrolled in one semester the award was \$350.

Student eligibility for purposes of the formulaic calculation was done prior to the Department of Education expanding eligibility. For the remainder of CRRSAA funds available, after the allocation using the formulaic method, we have awarded funds to eligible students who have informed the University of their extenuating and excessive financial hardship.

The following is what we informed our students via email who received a CRRSAA award:

You have been awarded a **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) student grant** provided by the CRRSAA, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. These are funds which do not need to be repaid. You can view

the amount of the grant online via your [Financial Aid Self-Service](#) page. Select the *My Awards* tab for the *2020/2021 Academic Year*.

Refund checks will be processed and available for pick-up at the bank in Enrollment Services starting on **Wednesday, March 31**. Bank hours for this week are 8:30am-4:30pm. Contact the bank at [billing@wne.edu](mailto:billing@wne.edu) from your WNE email if you would like the check to be mailed or to elect to have the grant applied directly to your WNE account. Be sure to put *HEERF II Student Grant* in the subject line.

### **ARP**

The methods used to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under ARP were a formulaic calculation and an application process.

**Formulaic calculation:** The awards using the formulaic calculations were based on a combination of factors that include financial criteria (Expected Family Contribution as determined by the FAFSA, financial hold and outstanding balance indicators), academic level, cumulative grade point average, class level, first-generation college status, enrollment status as well as additional weighting for students ineligible to file a FAFSA and reduced weighting for students who receive tuition remission or tuition exchange support or who are part of a direct billing program for their tuition charges.

The following is what we informed our students via email who received an ARP formulaic award:

**You have been awarded a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) student grant.** These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan which provides support to institutions of higher education to ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your grant does not need to be repaid. You can view the amount of the grant online via your [Financial Aid Self-Service](#) page. Select the *My Awards* tab for the *2021/2022 Academic Year*.

HEERF III checks will be available for pick-up at the bank in Enrollment Services between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Please bring a valid photo ID. **New student awards are subject to confirmation of enrollment.** Checks are available as follows:

- *Continuing students starting Friday, September 3*
- *New students starting Thursday, September 23*

Please contact the bank at [billing@wne.edu](mailto:billing@wne.edu) from your WNE email if you would like to have the grant applied directly to your WNE account. Be sure to put *HEERF III Student Grant* in the subject line.

Checks not picked up will be mailed to the home or mailing address on record on Monday, October 4.

**Application process:** The application process was for currently enrolled students who experienced financial hardship related to any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arose due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare. Students who were currently enrolled in a degree program at Western New England University were eligible for the application process. The application and a FAQ were posted on our

website until the funds were fully exhausted. Applications were submitted via email to WNECARES@wne.edu.

The following is what was communicated via email to students awarded a grant via the application process:

**We are pleased to inform you that your application for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) student grant has been approved.** You can view the amount of the grant online via your Financial Aid Self-Service page. Select the *My Awards* tab for the 2021/2022 Academic Year.

If the awarded student selected in the application that their grant could be posted to their account the following was communicated:

This grant has been applied to your student account as you requested on your application. You can view this transaction on your Student Finance Self-Service page in the Fall Reporting 2021 term.

If the awarded student did not select the grant to be posted to their account the following was communicated:

HEERF III checks will be available for pick-up at the bank in Enrollment Services between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday starting Wednesday, November 10. Please bring a valid photo ID.

Checks not picked up will be mailed to the home or mailing address on record on Monday, November 22.