

# **Western Nebraska Community College's Report on funds received from the American Rescue Plan, 2021 (ARP) to provide Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) Student Grants**

## **Quarterly Report, September 30, 2021**

Western Nebraska Community College is required to provide regular reports to the U.S. Department of Education on the use of allocated funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan, 2021 (ARP), Pub. L 117-2, and distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) for student grants. Funds received by Western Nebraska Community College under ARP were authorized by Congress and signed into law by the President on March 11, 2021. The information noted below is intended to not only meet the reporting requirements of the ARP but also provide information to the college community regarding WNCC's use of the student grant portion of HEERF III.

The Department exercises reporting authority under 2 CFR 200.328 and 2 CFR 200.329 to ensure that statutory requirements are met for ARP Section 2003(a)(1) Student Grant Programs. The ARP, with some changes, is a continuation of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). The amount each institution must use for financial aid grants to students is determined using formula factors in CRRSAA.

Under the ARP (a)(1) program, student portion funds must be used to provide financial aid grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education) which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. In making financial aid grants to students, an institution of higher education must prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants.

The following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public. This information must be updated no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter (September 30, December 31, March 31, June 30) thereafter, unless the Secretary specifies an alternative method of reporting:

1. *An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, the applicable amount of funds designated under the ARP program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.*
  - Western Nebraska Community College signed the U.S. Department of Education Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students on April 20, 2020. The certification and agreement document was submitted April 29, 2020. No new application was required for HEERF III since WNCC received funds under CARES. The U.S. Department of Education provided WNCC with an electronically signed Grant Award Notification (GAN) for HEERF III on May 17, 2021.
2. *The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP programs.*
  - Western Nebraska Community College will receive a total of \$1,943,817 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA (\$402,849) and ARP (\$1,540,968) programs. (Revised 1/7/2022 from updated guidance.)
3. *The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the ARP program as of the date of this report:*
  - Western Nebraska Community College plans to begin awarding ARP HEERF III student grants in the Fall 2021 semester. No student grants have been distributed to WNCC students as of the date of this report.
4. *The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP program:*
  - Western Nebraska Community College plans to begin awarding ARP HEERF III student grants in the Fall 2021 semester. The number of students eligible for ARP HEERF III student grants will be determined at that time.
5. *The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the ARP program.*
  - Western Nebraska Community College plans to begin awarding ARP HEERF III student grants in the Fall 2021 semester. No students have received ARP HEERF III student grants as of the date of this report.
6. *The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the ARP program.*
  - Western Nebraska Community College plans to begin awarding ARP HEERF III student grants beginning with the Fall 2021 semester and is currently evaluating the best method for determining eligibility and distributing ARP HEERF III student grants.

7. *Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.*
  - WNCC [COVID-19 web](#) information