

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, March 31, 2022

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 CRRSAA and ARP programs 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 II or 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 II on January 19, 2021, and 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.
3. *The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP programs as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter):*
 - \$121,000.00 was distributed in emergency financial aid grants to 605 WNCC students during the quarter ended March 31, 2022.
4. *The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP programs:*
 - Based on WNCC's Fall 2021 10-day enrollment report, 1,706 students were enrolled and would have been eligible for emergency financial aid grants.
5. *The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP programs.*
 - 605 dual credit students were disbursed Emergency Financial Aid Grants during the quarter ended March 31, 2022.
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 CRRSAA and ARP programs.*
 - The institution made a determination to include dual credit students in the block grants disbursed to students enrolled in credit classes during the Fall 2021 semester. A student emergency grant of \$200 was awarded to each dual credit student who completed coursework in the Fall 2021 semester.

7. *Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.*

- WNCC [COVID-19 web](#) information

Sample enclosure to dual credit students receiving Fall 2021 disbursement:

Dear WNCC Dual Credit Student:

Western Nebraska Community College is pleased to announce that COVID-19 student grants (also known as Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III or HEERF III) in the amount of \$200 are being released to dual credit students as authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Each dual credit student who completed coursework in WNCC's Fall 2021 semester have been awarded the enclosed \$200.

Please note:

- HEERF III grants will not be applied to any current WNCC outstanding student account balance due

Allowable uses for HEERF III grants:

- Any component of your cost of attendance such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, meals, transportation, or personal expenses
- Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental), and child care

Information about the American Rescue Plan and HEERF III student grants may be found at:

- <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arp.html>
- <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfiii/student.html>

Questions about these funds may be directed to either the WNCC Financial Aid Office at financialaid@wncc.edu or to the WNCC Business Office at e-accounts@wncc.edu.

WNCC wishes you the best of health and the successful pursuit of your academic goals.

Sincerely,

Sheila Johns
WNCC Financial Aid Director