



HEERF III ARP Financial Aid Report-Ending August 10, 2021

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This document provides the necessary documentation to comply with Section 18004(e) of the Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act" or the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020).

- On March 27, 2020, Oklahoma City University ("OCU") signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement document under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund ("HEERF"); this relief funding is for eligible students to help cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic.
- The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III ("HEERF III"), authorized by the American Rescue Plan ("ARP"), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 22, 2021, provides support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- OCU was eligible to receive \$2,065,429 for the approximate 50% Student Share portion of the HEERF III Grant and has received \$1,031,826.50 as of August 10, 2021. The remaining \$1,033,602.50 of HEERF III financial aid funds are expected to be received and used in November 2021.
- As of August 10, 2021, all \$1,031,826.50 received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students has been awarded to students.
- As of August 10, 2021, 1,150 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under the ARP(a)(1) program. All student applicants with demonstrated need, as indicated on their applications, received an OCU ARP Emergency Grant for an average amount of \$889.79 once their applications were reviewed and verified for eligibility. Additionally, on a case-by-case basis, OCU considered additional awarded funds to students with exceptional need. HEERF III / ARP(a)(1) program states that exceptional need can be students who are any of the following:
 - Eligible for Pell Grant or other federal or state need-based aid.
 - Face significant unexpected expenses either for themselves or that would affect their financial circumstances, such as the loss of employment, reduced income, or food or housing insecurity.

OCU ARP Emergency Grant awarded based on this identified exceptional need totaled \$8,568 and was disbursed to a total of 2 students, accordingly.

- All currently enrolled students at Oklahoma City University were emailed on July 12, 2021 explaining the grant and inviting the students to apply until the application period ended on Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. CST and were notified of an approved award by Monday, July 26, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. CST, including details of the award itself. OCU encouraged all students to apply for funding if they have incurred expenses as a result of the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, such as food, housing, transportation, technology, course materials, health care, and child-care expenses.
- All enrolled students were eligible for HEERF III, and thus not limited to Title IV eligibility. Student's overall financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") was taken into consideration, though did not necessarily affect determined eligibility. There were an estimated 2590 students at OCU verifiably eligible to participate in the programs under the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under ARP(a)(1) program.

- These ARP grant funds are considered nontaxable income (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/cares-act-coronavirus-relief-fund-frequently-asked-questions>).