



## **HEERF III ARP Financial Aid Report-Ending November 24, 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 the full amount as of November 24, 2021. Of the full amount received, \$1,031,826.50 was received in August 2021 and \$1,033,602.50 was received in November 2021.
- As of November 24, 2021, all \$2,065,429 received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students has been awarded to students. \$1,031,826.50 was awarded during August 2021 and the remaining \$1,033,602.50 awarded during November 2021.
- As of November 24, 2021, 1,542 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under the ARP(a)(1) program for a total of 2,544 individual payments across both the August 2021 and November 2021 awarding events. Note, some of the same students applied for both award events and this was factored into the total number of students reported. All student applicants with demonstrated need, as indicated on their applications, received an OCU ARP Emergency Grant once their applications were reviewed and verified for eligibility. The average amount awarded to students for the entire HEERF III / ARP(a)(1) program was about \$1,339.45 (rounded). 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 a total of \$17,068 to 6 students for the overall OCU ARP(a)(1) program. This is included in the totals and averages stated above.

OCU split its ARP Emergency Grant awards into 2 separate events. Below is a breakdown of the above reported information by each of those specific events:

- August 2021 Grant Awards:
  - 1,150 students
  - \$889.79 average amount per student
  - \$8,568 total awards to 2 students for exceptional need identified
- November 2021 Grant Awards:
  - 1,388 students (999 of which had applied and received an award in August 2021)

- \$738.55 average amount per student
  - \$8,500 total awards to 4 students for exceptional need identified
- All currently enrolled students at Oklahoma City University were emailed to explain the grant and invite students to apply until the application period ended, which was also stated in the communication. A separate email was sent afterwards notifying students of award approval along with details of the award. 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.

Communications to students for the 2 separate award events occurred in the following manner:

- August 2021 Grant Awards:
  - July 12, 2021 email with invitation to apply and application procedures, including the stated application deadline of Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. CST
  - July 26, 2021 email notification of award approval and its details
- November 2021 Grant Awards:
  - November 1, 2021 email with invitation to apply and application procedures, including the stated application deadline of Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. CST
  - November 15, 2021 email notification of award approval and its details
- 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>).