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# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

## Utilization of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III) Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act: September 2021 Quarterly Report

**1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the initial Certification and Agreement Grant Award Notification (GAN) required for participation in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act under the CARES Act (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)) program and the assurance that the institution shall provide at least the same amount of funding in emergency financial aid grants to students as was required to be provided under sections 18004(a)(1) and (c) of division B of the CARES Act.**

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) received notification on 5/19/2021 of receipt of supplemental ARP (HEERF III) funds pursuant to Section 2003 of the ARP (and Section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021).

No signature action was required on the part of the university as the additional funds were amended to the original Grant Award Notification (GAN) signed by the institution on April 14, 2020. Draw down of these funds indicates IUP's commitment to use no less than \$13,508,299 of the funds (per sections 18004(a)(1) and (c) of division B of the CARES Act) received through the ARP Act to provide financial aid grants to students for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus, such as tuition food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

**2. The total dollar amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Financial Aid Grants to students.**

IUP received a total of \$13,508,299 from USDE for the sole purpose of providing financial grants to our students. Priority will be given to those students who demonstrate exceptional need, such as Pell Grant recipients. Funds will also be utilized to provide emergency grants to assist with emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare.

**3. The total dollar amount of Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 2003 of the ARP (and Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA). This also includes any unspent grant funds awarded previously pursuant to Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act which are used consistent with the provisions of the CRRSAA Section 314(c)(3) for obligations incurred on or after March 13, 2020, subject to the requirements in Section 2003 of the ARP (and Section 314 of the CRRSAA).**

As of September 31, IUP has distributed \$12,526,474.87 in ARP Act funds to eligible students. IUP will continue to make additional funds available to students on an individual basis via the [Emergency Response Form for Students, available online](#).

**4. The estimated number of students at the institution enrolled for at least one credit in either degree or non-degree programs who meet eligibility criteria and are thus eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 2003 of the ARP (and Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA).**

As of June 1, 2021, IUP determined that there were approximately 11,200 students, both undergraduate and graduate level, eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 2003 of the ARP (and Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA). Finalized student recipient counts will be available, once awards are made to students.

**5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant to students under Section 2003 of the ARP (and Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA).**

**6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive financial aid grants and how much they would receive under Section 2003 of the ARP (and Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSAA).**

The university ARP Committee, comprised of representatives from Student Affairs, Institutional Research, University Advancement, Financial Aid, Student Billing, and IT Services, created an initial distribution plan to provide assistance to students who graduated in May 2021 and/or who are enrolled in at least one class for either the Summer 2021 term and/or the Fall 2021 semester. Continuing eligible students must be enrolled for one or more credits in summer and/or fall terms. Individual \$1,000 grants will be awarded to students who demonstrate a reduction in income in 2021 via successful completion of the 2021-2022 Special Circumstances Appeal process.

Since federal guidelines for awarding the ARP funds require universities to prioritize “domestic” undergraduate students with “exceptional need,” the decision was made to utilize students’ Expected Family Contribution (EFC), if available, to ensure an equitable distribution of ARP funds. Students’ EFC’s are calculated by USDE upon submission of their FAFSA application at <https://studentaid.gov>. For this reason, students are encouraged, but not required, to complete a FAFSA application.

We anticipate that the majority of IUP students will receive some amount of ARP funding without the need to apply for individual grant assistance.

The award eligibility breakdown is as follows and students enrolled in both the summer and fall terms may receive the award amount applicable for summer and fall:

**Students who graduated in May 2021:**

- \$600 Domestic Undergraduates
- \$500 International Undergraduates, Domestic and International Graduates

**Domestic undergraduate students enrolled in one or more 2021 summer classes:**

- 0 EFC: \$1,200 distribution
- 1 to 5,711 EFC: \$1,000 distribution
- 5,712 to 7,000 EFC: \$800 distribution
- 7,001 to 16,000 EFC: \$400 distribution
- 16,001+ EFC: \$300 distribution
- No 20-21 FAFSA on file/no EFC: \$300

**Graduate students enrolled in one or more 2021 summer classes:**

- 0 EFC: \$1,100 distribution
- 1 to 5,711 EFC: \$900 distribution
- 5,712 to 7,000 EFC: \$700 distribution
- 7,001 to 16,000 EFC: \$350 distribution
- 16,001+ EFC: \$250 distribution
- No 20-21 FAFSA on file/no EFC: \$250

**International students enrolled in one or more 2021 summer classes:**

- Undergraduates: \$740 distribution
- Graduates: \$660 distribution

**Domestic undergraduate students enrolled in one or more 2021 fall classes:**

- 0 EFC: \$1,800 distribution
- 1 to 5,846 EFC: \$1,500 distribution
- 5,847 to 7,000 EFC: \$1,200 distribution
- 7,001 to 16,000 EFC: \$600 distribution
- 16,001+ EFC: \$450 distribution
- No 20-21 FAFSA on file/no EFC: \$450

**Graduate students enrolled in one or more 2021 fall classes:**

- 0 EFC: \$1,650 distribution
- 1 to 5,846 EFC: \$1,350 distribution
- 5,847 to 7,000 EFC: \$1,050 distribution
- 7,001 to 16,000 EFC: \$525 distribution
- 16,001+ EFC: \$375 distribution
- No 20-21 FAFSA on file/no EFC: \$375

**International students enrolled in one or more 2021 fall classes:**

- Undergraduates: \$1,110 distribution
- Graduates: \$990 distribution

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



- + On June 15, May graduates were provided this guidance from Michael Powell, Registrar:
- + On June 15, new and continuing students were provided this guidance from Tom Segar, Vice President for Student Affairs:
- + On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, students who graduated in May were sent this communication from Student Billing
- + Students taking summer or fall classes were sent this communication from Student Billing

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) is committed to supporting our nation's students and institutions of higher education (IHEs) with the \$39.6 billion provided through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). These funds support students and institutions towards recovery efforts so that we can emerge from this pandemic even stronger.

The Department is making available approximately \$36 billion in emergency aid to public and private nonprofit institutions and \$396 million to students at proprietary institutions. These funds – available to over 5,000 IHEs – more than double the emergency relief aid available to students and institutions already authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) relief legislation.

The methodology used for calculating ARP allocations is available on the Department's [HEERF III ARP website](#). Allocations to institutions are based on a formula that includes (on both a headcount and FTE basis) the relative shares of Federal Pell Grant recipients, the relative shares of non-Pell Grant recipients, and the relative shares of Federal Pell recipients exclusively enrolled in distance education prior to the coronavirus emergency. Institutions that received awards under CRRSAA do not need to apply for funding, as these institutions will receive their ARP grant funding through a supplemental award. Proprietary institutions will receive supplemental awards upon receipt of the Required Proprietary Institution Certification form.

The ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances. Institutions are expected to establish a transparent process for assessing need. Beyond Pell eligibility, other ways of prioritizing exceptional need could include students who may be eligible for other federal or state need-based aid or have faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment, reduced income, or food or housing insecurity. The Department's final rule on student eligibility for HEERF states that all students who are or were enrolled in an institution of higher education during the COVID-19 national emergency are eligible for emergency financial aid grants, regardless of whether they completed a FAFSA or are eligible for Title IV.

### Previous Quarterly Report Disclosures

- [June 2021](#)

## American Rescue Plan Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Committee, Distribution Plans

The University American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee, comprised of representatives from Student Affairs, Institutional Research, University Advancement, Financial Aid, Student Billing, and IT Services, has created an initial distribution plan to provide assistance to students from ARPA funds. IUP will be distributing \$13,508,299 in ARPA funding to more than 9,000 IUP students.

To qualify for the ARPA funds, students must be enrolled in at least one class—either credit hour or clock hour. Students are encouraged to have a valid 2020-21 and 2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the IUP Office of Financial Aid; however, all students, regardless of whether they completed a FAFSA or are eligible for federal Title IV aid funds, will receive ARPA funds, including U.S. citizens, undocumented, and international students.

Federal guidelines for awarding ARPA monies require universities to prioritize domestic students with "exceptional need." To equitably distribute ARPA funds, IUP will utilize students' Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is calculated when students file their FAFSA application at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). Students can view their EFC via the Financial Aid Award Overview on the Finances



Students enrolled for summer classes who have not yet filed a 2020-21 FAFSA application but would like to be considered for ARPA funding based on their EFC should [complete the FAFSA online](#) no later than June 29, 2021. Students enrolled for fall classes should file their 2021-22 FAFSA application as soon as possible but no later than August 30, 2021.

The award eligibility breakdown is as follows and students enrolled in both the summer and fall terms may receive the award amount applicable for summer and fall:

**Students who graduated in May 2021\*:**

- \$600 Domestic Undergraduates
- \$500 International Undergraduates, Domestic and International Graduates

**Domestic undergraduate students enrolled in one or more 2021 summer classes:**

- 0 EFC: \$1,200 distribution
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- 5,712 to 7,000 EFC: \$800 distribution
- 7,001 to 16,000 EFC: \$400 distribution
- 16,001+ EFC: \$300 distribution
- No 20-21 FAFSA on file/no EFC: \$300

**Graduate students enrolled in one or more 2021 summer classes:**

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No application is necessary to receive this funding. Awards to May graduates and students enrolled in summer school will occur in early July. Fall awards will be made in September (after drop/add).

ARPA funds will not be applied to any student account balances; instead, funds will be paid to students through direct deposit, if the student has signed up for this option through MyIUP, or by a check that will be mailed to the student's address of record. Students who would like to use these funds to pay university charges can make a payment directly to their student account via EasyPay. Questions regarding payment towards your university charges should be directed to the Student Billing office at [student-billing@iup.edu](mailto:student-billing@iup.edu).

\$1 million has been allocated to the Student Assistance Fund to provide monies to students who face financial hardships due to the pandemic. Students can apply for these funds through MyIUP in the Finances section.

For questions or more information about ARPA, please email the Financial Aid office at [financial-aid@iup.edu](mailto:financial-aid@iup.edu).

*\*This was incorrectly noted as May 2020.*



In addition to the federal dollars offered as emergency funds to students who have experienced unexpected educational expenses, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) also provided institutions funds to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction (including interruptions in instruction) due to the coronavirus, for emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, and to defray costs incurred including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, payroll, implementing evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines, and conduct direct outreach to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student. The following Quarterly Budget and Expenditure Report provides information on the amount of HEERF III (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)), funds expended.

- [00327700 HEERF Q32021 101021](#)
- [Amended 00327700 HEERF Q32021 010522](#)
- [00327700 HEERF Q42021 010522](#)

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