

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) Report – ARP Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students as of June 30, 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) directs institutions receiving funds under Section 2003 of the Act to submit reports describing the use of HEERF III funds. To meet the reporting requirement, each HEERF III participating institution must post the following:

- 1.) The signed Certification and Agreement that was submitted to the Department of Education. *(Not applicable, automatic grant award to CARES Act HEERF grantees.)*
- 2.) The total allocation received for Emergency Financial Aid to Students - \$5,353,652.
- 3.) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid distributed to students under Section 2003(7) of the ARP as of 6/30/21 - \$154,483.44.
- 4.) The estimated total number of students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 2003(7) of the ARP as of 6/30/21 – 194 Students.
- 5.) The total number of students who have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 2003(7) of the ARP as of 6/30/21 – 83 Students.
- 6.) The method(s) used to determine which students receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 2003(7) of the ARP.
(Methodology is attached.)
- 7.) Instructions, directions, or guidance provided to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants. *(Letter and Application Forms are attached.)*

HEERF III/ARP Report – Allocation Methodology for GROUPS 1-6

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN HEERF III
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students
Francis Marion University
May 2021

Summary

ARP HEERF III Allocation for direct distribution to students

- \$5,353,652 must be distributed to students in accordance with the act.
- The Act requires institutions *“to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).”*
- To be eligible, students must currently be enrolled, or were enrolled on or after March 13, 2020. In making financial aid grants to students, an institution of higher education **shall prioritize grants to students with exceptional need**, such as students who receive Pell Grants or with extraordinary financial circumstances.

Allocation Methodology

The methodology prioritizes students with exceptional financial need. The following categories and amounts have been identified as eligible for the grants as indicated. This strategy provides opportunities to assist students during the next year who demonstrate exceptional financial need. The prioritization is indicated by several factors, including size of award for each category of recipient, the overall total allocation for each category, and the exceptional need demonstrated by individual students.

1. Undergraduate students enrolled during the 2021 spring semester deemed to have exceptional need based upon inability to meet the cost of attendance during the spring term. Up to \$350,000; awards vary depending upon the individual needs of each student.
 - a. Eligible students as of 6/30/21 = 193 = \$310,263.49
2. Undergraduate students enrolled during the 2021 spring semester based upon ability to meet the cost of attendance for the upcoming term. Up to \$250,000; awards vary depending upon the individual needs of each student.
3. Undergraduate students enrolled during the 2021 fall semester based upon ability to meet the cost of attendance during the course of the term. Up to \$250,000; awards vary depending upon the individual needs of each student.
4. Undergraduate students enrolled during the 2022 spring semester based upon ability to meet the cost of attendance during the course of the term. Up to \$250,000; awards vary depending upon the individual needs of each student.
5. Undergraduate students enrolled during the 2021 fall semester based upon ability to meet the cost of attendance for the upcoming term. Up to \$250,000; awards vary depending upon the individual needs of each student.
6. Undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate exceptional need may receive emergency financial aid grants based upon individual circumstances and needs as determined by the University administration. Up to \$150,000; awards vary depending upon the individual needs of each student.
 - a. Eligible students as of 6/30/21 = 1 = \$3,334.80

HEERF III/ARP Report – Letter and Application Form for GROUP 1 Awardees



The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides Student Emergency Financial Aid to assist students with covering certain costs of attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Universities are permitted to provide aid to students who have experienced exceptional need. Francis Marion University has developed a plan to identify such students who may be eligible to receive these emergency financial aid grants.

The legislation provides that emergency financial aid grants may be used by students for any component of their 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. Students determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

Based upon a review of your account and file, the university has determined that you are an eligible recipient and have been awarded a one-time disbursement of funds in the amount of \$ Amount from the University's Student Emergency Financial Aid program under the American Rescue Plan.

This disbursement represents the **past due** balance you currently owe the University. To continue enrollment at FMU, the past due balance you owe must be satisfied. If you choose to use these funds to pay your existing past due balance, simply complete this form and submit it as instructed. Please note you must meet academic requirements in order to re-enroll. If you have questions about your academic status, please contact the Center for Academic Success and Advisement (CASA) at (843)661-1400. If you choose not to use these funds to pay your past due balance and be eligible for re-enrollment, a check will be issued to you for this amount. However, not paying the past due balance will result in your account remaining in arrears and collectible. Additionally, you are not able to continue enrollment until the debt is satisfied. In order to process the disbursement, you must complete this form. You can complete the form online at <https://www.fmarion.edu/accounting/heerfiii/> for electronic submission.

The American Rescue Plan provides opportunities for students experiencing exceptional need to continue their enrollment and pursue a college degree. If you believe your financial aid eligibility has been impacted by changes to your family's income, the FMU Office of Financial Assistance can reassess your situation to determine if you are eligible for additional financial aid. Furthermore, you may be eligible for future disbursements of student emergency aid from the ARP to assist with cost of attendance during the 2021 Fall and 2022 Spring semesters.

If you have questions or need assistance with completing the form, please contact the FMU Cashiers Office at (843)661-1596. To credit these funds to your account or to receive them directly, you must complete this form, which may be completed electronically or at the Cashier's Office in the Stokes Administration Building room 104. If you request a check, it must be picked up from the Cashier's Office. The Cashier's Office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and on Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Credits to outstanding account balances will be applied within one week and checks will be ready for pick-up within two weeks following the successful submission of the form. To be considered, please submit the form no later than August 1, 2021.

Sincerely,

Ashley Owens

Director of Financial Services and Student Accounts

HEERF III STUDENT FORM

Under the guidelines of the ARP, emergency financial aid grants may be used by students for any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to corona virus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care. Students determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Student ID: _____ Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

I authorize Francis Marion University to apply this Emergency Financial Grant to my student account to satisfy the outstanding past due balance*.

☐ Yes

☐ No

***Terms and Conditions**

To continue enrollment at FMU, the past due balance you owe must be satisfied. If you choose to use these funds to pay your existing past due balance, simply complete this form and submit it as instructed. Please note you must meet academic requirements in order to re-enroll. If you choose not to use these funds to pay your past due balance and be eligible for re-enrollment, a check will be issued to you for this amount. However, not paying the past due balance will result in your account remaining in arrears and collectible. Additionally, you are not able to continue enrollment until the debt is satisfied. In order to process the disbursement, you must complete this form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

ACCOUNTING OFFICE

PO Box 100547
Florence, SC 29502

HEERF III/ARP Report – Application Form for GROUP 6 Awardees

Francis Marion University Student Coronavirus Emergency Grant Fund

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 provides Student Emergency Financial Aid to assist students with covering certain costs of attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Universities are permitted to provide aid to students who have experienced exceptional need. By filling out this application, you are indicating that you meet the exceptional need criteria.

To apply for grant funding, please complete and submit this form and return to the Office of Financial Assistance. A committee will review your application and reply promptly to your request for funding. Grant funding is limited and will be allocated upon a needs-basis until all funds are depleted.

Please note that any ARP emergency financial aid grant may be used by students for any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental healthcare) or childcare. Students determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

Emergency Grant Application

Name _____

Student ID _____

Home Street Address _____

Home City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ FMU Email _____

Please describe the circumstances and costs that have led you to have exceptional need (examples include but are not limited to COVID-related expenses, reduced income, medical bills, increased living expenses, etc.).

Applicant Signature _____

Grant Funding Applications may be submitted to the Office of Financial Assistance, SAB 117, 843-661-1190, finasst@fmarion.edu