

Federal legislation titled the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) was passed in March 2021. Through ARP, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) allocated funds to higher education institutions to be distributed to students in the form of grants with appropriate use conditions. The information below is the reporting data for required by the US Department of Education.

1. An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the ARP program to provide Emergency Grants to students.

On April 17, 2020, North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) signed and returned to the US Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for the Emergency Grants to students under the HEERF I – CARES Act. Under that agreement, NHCC has distributed at least 50 percent of the HEERF I money received as emergency grant aid to students.

On May 12, 2021, NHCC received notification of a supplemental HEERF III award through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. As a recipient of HEERF I – CARES Act funding, NHCC was not required to submit another certification agreement under ARP for the HEERF III award. NHCC intends to use the applicable amount of funds designated under the ARP Act to provide Emergency Grants to students.

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 ARP program.

NHCC has received an allocation of \$6,251,339 to be distributed as emergency grant aid to students with exceptional need.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the ARP program as of the date of submission (i.e. as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

- \$4,905,491.73 as of March 31, 2022
- \$3,414,081.29 as of December 31, 2021
- \$829,085.23 as of September 30, 2021

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP program.

For fall 2021 – spring 2022, NHCC had 4,891 eligible students.

For the summer 2021 term, NHCC had 1,276 eligible students.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the ARP program.

- 4,840 students as of March 31, 2021
- 3,877 students as of December 31, 2021
- 1,276 students as of September 30, 2021

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 ARP program.

NHCC prioritized distributing funds to support students with exceptional financial need by allocating funds to student through the following two methods.

A. ARP Direct Grant Awards

Base Award: Students enrolled for one or more credits during summer 2021, fall 2021, and/or spring 2022, received a \$300 grant award for that term to assist with the additional internet and technology expenses incurred for online classes.

Supplemental Award: Students that received a base award and either submitted a Dream Act application or a FAFSA that resulted in an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) value at or below \$10,000 received an additional \$500 grant disbursement.

B. ARP Emergency Application Grant Awards

Eligible students can submit an online application to request up to \$1,000 to cover 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. Students can also request the funds to go towards an outstanding balance owed to NHCC for the term the application is submitted.

Eligible students can request up to \$1,00 in an ARP emergency grant award per term.

Student eligibility requirements for a need-based ARP Emergency Grant include:

- Enrollment in at least one or more credits at NHCC in the semester for which the student is requesting the grant.
- Need for assistance with expenses related to the impact of COVID-19.

Students who fall under any one of the following criteria, are not eligible for any ARP Grant Awards:

- High school students (including PSEO and concurrent enrollment)
- Employees of MN State using their tuition benefits to pay for their classes
- Students that received the senior citizen discount
- Incarcerated students.

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

All students eligible for the Direct Grant award received an email at their NHCC email address informing them of their eligibility. Students that had not set up their refund preference through BankMobile received another email at their NHCC email address with instructions on how to set that up.

Students who completed an application for the Emergency Grant funds were notified of their application status through the email address the student provided on their application on the date their application was reviewed.

All grant payments were released to students through the refund preference the student set up with BankMobile. If the student selected BankMobile, the grant funds were available the same day. If the student selected direct deposit to another bank account, the grant funds would have been available within approximately 2 business days.

The NHCC Accounting and Fees Office continued to reach out to students through their NHCC email if they had not yet set up their refund preference through BankMobile with instructions on how to complete that process.