



University of Nebraska – Lincoln

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Reporting Requirements for Quarter Ending: September 30, 2021

ARP Background

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARP funds are in addition to funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260 and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. Emergency funds available to institutions and their students under all emergency funds total \$76.2 billion.

The ARP has two new required uses of HEERF III Institutional Portion grant funds for public and private nonprofit institutions in which, if the Institutional Portion is not used entirely for emergency financial grants to students, a portion of funds must be used to: (a) implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines; and (b) 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, or other circumstances, described in section 479A of the HEA.

The ARP provides a new formula for the amount of (a)(1) funds that must be used for financial aid grants to students. This amount is represented in the “Student Aid Portion” column listed on the ARP (a)(1) allocation table and explained in the accompanying ARP (a)(1) methodology document.

Eligibility To Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Under HEERF (May 14, 2021, 86 FR 26608) (final rule), the term “student,” for purposes of the phrases “grants to students,” “emergency financial aid grants to students,” and “financial aid grants to students” as used in the HEERF programs, is now defined as any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in 34 CFR § 668.2) at an eligible institution (as defined in 34 CFR § 600.2) on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus (85 FR 15337). Thus, students are no longer required to be eligible for Title IV student financial aid in order to receive HEERF grants to students.

Student Allocation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Institutions did not need to apply if received CARES Act funding. On June 4, 2021, Nebraska received the award notification authorizing funding of an additional \$21,239,605.00 to award emergency grants to students at UNL and NCTA under ARP (a)(4) programs.

Student Identification and Notification

Summer: Beginning May 28, 2021:

Awarding Criteria for Summer 2021 students;

1. Title IV eligible (completed FAFSA, meeting SAP, eligible program, etc)
2. Completed summer Aid Application
3. Enrolled in 3 or more hours for summer 2021
4. EFC of 11,000 or less

Notification of Application Availability



Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid
P.O. Box 880411 | Lincoln, NE 68588-0411
Fax: 402.472.9826 | 402.472.2030
huskerhub@unl.edu
Walk-In & Appointment Info: huskerhub.unl.edu



- Students were sent an email notifying them of the availability of the application on MyRED (student portal) and a To Do List item was added.
- Sample Email

Dear Student,

Summary: You **must** login to MyRED and go to the Financial Aid tab to **complete the Federal American Rescue Plan (HEERF III COVID Summer Grant) funds application.**

Based on your summer aid application, you have been determined to be eligible for the Summer HEERF Grant funds (and may already have a Summer HEERF Grant Estimate). To receive the Summer HEERF Grant funds, you must complete the **Federal HEERF III Emergency funds application in MyRED under the Financial Aid tab.** These funds can be used to pay for costs you have incurred related to tuition, fees, housing, food, technology, childcare, healthcare, or other costs.

UNL received notice of this available funding as part of the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress, which allocated federal funds to colleges and universities to aid in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be sure you have set up [direct deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts.

In alignment with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, UNL is prioritizing students based on socioeconomic circumstances.

If you have questions about emergency funding due to COVID-19, you can contact Husker Hub at huskerhub@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2030.

Sincerely,

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Application Information

- Students will be asked if they will enroll in 3 or more hours for the summer term.
 - If No, taken to end of form/Signature page
 - If Yes, presented with question about whether HEERF funds can be used to pay charges on their student account
 - Students who answer 'Yes' to having expenses will receive a \$1,400 grant

Award Notification

- Students were awarded at least weekly based on completed applications and email notifications were sent.
- Sample Email

Dear Student,

You are receiving this email as notification of a Federal COVID HEERF III Summer Grant distribution.

Per your emergency funding request, we have added a Summer 2021 grant to your account which may refund to you. If you have not already done so, make sure you [set up Direct Deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts as this is the fastest way to receive funds. You can login to MyRED to see your grant and make sure you look at Summer 2021. If you provided consent on your application to utilize the funds toward your UNL student account, then the funds will credit your student account first and the remainder will be refunded to you, if applicable.

The amount provided is based on the limited amount of funds available and prioritized to support as many students as possible and prioritizing students with exceptional need who were impacted by COVID-19. You may use these funds to help support your tuition, fees, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and other expenses related to attendance at the University of Nebraska. **Please be sure to check your student account in MyRED to make sure you are current on your balance due.**

The University is continuing to provide helpful updates on COVID-19 at <https://covid19.unl.edu/>. Our website will continue to be updated with resources that may be helpful to supporting your basic needs or other questions related to finances: <https://financialaid.unl.edu/covid-19-resources>.

If you have questions about emergency funding due to COVID-19 or other options for financial aid, you can contact Husker Hub at huskerhub@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2030.

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Fall: Beginning September 17,2021

Awarding Criteria for Fall students;

1. Direct Grants based on exceptional need. Supports financial need students, including Federal Pell Grant recipients, who are defined by the government as having need
2. Direct Grants for students with emergency costs
3. Direct Grants for Non-Title IV recipients based on exception need determine by appropriate UNL staff members
4. Completed HEERF grant application
5. Special Circumstances – additional grants based on special circumstances application
6. Enrolled in 1 or more hours for fall 2021

Notification of Application Availability

- o Students were sent an email notifying them of the availability of the application on MyRED (student portal) and a To Do List item was added.
- o Sample Email

Dear Student,

Summary: You can log in to MyRED and navigate to the Financial Aid tab to access the Federal HEERF III Fall Grant funds application to **request financial support** with costs associated with your attendance at Nebraska or as a result of economic conditions due to COVID-19.

We recognize you may be facing financial challenges presented by COVID-19, directly or indirectly. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will soon be distributing additional federal stimulus funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. You are receiving this email because you may be eligible for funds. **Our Federal HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) III Fall Grant funds application has been made available to you in MyRED under the Financial Aid tab.** You can complete this form to request assistance with costs associated with your attendance at Nebraska or your financial need as a result of economic conditions due to COVID-19 related to tuition, housing, food, technology, childcare, healthcare, or other costs.

UNL received notice of this available funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress, which allocated additional federal funds to colleges and universities to aid in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is limited and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) will review requests as they are received to make decisions on distributions related to your attendance. If you are granted funds, you will receive an email to your Huskers email account. Please be sure you have set up [direct deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts in advance.

In alignment with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, UNL will prioritize students based on those with exceptional need.

If you have questions about emergency funding due to COVID-19, you can contact Husker Hub at huskerhub@unl.edu or by phone at 402-472-2030.

Sincerely,

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Application Information

- o Students were asked if they would like to be considered for financial support with federal emergency funds due to their attendance at UNL and/or economic conditions as a result of COVID-19.
 - If No, taken to end of form/Signature page
 - If Yes, presented with question about whether HEERF funds can be used to pay charges on their student account
- o Students with an EFC at or below 11,000
 - Are taken to the last page/Signature page to submit the application
 - Students who answer 'Yes' to having expenses will receive a \$1,000 grant for fall semester
- o Students with an EFC above 11,000
 - Are asked additional questions about type of expenses and amount of expenses
 - Then are taken to the last page/Signature page to submit the application



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- Students will be awarded the requested amount, up to \$500, for the fall semester

Award Notification

- Students were awarded at least weekly based on completed applications and email notifications were sent.
- Sample Email

Initial notification

Dear Student,

You are receiving this email as notification of a Federal COVID HEERF III Fall Grant distribution.

Per your emergency funding request, we have added a Fall 2021 grant to your account which may refund to you. If you have not already done so, make sure you [set up Direct Deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts as this is the fastest way to receive funds. You can login to MyRED to see your grant and make sure you look at Fall 2021. If you provided consent on your application to utilize the funds toward your UNL student account, then the funds will credit your student account first and the remainder will be refunded to you, if applicable.

The amount provided is based on the amount of funds available and prioritized to support as many students as possible and prioritizing students with exceptional need who were impacted by COVID-19. You may use these funds to help support your tuition, fees, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and other expenses related to attendance at the University of Nebraska. **Please be sure to check your student account in MyRED to make sure you are current on your balance due.**

The University is continuing to provide helpful updates on COVID-19 at <https://covid19.unl.edu/>. Our website will continue to be updated with resources that may be helpful to supporting your basic needs or other questions related to finances: <https://financialaid.unl.edu/covid-19-resources>.

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Special Circumstances Notification

Dear fld_FIRST_NAME,

You are receiving this email as notification of a Federal COVID HEERF III Fall Grant special circumstances distribution.

Per your emergency funding request, we have added a Fall 2021 grant to your account which may refund to you. If you have not already done so, make sure you [set up Direct Deposit](#) with the Office of Student Accounts as this is the fastest way to receive funds. You can login to MyRED to see your grant and make sure you look at Fall 2021. If you provided consent on your application to utilize the funds toward your UNL student account, then the funds will credit your student account first and the remainder will be refunded to you, if applicable.

The amount provided is based on the amount of funds available and prioritized to support as many students as possible and prioritizing students with exceptional need who were impacted by COVID-19. You may use these funds to help support your tuition, fees, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, childcare, and other expenses related to attendance at the University of Nebraska. **Please be sure to check your student account in MyRED to make sure you are current on your balance due.**

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Student Numbers and Amounts for Specified Quarter

- Estimated number of eligible students: 13991
- Number of students awarded grant: 7405
- Amount of grants awarded: \$6,216,114



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