



University of Nebraska – Lincoln

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Reporting Requirements for Quarter Ending: March 31, 2022

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

Spring: Beginning January 31, 2022

Awarding Criteria for Spring 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 spring 2022
7. Reviewed fall applications for reported expenses higher than fall award amount. If higher, we awarded up to the maximum award for spring for their eligibility level without a new application for spring. If award amount for fall was less than



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



maximum award for fall, no award was offered for spring and no new application was presented to student. If no application was received for fall, a new application was presented to student for spring.

Notification of Application Availability

- 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 can log in to MyRED and navigate to the Financial Aid tab to access the Federal HEERF III Spring 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 Spring 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

- 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
- 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 \$1,300 grant for spring semester
- 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
 - Students will be awarded the requested amount, up to \$750, for the spring semester



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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 Spring Grant distribution.

Per your emergency funding request, we have added a Spring 2022 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 Spring 2022. 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 first Spring 2022 billing due date is February 12.**

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.

Sincerely,

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Special Circumstances Notification

Dear Student,

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

Per your emergency funding request, we have added a Spring 2022 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 Spring 2022. 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.

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Student Numbers and Amounts for Specified Quarter

- Estimated number of eligible students: 23159
- Number of students awarded grant: 9606
- Amount of grants awarded: \$9,876,833



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