

COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

ARP: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 314(a)(1) of the ARP

How Eligible Students Were Identified for Funding

Phase 1: Summer Block Grants to Eligible Students for Cost of Attendance Expenses

The Office of Student Financial Aid identified all eligible students as of July 21, 2021 and automatically awarded “block grants”. An application was not required for the block grant. Student were advised that the grant may be used toward any component of the student’s cost of attendance, such as tuition, fees, books and supplies, housing, transportation, or any other personal educational expenses. Block grants of \$900 were distributed to all students who meet the following criteria as of July 21, 2021:

- a. “Students who receive Pell grants”: Define as: Any first bachelor’s degree-seeking undergraduate student who is registered for at least one credit for summer and has a EFC of 5711 or lower in 2021. Award highest block amount: \$900
- b. Students who “may be eligible for other federal or state need-based aid”: Define as:
 1. Any undergraduate student (UG or 2BA) who is registered in at least one credit for summer and has need according to formula COA-EFC for 2021 (but is not already included in higher block grant group). Award lower block amount: \$700
 2. Any graduate student (Master’s or PhD) who is registered in at least one credit for summer and has an EFC of 10,000 or below for 2021. Award lower block amount: \$700
 3. Any Medical (MD) student enrolled in year MED3 or MED4, who was enrolled in the summer term and had an EFC of 10,000 or below for 2122. (For these students, the summer term was part of their 2122 academic year). Award lower block amount: \$700

Phase 2: Summer Emergency Grants to Eligible Students

Grants were distributed at a flat rate of \$700 to Summer enrolled students who faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, or food or housing insecurity. Students were invited to apply for this emergency grant by completing an online application. This application was available between August 4th and August 20th. This application was available to all students who are enrolled in at least one credit for the Summer 2021 semester. Students did not need to be financial aid recipients to be eligible.

Students were advised that funds are limited and may be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Completing the application was not a guarantee of funding. To be eligible for these emergency grants, students must meet the following criteria:

- Student has faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families, reduced income, or food or housing insecurity).
- Student is registered for at least one credit for the Summer 2021 semester.

Note that prior to August 13th, the student needed to be enrolled in the summer term with an active registration status. After August 13th, when the semester concluded, any student who had any attempted hours for the summer term was eligible (meaning that students who withdrew with a W grade or earned an F grade during summer are eligible).

Phase 3: Fall Block Grants to Eligible Students for Cost of Attendance Expenses

The Office of Student Financial Aid identified all eligible students as of September 8, 2021 and automatically awarded “block grants”. An application was not required for the block grant. Students were advised that the grant may be used toward any component of the student’s cost of attendance, such as tuition, fees, books and supplies, housing, transportation, or any other personal educational expenses.

Block grants of \$900 were distributed to all students who met the following criteria as of September 8, 2021:

- Student is enrolled in a first bachelor’s degree seeking program for the Fall 2021 semester in at least one credit.
- Student is enrolled in at least one Fall course which has already begun.*
- Student has completed a 2021-2022 FAFSA with FAU’s school code. The Office of Student Financial Aid has received the valid FAFSA.
- Student has an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 5,846 or less (Department of Education’s Pell Grant eligibility cutoff).

Block grants of \$700 were distributed to all students who met the following criteria as of September 8, but were not awarded the higher block grant amount:

- Student is enrolled in a degree-seeking program for the Fall 2021 semester in at least one credit.

- Student is enrolled in at least one Fall course which has already begun.*
- Student has completed a 2021-2022 FAFSA with FAU's school code. The Office of Student Financial Aid has received the valid FAFSA.
- Undergraduate student has need according to formula COA-EFC (Cost of Attendance minus Expected Family Contribution, as determined by FAFSA).
- Graduate student (Master's, PhD or Medical) has an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of 10,000 or less.

*Note: This was specified because Fall block grants were disbursed prior to the end of the add/drop period for some later part of term courses.

Phase 4: Fall Emergency Grants to Eligible Students:

Grants will be distributed at a flat rate of \$700 to Fall enrolled students who have faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, or food or housing insecurity. Students are invited to apply for this emergency grant by completing an online application. We began to review these applications and award funds to eligible students on September 13, 2021.

This application is available to all students who are enrolled in at least one credit for the Fall 2021 semester. Students do not need to be financial aid recipients to be eligible.

Students were advised that funds are limited and may be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Completing the application is not a guarantee of funding. To be eligible for these emergency grants, students must meet the following criteria:

- Student has faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families, reduced income, or food or housing insecurity).
- Student is registered for at least one credit for the Fall 2021 semester.
- Student is enrolled in at least one Fall course which has already begun.
- Student did not receive an application-based emergency grant in Summer 2021.

How Award Amounts Were Calculated

Application-Based Grant Awards: Application-based grants disbursed at a flat rate of \$700. This award amount was chosen to be consistent with previous HEERF disbursements.

Block Grant Awards: Block grants were disbursed at rates of \$900 and \$700, as described in the methodology above. Award amounts were selected in order to fulfill the goal of disbursing a majority of the HEERF 3 funding as block grants to FAFSA filers who were eligible for Pell grants or other need-based aid, as described in Question 7 of the Department's FAQ document. By disbursing a majority of the HEERF 3 funding as block grants based on FAFSA data, FAU fulfilled the requirement to prioritize domestic students with exceptional need.