

Reporting Information for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III as authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) – Student Aid Portion

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Lehigh was awarded \$4,622,179 to give to students as emergency aid in the form of a cash grant. 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.

- 1.) Students who are or were enrolled in an institution of higher education on or after March 13, 2020, regardless of whether they completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or are eligible for Title IV. This includes citizens, permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, undocumented, and international students. Institutions are directed to prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances in awarding emergency financial aid grants to students.
- 2.) As a result of this guidance, Lehigh will be awarding HEERF III Grants from ARP to the following groups of students:
 - a. Undergraduate students who are US Citizens or permanent residents, are Pell eligible (based on the EFC from the 2021-2022 FAFSA application) and who are enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying degree program for the Fall 2021 semester will be awarded a \$2,000 grant.
 - b. Undergraduate students who are US Citizens or permanent residents, not Pell eligible but otherwise have financial need (based on the information provided on the CSS Profile) and who are enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying degree program for the Fall 2021 semester will be awarded a \$1,500 grant.
 - c. Undergraduate students who are refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, undocumented, and international students and have financial need (based on the information provided on the CSS Profile) and who are enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying degree program for the Fall 2021 semester will be awarded a \$3,000 grant.
- 3.) Students were notified of their eligibility for these funds on August 18, 2021:

On March 11, 2021, the University was approved to receive funds as part of The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) which is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Congress has directed that a portion of these funds be given to students with exceptional financial need. These funds 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.

Please take a moment to review the FAQ about this information [located on our website](#).

We have reviewed your financial aid application and determined that you are eligible to receive a grant in the amount of \$XXXX as a result of this funding.

*If you would like to apply these funds directly to your billed expenses, please submit the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding Form no later than August 22nd. **If you currently have a balance on your bursar account, including an unsatisfied payment plan, we strongly encourage you to use these funds to apply to that balance.** Unsatisfied balances can result in holds, prohibiting you from accessing your academic transcript and registering for courses, among other consequences. Therefore, it is in your best interest to apply this funding to your Bursar account.*

Please note that if do not submit the form by August 22, these funds will be given to you in the form of a check and will be sent to your campus mailbox after September 7.

The funds are not considered part of your financial aid package and can be used however you see fit, but are intended to cover any component of your 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. You will not be asked to submit receipts or provide documentation on how these funds were spent.

- 4.) The following funds were distributed:
- a. On August 31, we distributed \$3,475,000 in ARP checks to 1971 students and disbursed \$54,000 to 24 students' bursar account.
 - b. As of September 15, we disbursed an additional \$683,146 to 350 students' Bursar account.
 - c. As of December 31, we disbursed an additional \$398,509 in ARP checks to 179 students and disbursed \$8,737 to 3 students' Bursar account. In addition, we had 13 students request that the credit from the Bursar account be processed as a check payment, totaling \$26,219.50.
 - d. In January 2 2022, we sent the following message to students who had not yet cashed their ARP checks:

Dear Student,

On August 17, we notified you of your eligibility to receive funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) under the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). We are writing to you because our records indicate that as of today, you have not cashed the check that was sent to you. The check is only valid for 90 days after the issue date.

At this point, you must submit the ARP Action form and choose to take one of the following actions:

- Recommended: Request that we apply the funds directly to your Bursar account. This will decrease your balance due for the Spring 2022 semester.*
- Request that we reissue the check and send it to you at an address that you provide on the form.*
- Request that we do not reissue the check if you do not need these funds.*

Be sure to submit the ARP Action form by January 14th if you wish to utilize these funds.

Please give us two weeks from the date that you submit the form to take the action that you requested. If we do not receive your form by the end of day on Friday, January 14, we will assume that you do not need these funds and cancel your check without a reissue.

*Regards,
The Office of Financial Aid*

As a result, on 1/25/22, we canceled and reissued 36 checks totaling \$62,000 and canceled 141 checks totaling \$155,603.

- e. As of March 31, 2022, we disbursed an additional \$36,360 in ARP checks to 26 students and disbursed \$114,529 to 74 students' bursar account.