

## **Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Fund Reporting**

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. On December 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CRRSA Act, which provides continued emergency relief funds to organization and individual affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

This report provides details on fourth quarter funding received and disbursed to students enrolled at Western Illinois University under HEERF for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Award No. P425E200622.

### **CERTIFICATION**

On March 20, 2021 WIU received notification of grant funding from the Department of Education for additional allocation under the American Rescue Plan (ARP). WIU will use no less than \$11,273,110 funds received of the ARP to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students. Western Illinois University will receive a total of \$22,183,557 of HEERF III.

### **FUNDS DISTRIBUTED**

For the time period of October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 (Quarter 2), WIU has awarded \$5,379,650.00 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

### **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

Western Illinois University had an estimated 7,455 (Fall 2021) students eligible to participate in programs under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. As of 12/31/21, WIU has distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 6,329 students (Fall 2021) for the time period of October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 (Quarter 2) under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

### **METHOD USED TO DETERMINE STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY**

#### **HEERF Round 3 (ARP)**

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.

#### **Fall 2021**

Western will automatically award block grants to all eligible students. To be eligible students must meet the following conditions:

1. Be actively enrolled in the term in which aid is awarded.
2. Seeking a degree with Western Illinois University (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, Post-baccalaureate certificate).
3. Meeting or have successfully appealed Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Students need to complete a credit authorization via [STARS](#) acknowledging how funds will be disbursed. Agreeing to the authorization allows the institution to retain the funds for direct costs (i.e. tuition, fees, housing/dining, etc.). A student who disagrees with the authorization is requesting the funds be refunded regardless of balance due.

Funds will be awarded/disbursed after the 8th week of the semester. No application is required

**Spring 2022**

TBD

### **INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS**

Eligibility and availability of funds for emergency aid is available for viewing at [http://www.wiu.edu/student\\_services/financial\\_aid/special\\_programs/emergencyAidApplication.php](http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/financial_aid/special_programs/emergencyAidApplication.php). Students are directed to the website as well as communicated via email regarding the eligibility/availability of funds.