



ARPA – Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Grants Initial - First Quarterly Report: June 30, 2021

Meridian Community College has received additional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds through a formula from the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**. As with the CARES Act (HEERF I) and the CRRSAA (HEERF II) funds already released, these grants are provided to assist students with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

This report is provided to meet reporting requirements of the U.S. Department of Education.

1. Acknowledgement

Meridian Community College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the US Department of Education and intends to use all \$4,793,739 of these funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

2. Total Amount MCC has or will receive from the U.S. Dept. of Education under this ARPA Program

Meridian Community College was awarded \$4,793,739 and will award all funds as higher education emergency grants to students and will drawdown these funds after disbursements have been made.

3. Total Amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants Distributed to Students

As of May 13, 2021, the college had begun the process of determining the method to be used to determine eligibility requirements and allow students time to complete a 2021 Summer HEERF III Grant Application and provide information related to their authorization to apply this grant to their summer 2021 account balance. As of June 30, 2021, the college had not disbursed any summer HEERF III grants to students although, \$83,540.81 was spent on spring 2021 HEERF II grant awards due to shortage of funds in the CRRSAA funding provided.

4. Estimated number of students at the college who are eligible to receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under the ARPA program

Based on the decision by our HEERF Committee, all students who are U.S. Citizens, who enroll in at least three billable credit hours during the summer 2021 semester and who complete the 2021 Summer HEERF III Grant Application will be eligible for the summer 2021 HEERF III grant.

Our initial estimate of the number of students who may be eligible is 1,017. (This includes some students who may or may not be a U.S. Citizen as their status is uncertain.)

5. The Total Number of Students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant.

As of June 30, 2021, the college had not disbursed any summer HEERF III grants to students although, \$83,540.81 was spent on spring 2021 HEERF II grant awards.

6. Methods used to determine which students receive a Summer 2021 HEERF III Grant under this program and how much they will receive

Summer students enrolled in a minimum of three semester credit hours will be provided a grant equal to the amount of their charges owed to the college for tuition, fees, eBook fees, books, and course materials, plus an additional grant award for out-of-pocket expenses.

The college must prioritize the neediest students and have decided to use the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) EFC (expected family contribution) to make that determination. An out-of-pocket grant amount of \$500.00 will be awarded to those students who have not completed a FAFSA or did complete a FAFSA that resulted in an EFC calculation over 5,711. Students with an EFC of 5,711 or lower will receive an out-of-pocket grant amount of \$700.00. These additional funds assist in out-of-pocket costs such as food, housing, health care, childcare, or other related expenses.

Students are not required to apply this grant to their account; they may elect to receive the total funds by check. In accordance with the college catalog, deferments are not offered for the summer terms. All tuition, fees, and college charges above any completed and authorized financial aid are due when classes start. However, students who authorize the college to apply this grant to their account will not be required to pay applicable charges before class start dates.

The disbursement date is estimated to be mid to late July 2021, when all eligibility criteria and processes have been completed. Announcements will be made at that time.

Students who do not have U.S. Citizenship status confirmed, can provide additional documentation to our admissions office. Once this is updated and notification is given to our business office, a grant will be awarded to the student and either applied to their account (if directed by the student) or mailed to them.

7. Instructions, Directions, or Guidance provided by MCC to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants

Student eligibility requirements were posted on the MCC website that included having expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, including the eligible fees under a student's cost of attendance such as tuition, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care; completion of a 2021 Summer HEERF III application by the cut-off date of July 6, 2021, and before all funds have been awarded; be enrolled in a minimum of 3 semester "billable" credit hours over the summer term; be a U.S. citizen. Neither Pell eligibility nor Title IV eligibility was required to receive a HEERF III grant.

Students were instructed to complete admission requirements and register for a minimum of three semester "billable" credit hours for the 2021 summer term. The student could then submit the summer grant application located on EagleNet on the "Stu. Finances & Records" menu with a link titled **2021 Summer HEERF III Grant Application**.

We provided information about HEERF III on our website and also an FAQ section for related questions students may have about the grant, including providing proof of U. S. citizenship when it was unable to be determined.

We provided an email address of HEERF@meridiancc.edu for any questions related to these grants and/or their status. This was provided on our website and in the email notification to a student when an application was submitted.

Grant funds are 100% federal.
1.74% has been spent at this time.