



**ARPA – Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Grants P425E202889  
Fourth Quarterly Report: March 31, 2022**

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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**

Spring 2021 HEERF II

During the quarter from 7/1/21 through 9/30/21, there were 5 additional students who were determined to be eligible for a spring HEERF II grant – although the CRRSAA funds had been expended. Those 5 student grants were paid out of available ARPA funds and total \$1,666.65.

Summer 2021 HEERF III

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.

Although HEERF III funds were not yet disbursed to students, the amount owed to students as of June 30, 2021 was accrued for financial statement purposes. The total accrued as of June 30, 2021 was \$1,362,871.31 for 701 students.

These disbursements were made in July of 2021, along with additional awards of \$136,099.03 for 33 students who submitted their application after July 1, 2021. As of September 30, 2021 the total summer awards equaled \$1,415,429.53 for a total of 734 students.

In November of 2021, after additional investigation, one summer 2021 award was made to an eligible student who was attending MCC through the MS Virtual Community College agreement. Based on our professional judgement this student was eligible due to confusion during the advising process. The total amount of the grant award was \$1,829.00.

#### Fall 2021 HEERF III

On September 23, 2021, the college made available to students the fall 2021 HEERF III grant application. The deadline for students to apply for the grant is October 15, 2021. As of September 30, 2021, the college had not disbursed any fall HEERF III grants to students.

The college initially set a deadline of October 15, 2021 but then extended the deadline to November 12, 2021 to allow more students an opportunity to apply for grant funds. As of December 31, 2021, \$1,230,500 in funds were disbursed to 1,510 students.

#### Spring 2022 HEERF III

On January 20, 2022, the college made available to students the spring 2022 HEERF III grant application. The deadline for students to apply for the grant is February 11, 2022. As of March 31, 2022, \$1,766,125 in funds were disbursed to 1,403 students.

In addition, the college offered a HEERF III grant application to students enrolled in our Adult Education program. There were 55 students who applied. These students were awarded \$1,000 each for a total of \$55,000.

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

#### Summer 2021 HEERF III

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.)

#### Fall 2021 HEERF III

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 fall 2021 semester and who complete the 2021 fall HEERF III Grant Application will be eligible for the fall 2021 HEERF III grant.

Our initial estimate of the number of students who may be eligible is 2,592. (This includes some students who may or may not be a U.S. Citizen as their status is uncertain.)

#### Spring 2022 HEERF III

Based on the decision by our HEERF Committee, all students who enrolled in at least three billable credit hours during the spring 2022 semester and who completed the 2022 spring HEERF III Grant Application were eligible for the spring 2022 HEERF III grant. Priority was given to students who were U. S. Citizens, but all students were eligible to apply. Our initial estimate of the number of students who may be eligible is 2,415.

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

#### Spring 2021 HEERF II

The college disbursed 5 additional HEERF II grants from the ARPA funds, for a total of 2,412 total grants for the spring 2021 term.

#### Summer 2021 HEERF III

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. These funds paid for some of the students shown for spring 2021 HEERF II.

The number of students who were accrued last quarter to receive aid as of June 30, 2021 was 701 for a total of \$1,363,047.31. These grants were disbursed in July of 2021 along with 33 additional grants. Therefore the total disbursed summer 2021 grants were 734.

The addition of one summer award brings the total number of awards to 735 students.

#### Fall 2021 HEERF III

As of September 30, 2021, the college had not disbursed any fall HEERF III grants to students. As of December 31, 2021, the college had disbursed HEERF III grants to 1,510 students.

#### Spring 2022 HEERF III

As of March 31, 2021, the college had disbursed HEERF III grants to 1,458 students.

## **6. Methods used to determine which students receive a Summer 2021, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 HEERF III Grant under this program and how much they will receive**

### Summer 2021 HEERF III

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.

### Fall 2021 HEERF III

The fall 2021 HEERF III grant award will be based on a scale using hours enrolled and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) calculated expected family contribution (EFC), if available. 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.

Students are not required to apply this grant to their account; they may elect to receive the total funds by check. The disbursement date is estimated to be mid to late October 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 by the October 15 application deadline.

The college initially set a deadline of October 15, 2021 but then extended the deadline to November 12, 2021 to allow more students an opportunity to apply for grant funds.

### Spring 2022 HEERF III

The spring 2022 HEERF III grant award was based on a scale using hours enrolled and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) calculated expected family contribution (EFC), if available. 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.

Students were not required to apply this grant to their account; they may elect to receive the total funds by check. The funds were posted to accounts on February 16, 2022. Students who elected not to have funds applied to their account were mailed a check at the end of February.

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

### Summer 2021 HEERF III

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](mailto: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.

### Fall 2021 HEERF III

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 fall HEERF III application by the cut-off date of October 15, 2021; be enrolled in a minimum of 3 semester "billable" credit hours over the fall 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 submit the fall grant application located on EagleNet on the "Stu. Finances & Records" menu with a link titled **Fall 2021 HEERF III Grant Application**.

We provided information about HEERF III on our website at <https://meridiancc.edu/federalrelief> 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. Students were also provided instructions on how to request a reevaluation of their federal aid eligibility due to a loss of student or family income caused by the Covid pandemic.

We provided an email address of [HEERF@meridiancc.edu](mailto: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.

The college initially set a deadline of October 15, 2021 but then extended the deadline to November 12, 2021 to allow more students an opportunity to apply for grant funds.

### Spring 2022 HEERF III

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 2022 spring HEERF III application by the cut-off date of February 11, 2022; be enrolled in a minimum of 3 semester "billable" credit hours over the fall term. Neither Pell eligibility nor Title IV eligibility was required to receive a HEERF III grant.

Students were instructed to submit the spring grant application located on EagleNet on the "Stu. Finances & Records" menu with a link titled **Spring 2022 HEERF III Grant Application**.

We provided information about HEERF III on our website at <https://meridiancc.edu/federalrelief> and also an FAQ section for related questions students may have about the grant. Students were also provided instructions on how to request a reevaluation of their federal aid eligibility due to a loss of student or family income caused by the Covid pandemic.

We provided an email address of [HEERF@meridiancc.edu](mailto: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.  
96.71% has been disbursed at this time.