

# Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) III – American Rescue Plan of 2021

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2). The ARP appropriated approximately \$39.6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Taken together, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116-136), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), and the ARP represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III, respectively.

## Information and Awarding

Humphreys University's minimum allocation under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is **\$619,891**.

HEERF III Awards were disbursed over two quarters:

- Summer 2021 Quarter
- Fall 2021 Quarter

The HEERF III grants disbursed in the summer and fall of 2021 quarters totaled \$627,215. **HEERF III funds are limited and not guaranteed.**

The purpose of this funding is to provide students with assistance 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 childcare. Students determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

Public and private nonprofit institutions must also use a portion of their institutional award, if not committed entirely to financial aid grants for students, to:

- (a) implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines, such as CDC guidelines; and
- (b) conduct direct outreach to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student, or other circumstances. For detailed information regarding submitting a Professional Judgement Request, please visit <https://www.humphreys.edu/quick-links/coronavirus-updates-information/>.

## Eligibility

1. Enrolled at Humphreys University in the fall 2021 quarter as of December 10, 2021.
  - a. Due to limited funding, international students and high school dual enrollment students have been excluded.
  - b. Withdrawn students have been excluded. Student balances will be examined, and funding from the institutional portion of the ARP Act of 2021 will be used to settle outstanding balances resulting from the pandemic disruption.
2. As under the CRRSAA and ARP, we are directed with the HEERF III Funds to prioritize grants to students with exceptional financial need, such as those who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances.

3. Students enrolled in fall 2021 quarter and have completed a 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) will be considered. Eligibility for HEERF III funds, will be based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC produced by the FAFSA or CADAA application will be used to determine the amount of the HEERF III Grant. Students who did not submit a FAFSA or CADAA will also be considered for the HEERF III.
4. Unlike with previous emergency student financial aid grants through the CARES Act and CRRSAA, students do not need to be Title IV eligible to receive HEERF III grants. Additionally, undocumented, and international students may receive HEERF III grants. This includes refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, Dreamers, and similar undocumented students.

### Exceptional Need:

Under the American Rescue Plan, Humphreys University is required to prioritize students with exceptional need. Eligible students with exceptional need (as defined below) are eligible to receive grants of up to \$2000.

In accordance with issued guidance, Humphreys University defines “students with exceptional need” as:

- Undergraduate students who receive Pell Grants.
- Graduate students with an expected family contribution (EFC) of less than or equal to \$5,846.

Clearly, the pandemic has affected every student in some manner. Therefore, we've worked hard to ensure that all students receive assistance while also acknowledging that students who now receive high-need federal financial aid in the form of a Pell Grant have a greater need. As a result, HEERF III funds will be distributed to all students as follows:

HEERF III Awarding Table			
Academic Level	EFC	Full-Time	Less than Full-Time
UG/GR/LAW	0-5846 EFC	\$2000	\$1000
UG/GR/LAW	> than 5846 EFC	\$800	\$400
UG/GR/LAW	No FAFSA	\$200	\$100

The HEERF III award is determined by the student's enrollment status. The enrollment status of a student varies based on his or her academic program. HEERF III awards are not guaranteed and are final. Several factors are considered when determining award amounts.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### When will the HEERF III Student Emergency Grant Funds be available?

Funds will be disbursed as quickly as possible to provide students with the support they need to continue their educational pursuits. HEERF III funds are limited and not guaranteed.

**If I am awarded a HEERF III Student Emergency Grant, what happens next?**

All emergency grant funds will be automatically disbursed to student accounts.

**How will I receive the HEERF III Student Emergency Grant?**

Refunds will be processed through Student Services Department, much like other aid. A check will be mailed to the address on file.

**Will HEERF III grant funds be applied to my current balance?**

No, these funds are sent directly to the student.

**What if I paid my tuition and received a HEERF III Emergency Grant, will I receive a refund?**

Yes, the HEERF III Student Emergency grant will be issued directly to the student in the form of a refund check.

**I received a HEERF III refund check. Does this mean my HU account balance has been paid off?**

No. Distribution of HEERF III funds is made directly to students and not applied by the University toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by the student. As such, receipt of these funds does not indicate the recipient has satisfied their financial obligations. Please check your current account balance in [Populi](#) to determine what you may still owe.

**Do I have to pay HEERF III funds back?**

No. Any funds a student receives from the HEERF III funds do not need to be repaid.

**Does HEERF III funds count against my financial aid package?**

No. Grant funding from HEERF III is not considered financial assistance under federal statute, nor U.S. Department of Education regulations. As such, these funds will not impact eligibility for financial aid, such as grants, scholarships, and loans.

**Is money received from HEERF III considered taxable income?**

HEERF III grants are not treated as taxable income or untaxed income for Title IV federal student aid purposes. In addition, because the emergency financial aid grant is not included in a student's gross income, students are not able to claim any deduction or credit for expenses paid with the grant including the tuition and fees deduction, the American Opportunity Credit, or the Lifetime Learning Credit. See section 139(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. All students are encouraged to talk with a personal tax professional relating to any questions you may have about the treatment of the funds

**Are there enrollment requirements?**

Due to limited funding, enrolled, degree/seeking students will be prioritized.

**Can I apply for another HEERF III award?**

Based upon the amount of federal funding available, we do not have additional emergency aid funding beyond the HEERF III awards.

**How do I apply for financial aid re-evaluation?**

If a student or family's financial circumstances have changed for any reason, they may submit a Profession Judgment Appeal to be considered for a re-evaluation of their financial aid eligibility. Please note that the outcome of a Professional Judgment Appeal may not affect a HEERF III award, but may affect eligibility for federal and state grants, as well as student loans.

**Who can I contact if I have additional questions?**

For questions regarding HEERF III Student Emergency Grant you may contact the [Student Services Department](#) at (209) 478-0800 or visit the [Humphreys University – Covid 19 Updates](#).