

HEERF III – American Rescue Plan (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.

We are pleased to announce that Humphreys University has received our third round of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) funds, authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) of 2021. We have received \$1,186,453 million in HEERF III funds, at least **\$619,891** of which is to provide direct emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

Awards will be divided into two rounds.

- Summer 2021 Quarter
- Fall 2021 Quarter

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.

Eligibility:

1. Were enrolled at Humphreys University in the Summer 2021 quarter as of September 7, 2021.
 - a. Due to limited funding, international students and high school dual enrollment students have been excluded as well prioritizing HEERF III funds for enrolled, degree seeking students.
 - b. Withdrawn students have been excluded.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 Summer 2021 quarter and/or enroll in Fall 2021 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 Student Emergency Grant. Students who did not submit a FAFSA or CADAA will also be considered for the HEERF III Student Emergency Grant.
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 \$2400. All other eligible students are eligible to receive grants of up to \$200.

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.

Obviously, the epidemic has had an impact on every student in some way. As a result, we've strived 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 greater need. As a result, the HEERF III funding will be distributed to all students in the following manner:

HEERF III Awarding Table			
Academic Level	EFC	Full-Time	Less than Full-Time
UG/GR/LAW	0-5846 EFC	2400.00	1200.00
UG/GR/LAW	> than 5846 EFC	910.00	455.00
UG/GR/LAW	No FAFSA	200.00	100.00

The number of units enrolled defines the amount of the HEERF III award. A student's enrollment status varies depending on his or her academic program. HEERF III awards are not guaranteed, **and they are final**; awards for the fall 2021 quarter may differ. Several factors are considered when determining award amounts.

American Rescue Plan (HEERF III): Professional Judgment Appeal

In accordance with the [American Rescue Plan of 2021](#) that was signed into law by Congress in March 2021, Humphreys University's Student Services Department is providing an opportunity for students and/or their families to learn about Professional Judgment and how potential impact to income, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, might enable them to be eligible for an appeal review of their financial aid eligibility.

Financial aid eligibility for each academic year is calculated based on the information you provided on the FAFSA. The income and asset information reported on the FAFSA is evaluated by a formula called Federal Methodology as set by Congress. This formula assumes that 2019 income is a good predictor of the family's financial strength during the student's 2021–2022 enrollment. Based on this assumption, financial aid eligibility is determined using 2019 tax return information.

The Student Services Department encourages students to file a Professional Judgment Appeal when they or their household has suffered a loss of income directly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Humphreys University may, under such circumstances, consider the awarding of additional HEERF III funds. Regardless of methodology, no award may exceed the equivalent amount of a maximum Federal Pell Grant for the 2021-22 award year.

How to Submit Your Appeal

The first step in completing an appeal is to contact the Student Services Department by phone (209) 478-0800, or by [email](#). You will be directed to your Student Account Specialist who will explain the specifics of a Professional Judgment Appeal. If it is determined that you will benefit from Professional Judgment based on the evidence provided, your Student Account Specialist will help to assure that your [Professional Judgment Request Form](#) is properly completed such that our Financial Aid Team can evaluate and approve or deny your request.

If Your Appeal Is Approved

Your FAFSA will be updated in accordance with the Financial Aid Team's findings, and additional financial aid, including HEERF III aid, could be provided based on eligibility and availability of funds. Please note that an approved appeal is not a guarantee of additional financial aid.

If Your Appeal Is Denied

Appeal results are final. Your appeal will be closed and will not be reviewed again by the Appeal Committee unless you are able to provide additional documentation that was not previously submitted with the original appeal.

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. Additional HEERF III funds will be distributed in a similar way in late Fall 2021 quarter.

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](#).