

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)

Fifth Quarter Report

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Sec. 2003(a)(1) included additional COVID-19 relief for institutions of higher education was signed into law March 11, 2021. This new COVID stimulus bill included for higher education institutions and students, using the same Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) model established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Lakeland University has received funding as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) via the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). As required by law, a portion of these funds have been designated to be emergency financial aid grants to students with financial needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the ARP (a)(1) programs, student portion funds must be used to provide emergency financial aid grants to students which may be used for any component of the student's 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.

The ARP HEERF III funds require that 50% of an institution's funds be spent on student grants. In addition, the allowable uses of funds are nearly identical to the CRRSA HEERF II.

Lakeland University signed and agreed to the Certification and Agreement with the Department of Education on April 10, 2020. Lakeland University will use not less than \$2,468,861 (designated student portion of the grants) of the funds received under Section 2003(s) (1) of the Act CFDA 84.425E Allocation to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants that has been distributed to students under section 2003(a) (1) of the ARP Act as of today, September 30, 2021, that were eligible for the summer 2021 term is \$602,010 to 591 students. Verified as accurate on September 30, 2021.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants that has been distributed to students under section 2003(a) (1) of the ARP Act as of today, December 31, 2021, that were eligible for the fall 2021 terms is \$1,138,988 to 979 students. Verified as accurate on December 31, 2021.

Lakeland University has an estimated number of 2500 students at the institution eligible to participate in the program under section 484 in the Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 2003(a)(1) Lakeland University will identified students of exceptional need.

A final formula defining exceptional need is as follows:

Exceptional Need Category summer 2021 and fall 2021:

Exceptional Need Categories		
<u>Undergraduates</u>		Amount
Less than 6001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 460
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 1,385
>6000 and <11,001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 335
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 1,000
<u>Graduate Students</u>		
Less than 6001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 335
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 1,000
>6000 and < 11,001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 250
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 750

The FAFSA is the tool used to determine exceptional need. All students enrolled and/or eligible to enroll have been communication with via email and letter.

1. For summer eligibility, students must have FAFSA completed for the 2020-2021 Academic year by June 30, 2021. Eligible students will be reviewed in early July and funding will be available by the end of July for summer enrollees.
2. For fall eligibility, student will be given priority consideration for FAFSA's completed for the 2021-2022 academic year by June 30, 2021. Eligible students were reviewed after the commence enrollment process was completed in September. Funding will be available in early October.
3. Any application process was sent to all students that 1) commenced enrollment, 2) completed a FAFSA, and 3) did not meet the exceptional need definition. The first review will take place in early October and distribution of funds in mid-October.
4. A pool of funds will be reserved for unique COVID related situations that occur. If there is funding left remaining after the fall term, it will be distributed to exceptional need students in January.

Exceptional Need Category Spring 2022 was reduced by 32% of the original exceptional need definitions for summer and fall to allow equitable access to the remaining funding.

Exceptional Need Categories		
<u>Undergraduates</u>		Amount
Less than 6001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 313
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 942
>6000 and <11,001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 228
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 680
<u>Graduate Students</u>		
Less than 6001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 187
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 680
>6000 and < 11,001 EFC	< 6 credits	\$ 187
	> 5.5 credits	\$ 510

The FAFSA is the tool used to determine exceptional need for the Spring Term. All students enrolled and/or eligible to enroll have been communication with via email and letter.

1. For Spring eligibility, student will be given priority consideration for FAFSA's completed for the 2021-2022 academic year by January 31, 2022. Eligible students were reviewed after the commence enrollment process was completed in January. Funding will be available in February.
2. Any application process was sent to all students that 1) commenced enrollment, 2) completed a FAFSA, and 3) did not meet the exceptional need definition. The first review will take place in mid-March and distribution of funds in late March.
3. A pool of funds will be reserved for unique COVID related situations that occur. If there is funding left remaining after the April 1, 2022, it will be reviewed and distributed to those new FAFSA applications after January 31, 2022, and then to students that have been approved for professional judgement. The grants will be pushed out in late April.

Lakeland University sent email communication and a letter sharing how a student can be considered for the ARP emergency grant funding along with posting a message on the website. Lakeland will guide student through this process.