**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)**

The **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)** is authorized by the **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)**, signed into law on March 11, 2021. This fund allows SUNY Cortland to provide emergency grants to students for expenses related to any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus.

**SUNY Cortland** acknowledges the institution has used, or intends to use, funds received under section 2003 of the ARP to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**SUNY Cortland** has received or will receive **$8,497,231 of HEERF III funds for student aid** from the Department of Education pursuant to the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

**SUNY Cortland** has distributed **$8,497,231 of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students** under section 2003 of the ARP as of **December 31, 2022**.

**Reporting:**

**2021:**

**1st quarter: 0 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **March 31, 2021.**

**2nd quarter: 0 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **June 30, 2021.**

**3rd quarter: 0 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **September 30, 2021**.

**4th quarter:** **2936 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **December 31, 2021**.

**2022:**

**1st quarter: 2755 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **March 31, 2022**.

**2nd quarter: 8 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **June 30, 2022**.

**3rd quarter: 0 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **September 30, 2022**.

**4th quarter and FINAL REPORT for ARP ACT (HEERF III): 8 students** received HEERF III Emergency Financial Aid Grants under section 2003 of the ARP as of **December 31, 2022**.

**Award Methodology:**

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) requires prioritization to students with exceptional need, such as students who are Pell eligible or undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances, when awarding emergency grants to students.

HEERF III Student Aid Funds include no student eligibility requirements other than a student is identified as an individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in 34 CFR 668.2) at the campus on or after March 13, 2020. The ED indicated that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAMers), international students, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented students may receive emergency grants. The HEERF III Student Aid Funds can also be awarded to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. For purposes of awarding HEERF III Student Aid Funds at SUNY Cortland, a student must be in enrolled in credit bearing courses at census for the fall 2021 term and/or spring 2022 term.

The State University of New York (SUNY) is requiring campuses to prioritize students with the lowest Expected Family Contributions (EFC) and has created a template which SUNY Cortland must use to calculate the HEERF III Student Aid Block Grants. This methodology was developed to provide Block Grants to students with exceptional need.

Based on this awarding methodology, students will receive a Block Grant that consists of two components: 1) a Base Grant dependent on the student’s full-time (FT) or part-time (PT) status **plus** 2) a standard supplemental amount based on the student’s primary EFC.

The EFC range was expanded to include EFCs 0 to 14,615 (2.5 times the max Pell 2021/22 EFC of 5,846). SUNY campuses may distribute the Student Aid Block Grants all during the Fall 2021 term or split the distribution between the Fall 2021 and the Spring 2022 terms. **SUNY Cortland will split the distribution between both fall and spring.**

Campuses must allocate a **minimum of 80%** of the HEERF III Student Aid Funds to this Block Grant methodology.

The remaining funds, a **maximum of 20%** will be HEERF III Discretionary Pool for campuses to use for emergency grants to students with exceptional need and/or extraordinary financial circumstances who did not receive a Block Grant or need additional emergency grant funds.

* Emergency grants provided to students outside the SUNY awarding methodology cannot be greater than the lowest grant award for full-time and part-time students.

**SUNY Cortland allocated 100% of the HEERF III Student Aid Funds utilizing the Block Grant Methodology.** Any remaining funds not spent during the Fall 2021 semester were rolled over and spent in the Spring 2022 semester.

Remaining discretionary funding was awarded to students enrolled at SUNY Cortland for summer session 2022 who received a Pell grant payment for the term who were enrolled at Cortland for both fall 2021 and spring 2022 terms but did not previously receive emergency grant funding. Students meeting criteria received a grant of $823.62.

**Award distribution charts per semester:**

.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Student Award Chart – Fall 2021 distribution** |
| **Award Amount Per EFC Range and FT/PT Status** |
| 125% | 100% | 75% | 50% | 25% |
| EFC Range0–2,923 | EFC Range2,924–5,846 | EFC Range5,847-8,769 | EFC Range8,770–1,692 | EFC Range11,693–14,615 |
| FT student awards | $1,665.00 | $1,480.00 | $1,295.00 | $1,110.00 | $925.00 |
| PT student awards | $1,295.00 | $1,110.00 | $925.00 | $740.00 | $555.00 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Student Award Chart –Spring 2022 distribution** |
| **Award Amount Per EFC Range and FT/PT Status** |
| 125% | 100% | 75% | 50% | 25% |
| EFC Range0–2,923 | EFC Range2,924–5,846 | EFC Range5,847-8,769 | EFC Range8,770–1,692 | EFC Range11,693–14,615 |
| FT student awards | $1,782.00 | $1,584.00 | $1,386.00 | $1,188.00 | $990.00 |
| PT student awards | $1,386.00 | $1,188.00 | $990.00 | $792.00 | $594.00 |

The following communication was sent to all students who received funding:

Dear Student,

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, funds have been made available through the American Rescue Act of 2021 to award emergency grants to students for expenses related to cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses include tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare. **SUNY Cortland has deemed you eligible to receive an emergency grant in the amount of $(insert amount of grant).** You will receive a refund for this amount via direct deposit or check mailed to the permanent (home) address. If you have not signed up for direct deposit, you can do so by accessing the Student Tab in myRedDragon and clicking on ‘set up direct deposit’ in the Student Accounts channel.

**No action is required to receive this emergency grant.** These funds do not need to be repaid and will not be applied or used to offset any existing charges, debts, or unpaid Student Accounts balances. This amount will not be included in evaluating your future eligibility for financial aid at SUNY Cortland. Please notify the Financial Aid Office immediately if you will not incur expenses that meet or exceed the amount of this emergency grant.

SUNY Cortland

Updated 01/10/2023