

HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND III
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Student Aid Report – ARP Report
Quarterly Report for Term of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

- (1) Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) was awarded, pursuant to Section 314(a)(1) of the American Rescue Plan student aid funds and agrees to draw down funds and be bound by the conditions set forth by the terms and conditions of the supplemental agreement. SMSU returned the Certification and Agreement that SMSU has been awarded these funds and are providing aid to Students.
Final reports for the CRRSAA and CARES portions of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund are listed as attachments to this report.
- (2) From the ARP, SMSU was awarded \$3,245,174.00 for student aid funding and \$3,206,386.00 for institutional expenses and lost revenues.
For all three HEERF funding, SMSU was awarded \$4,889,408.00 for student aid funding and \$6,836,309.00 for institutional expenses and lost revenue.
- (3) From the ARP funding, as of December 31, 2021, \$245,500.00 has been awarded to 707 students through financial aid grants for summer awards. As of December 31, 2021 another \$1,348,075.00 was distributed to 1,362 students for grants in Fall term. \$148,762.00 has been awarded to 260 students through an emergency grant award process. The total awarded to students through December 31, 2021 was \$1,742,337.00.
- (4) Based on the criteria listed in #6.1. below 707 students were eligible for summer ARP grants and based on the information in #6.2 1,362 students were eligible for fall ARP grants.
- (5) As of December 31, 2021 1,717 students have received awards from ARP funding.
- (6) The following criteria was used to determine need for the block grants through the ARP funding.
 1. Summer Term Block Grants will be awarded to students based on the following criteria which prioritizes grants to students with exceptional need:
 - a. Enrolled in >0 credits for term 20221 (summer 2021).
 - b. Eliminated MN State employees with tuition waivers and those paying the senior citizen tuition rate
 - c. Eliminated PSEO and concurrent enrolled students
 - d. Eliminated students not admitted to a credentialing program/degree offered at the university, students exclusively enrolled in non-credit bearing courses for the term (such as AE), and International students. International students will be included in the Fall 20223 and Spring 2022 plan.
 - e. Students with an Expected Family Contributions (EFC) between 0 and 5711 (Pell eligibility EFC) will receive \$500 each
 - f. All other enrolled students, less those noted above will receive \$250 each
 - g. Checks or direct deposit will be used for the awards; we will not create an opt in process to have the grants applied to the student's university account
 - h. HEERF 3 ARP emergency grant applications will not be available for summer session. Emergency grants will be part of the Fall and Spring Plans.

2. After awarding summer grants, \$2,999,674.00 remains for student aid. Ten percent of this will be set aside for the fall and spring emergency grant processes, leaving \$2,699,707 for fall and spring block grants. This funding will be split between fall and spring; therefore, there will be \$1,349,853.30 available for each term.

Fall Block Grants will be awarded to students based on the following criteria, which prioritizes grants to students with exceptional need:

- a. Enrolled in >0 credits for term 20223 (Fall 2021).
- b. Eliminated MN State employees with tuition waivers and those paying the senior citizen tuition rate
- c. Eliminated PSEO and concurrent enrolled students
- d. Eliminated students not admitted to a credentialing program/degree offered at the university, students exclusively enrolled in non-credit bearing courses for the term (such as AE).
- e. International students are eligible for emergency grants. Because of the difficulty in determining need for International students, they will be included in the emergency grant process but not the block grants.
- f. Students block grants will be provided based on their undergraduate or graduate designation, number of credits in which they are enrolled, and their estimated family contribution (EFC) with two groups, one between 0 and 5846 (Pell eligible EFC) and the other group with EFCs of 5,847 to 20,000. A table of estimated awards for Fall 2021 is listed in g.

g.

Undergraduate EFC 0-5846		1-5 credits	6-11 credits	12+ credits
\$ Award		\$450	\$850	\$1275
# eligible		14	165	541
Total		\$6300	\$140,250	\$689,775

Undergraduate EFC 5847-20,000		1-5 credits	6-11 credits	12+ credits
\$ Award		\$375	\$650	\$950
# eligible		10	76	363
Total		\$3,750	\$49,400	\$344,850

Graduate EFC 0-5846		1-4 credits	5-8 credits	9+ credits
\$ Award		\$350	\$500	\$750
# eligible		4	49	57
Total		\$1,400	\$24,500	\$42,750

Graduate EFC 5847-20,000		1-4 credits	5-8 credits	9+ credits
\$ Award		\$300	\$400	\$650
# eligible		2	34	46
Total		\$600	\$13,600	\$29,900

- h. Checks or direct deposit will be used for the awards; we will not create an opt in process to have the grants applied to the student's university account

3. Emergency grant applications will be available through an online application process using "Academic Works" – same process as CARES and CRRSAA funding which worked well

- a. There will be \$299,967.40 available for emergency grants, half for Fall Semester and half for Spring Semester
 - b. The \$299,967.40 is approximately 9.2% of the total \$3,245,174 available for all student aid
 - c. A team led by Interim Executive Director of Enrollment and Student Success will review emergency grant applications. Grants will be awarded up to \$1,000 per individual, on an exception basis grants may be for a higher amount.
 - d. A question on the application form will be included for a student to opt in to have their emergency grant applied to their university account and to any balances owed to the University
- (7) Letters were sent to the student recipients from the President for summer and fall aid and will be sent for the spring aid. The following information was/will be included in the letter.
- a) The ARP requires that the emergency money be distributed to students to cover student expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. These eligible expenses include those considered a part of student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare.
 - b) In addition to the above grant, students may also apply for an Emergency ARP Grant through the Academic Works website at <https://smsu.academicworks.com/opportunities/6573>
 - c) Information was posted on the SMSU Covid webpage <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/healthservices/healthalerts/covid19/index.html> and linked from the Financial Aid webpage <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/financialaid/index.html>

For further information or an accessible format, please contact Vice President for Finance and Administration, Deb Kerkaert, at deb.kerkaert@smsu.edu or 507-537-6093.

Attachment A: CRRSAA Final Report

Attachment B: CARES Final Report

Dk 01/10/2022
PR Award # P425E202008-20B

ATTACHMENT A:

**FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CRRSAA)
Student Aid Report – Final CRRSAA Report
Quarterly Report for Term of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 posted July 7, 2021**

- (8) Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) was awarded, pursuant to Section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), and agrees to draw down funds and be bound by the conditions set forth by the terms and conditions of the supplemental agreement.
- (9) From the CRRSA Act SMSU was awarded \$822,117 for student aid funding and \$2,807,806.00 for institutional expenses and lost revenues.
- (10) As of June 30, 2021, \$722,500 has been awarded to 1,056 students through financial aid grants. \$99,617.00 has been awarded to 182 students through an emergency grant award process. The total awarded to students through June 30, 2021 was \$822,117.
- (11) Based on the criteria listed in #6 below 1,056 students were eligible for CRRSAA grants. The same 1,056 students were eligible to receive emergency grants.
- (12) As of June 30, 2021 1,056 students have received awards.
- (13) The following criteria was used to determine need for the grants through the CRRSAA funding.
4. Block Grants will be awarded to students based on the following criteria:
 - a. Enrolled in >0 credits for term 20215
 - b. Submitted a FAFSA
 - c. Eliminated MN State employees with tuition waivers and those paying the senior citizen tuition rate
 - d. Eliminated PSEO and concurrent enrolled students
 - e. Eliminated non-degree seeking students, graduate certifications, DACA and International students
 - f. Students with an Expected Family Contributions (EFC) between 0 and 5711 (Pell eligibility EFC) will receive \$750 each
 - g. Students with an EFC between 5712 and 12,000 will receive \$500 each
 - h. Student needs for pandemic related costs could include COVID rapid testing which is approximately \$100 per test, monthly internet services of approximately \$50 to \$75 per month, additional technology needs such as routers or laptops, child care, food, rent, or transportation
 - i. Checks or direct deposit will be used for the awards; we will not create an opt in process to have the grants applied to the student's university account
 5. Emergency grant applications will be available through an online application process using "Academic Works" – same process as CARES funding which worked well
 - a. There will be \$99,617 available for emergency grants
 - b. The \$99,617 is approximately 12% of the total \$822,117 available for all student aid

- c. Emergency grant applications will be reviewed by a team led by Interim Executive Director of Enrollment and Student Success. Grants will be awarded up to \$1,000 per individual, on an exception basis grants may be for a higher amount.
- d. A question on the application form will be included for a student to opt in to have their emergency grant applied to their university account and to any balances owed to the University
- e. Emergency grants can be used for the same type of expenses as the block grants for extra expenses created by the Pandemic or because of a shortage of funds also because of the pandemic. If the individual applying for the emergency grant also received a block grant, an emergency grant can be awarded for exceptional expenses.

(14) Letters were sent to the student recipients from the President. The following information was included in the letter.

- d) The CRRSAA requires that the emergency money be distributed to students to cover student expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. These eligible expenses include those considered a part of student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.
- e) In addition to the above grant, students may also apply for an Emergency CRRSAA Grant through the Academic Works website at <https://smsu.academicworks.com/opportunities/6573>
- f) Information was posted on the SMSU Covid webpage <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/healthservices/healthalerts/covid19/index.html> and linked from the Financial Aid webpage <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/financialaid/index.html>

Attachment B:

Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Information - post 2/11/2021 - Final Student Award Report

In late March, federal legislation was passed to provide economic relief to individuals and organizations dealing with the ramifications of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This legislation — the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act — established a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) for colleges and universities in the United States.

Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement to receive \$822,117 in HEERF funding for the purpose of providing emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. Another \$822,117 was received by the University for institutional expenses. \$560,312 of the institutional funds were used to reimburse the University for the Spring 2020 room and meal refunds. No less than 50 percent of the funding received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act will be used for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The CARES Act directed that this \$822,117 of HEERF money must go toward emergency student financial assistance for expenses related to shifting from in-person to remote instruction. Eligibility requirements for this emergency assistance include enrollment in courses that were:

- Enrolled in at least one semester-based course in an eligible degree program,
- Not enrolled exclusively in online courses or fully online programs,
- In good Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standing,
- US citizen or eligible noncitizen (hold a valid green card),
- Meet selective service registration requirement, if male,
- Not incarcerated,
- Not in default of a student loan/overpayment of a federal grant,
- Not a Senior Citizen receiving a tuition discount rate,
- Not a Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) student,
- Not a concurrently enrolled high school student,
- Not a University employee receiving an employee tuition waiver benefit for themselves.
- To be eligible, students also cannot have dropped, withdrawn, or had a Last Day of Attendance before March 6.

- As of May 8, 2020, a total of 1,516 students were identified as eligible for HEERF funding at Southwest Minnesota State University.

HEERF Funding Allocation

The HEERF funding was allocated into three areas:

- A base award to all eligible students of \$100 per student
- A supplemental award, \$737, to eligible students who were also Spring Semester 2020 Federal Pell Grant eligible, Minnesota State Grant eligible, or had an EFC of 0-6500.
- An application-based emergency grant for eligible students who experienced financial hardships/had expenses because of the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. This program will be open to students who are eligible based on the criteria above. Students are eligible to apply for these grants through Academic Works at <https://smsu.academicworks.com/opportunities/5306>.
- Base Awards totaled \$151,600
- Supplemental Awards totaled \$503,371
- Available funds for grants totaled \$167,146, as of January 31, 2021 \$167,146 was awarded as grants
- All funds were awarded as of January 31, 2021
- 1,516 students have received an Emergency Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act

If you are attending more than one Minnesota State college or university, you can only receive a CARES Base Award from one school. If you believe you meet the criteria above for a Base Award, but do not see it on your student account, email the Financial Aid office at financialaid@smsu.edu or call 1-507-537-6281 to review your account.

Students scheduled to receive automatic base and supplemental payments provided by HEERF funding were notified in advance through an email communication to their official university email account. This communication outlined the purpose and amount paid and provided information regarding a forthcoming application-based COVID-19 Emergency Grant program to cover additional expenses.