

**American Rescue Plan – HEERF III (ARP)**

**Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting**

**Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

**Quarterly Report – ARP**

July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

Prepared October 8, 2021

1. Eastern Nazarene College signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the HEERF Certification and Agreement. The institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the ARP programs to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.
2. The total amount of funds ENC has received for ARP emergency grants to students is $1,079,031.
3. The total amount distributed to students as of the date of this quarterly report is $31,640 for ARP.
4. The total number of students enrolled at ENC in the fall semester 2021 that are eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants to students under the ARP is 587.
5. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant as of the date of this report is 5 for ARP.
6. The method used by ENC for determining which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they receive is as follows:

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and provided assistance to serve students and to ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eastern Nazarene College received an allocation of $2,158,063 through the ARP/HEERF III of which at least $1,079,032 of the allocation must be awarded in financial aid grants to students. The financial aid grants 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) and child care. Students determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

The ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional financial need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary circumstances, in awarding grants to students. Beyond Pell eligibility, other types of exceptional need could include students who may be eligible for other federal or state need-based aid or have faced significant unexpected expenses either for themselves or those that would affect their financial circumstances, such as the loss of employment, reduced income, or food or housing insecurity. The US Department of Education encourages institutions to prioritize domestic students, especially undergraduates, in allocating this funding.

Institutions may not condition the receipt of financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the institution, use the financial aid grants to satisfy a student’s outstanding account balance (unless it has obtained the student’s affirmative consent), or require such consent as a condition of receipt or eligibility for the financial aid grant.

**How will award eligibility be determined?**

1. To ensure priority to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need, ENC will award a block grant to traditional undergrads and AGS students who are enrolled in the fall ’21 semester and have a calculated unmet financial need greater than $750.  Since students must demonstrate exceptional need, the only reasonable way to document this is through completion of the FAFSA or the ENC international financial aid application.
2. In addition, all students will be eligible to apply for emergency relief funding through an application process.
3. To help retain and reengage students who would otherwise be at risk of not completing their college degrees, ENC will use a portion of the HEERF III student aid funds to offer to discharge student account balances from the ’20-21 academic year. Pell Grant recipients and others who demonstrate exceptional financial need and have an outstanding balance on their student account will be selected. The student will have discretion about how they receive their grants and must provide affirmative written consent for the school to pay off student debt. The school will include a disclaimer that expressly notifies the student that they have the ability to decline the emergency grant to pay off debts and instead may use the funds for any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs.

**How will the award amounts be calculated?**

1. Students who qualify for the block grant will be awarded $750 in the fall ’21 semester.  Awards will also be disbursed in block grants in the spring ’22 semester. Unmet need will be calculated by taking the student’s total cost of attendance minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC) minus total grants and scholarships. It is estimated that this will assist approximately 450 students with total awards of approximately $725,000.
2. For students who are approved for emergency relief funding based on their application, the awards will vary depending on financial need. The total award will not exceed the maximum Federal Pell Grant. This is estimated to provide approximately $300,000 in emergency grants for costs such as tuition, food, housing, health care, and child care through this appeal process.
3. For students who are selected for the discharge of outstanding balances, the amount will be equal to their outstanding balance from the 2020-21 academic year. This is estimated to assist approximately 10 students with approximately $50,000 in emergency grants.

**How will the funds be disbursed to students?**

Students who have been selected for HEERF III grants will be notified via email of the amount of their award. This notification will ask the student to respond with how they would like the award to be disbursed. Students will be given an option to either have it applied toward their student account or to have a refund check issued directly to the student. If a student does not respond with their written authorization within 60 days, the college will automatically issue a refund check. The disbursement of the HEERF III Grant to the student will remain unencumbered by the institution; debts, charges, fees, or other amounts owed to the institution will not be deducted from the emergency financial aid grant.

ENC will award all HEERF III funds within one year and will abide by all federal reporting requirements.

1. ENC provided the following instructions, directions, and guidance to students concerning the emergency financial aid grants:
	1. **ARP emergency relief grant application announcement for email, press release, website, and Campus Chronicle:**

Dear ENC Student:

The Office of Student Financial Services wants to inform you of an emergency grant that is available to assist students with financial needs.

With funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERFIII), ENC has established a Student Emergency Relief Fund to assist students with urgent financial needs as they relate to the novel coronavirus. The intent of the HEERFIII funding is to assist ENC students with any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, health care, and child care. The funds are limited and are not intended to provide ongoing relief.

If you have had difficulties paying your student account balance due to circumstances related to the coronavirus, we specifically encourage you to apply. You may check your student account balance on your ENC student portal. Submitting an application does not guarantee that funding will be approved. Application available - [ENC HEERFIII Student Emergency Relief Fund Application](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OKupJTuEg0KS8aLIiDqMar906Z1IV-xLmqTdxmsdGDdUMFRFT1oxRTNCSUgxSjRONVo3VFBXQkowVi4u)

If you have any questions, please contact Student Financial Services at sfs@enc.edu

Sincerely,

The Office of Student Financial Services

* 1. **This email was sent to retain and reengage students who were unable to register for the fall ’21 semester due to having an outstanding prior student account balance:**

ENC has received federal stimulus funds through the American Rescue Plan – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.  Since you had a prior balance that was prohibiting you from registering for the fall ’21 semester, we have decided to offer you a HEERF III emergency grant to pay off your outstanding balance.  With your prior balance paid, you will be able to register and enroll for the fall semester.

However, in order to use these funds in this way, we need to obtain written consent from you.  **Please respond to this email indicating whether you wish to use the HERRF III funds to pay your outstanding balance from last year.**  Please know that  you have the ability to decline the emergency financial aid grant to pay off debts and instead may use the funds for any component of your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing back from you.  I hope you have a great semester, Adrian!

Troy Martin

Director of Student Financial Services