

ARP Act Student Emergency Grants Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF)

Quarterly Report Created on June 30, 2021



This document provides the necessary information to comply with Section 18004(e) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act" or the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281.

The information includes all HEERF Student Grant Funds, including funds provided through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act..

Certification and Agreement

On April 13, 2020 Baker College signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement document under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Baker College intends to use all student grant funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

- The ARP Act Student Grant funds became available to Baker College on June 14, 2021, with a total amount allocated for student grants of \$9,810,300.

Eligible Students

The eligibility requirements for students have been updated multiple times since the HEERF funds were initially established. Under the most recent guidance, all students who attended on or after March 13, 2020 could be eligible for HEERF funds. Based on this guidance, approximately 10,015 students are eligible for HEERF funds (this figure includes all students who attended Baker College between March 13, 2020 and June 30, 2021).

Funds Distributed

As of June 30, 2021, Baker College has distributed a total of \$10,854,846 in HEERF Student Grant Funds to a total of 5,730 students:

ARP Act Funds Distributed: \$4,445,498 has been distributed to students. Additional awards are anticipated during the fall 2021 semester

Methodology to Determine Who Receives Funds

While Baker College understands that all students have been impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic, these federal funds contain very specific eligibility requirements. The methodology utilized for each of the funds varied based on the federal requirements established at the time the funds became available.

ARP Act Methodology: Qualified students must meet all of the following:

- Registered in at least one course for spring 2021 or summer 2021 semesters
- Meet one of the following criteria:
 - Have an EFC of less than 24,000 based on the FAFSA calculation
 - Students who did not receive emergency funds based on their calculated EFC may contact the Financial Aid Advisors for emergency grant consideration.
- Note: Students who received CRRSAA funds during the spring 2021 semester were not awarded additional ARP funds for spring, but could qualify for funding during the summer 2021 semester.

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Methodology to Determine Grant Amounts

The methodology utilized for each of the funds varied based on the federal requirements established at the time the funds became available.

ARP Act Methodology: Three levels of funding were awarded to students based on their calculated EFC

- EFC 0-5172 = \$1,200
- EFC 5173-9999 = \$900
- EFC 10000-23999 = \$600
- Emergency grants may be distributed to additional students if exceptional need is determined based on communication with the Financial Aid Advisors and approval from the Vice President of Financial aid and/or Controller

Student Notification & Instructions

Student notifications and instructions varied based on the timeline of the available funds. Email was the primary source of communication used in all cases.

ARP Act Notification & Instructions: On June 17, 2021 qualified students who attended spring or summer 2021 were awarded and sent an email communication. The email notified the student of their emergency grant award(s) and provided instructions to update their BankMobile refund preference. The email also provided information about re-evaluation options (professional judgment) and advised students to contact the Financial Aid Advisors if they are experiencing financial hardship.

On June 18, 2021 all summer registered students who did not receive ARP funds were sent an email notification of the emergency funds and distribution process. The message encouraged students to complete the FAFSA and advised the student to contact the Financial Aid Advisors if they are experiencing financial hardship.

Both emails included our intention of awarding students additional emergency grants during the fall semester and provided a link to a Q&A document with additional details..

Future Distribution

CARES Act and CSSRAA Act funds have been fully exhausted. Baker College intends to follow a similar process for distributing the remaining ARP Act funds during the fall 2021 semester. Final details will be determined after the start of fall semester and will be based on the amount of remaining funds available.

Questions regarding Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students should be directed to:
financialaid@baker.edu