

**Baker College**  
**Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds**  
**(HEERF)**  
**Quarterly Report**

December 31, 2021



*The reporting requirements fulfilled below are intended to ensure that the statutory requirements are met for (1) the CARES, CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) Student Grant Programs, and (2) CRRSAA and ARP (a)(4) Student Grant Programs. This report is associated with the approved information collection under OMB control number 1801-0005.*

### **Certification and Agreement**

On April 13, 2020 Baker College signed and returned a Certification & Agreement with the Department of Education to accept allocated funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2. The ARP established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) to provide emergency financial aid grants. These critical funds help eligible BC students cover expenses related to unanticipated travel, additional technology requirements, or other needs related to an emergency situation.

### **HEERF Funding Amounts**

Baker College will receive a total of \$15,564,682 in Higher Education Emergency Relief Student Grant Funds.

- CARES Act Funds: \$2,877,191 (received and distributed to students)
- CRRSA Act Funds: \$2,877,191 (received and distributed to students)
- ARP Act Funds: \$9,810,300

### **Quarterly Funds Distributed**

During this reporting quarter (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021) Baker College distributed a total of \$3,679,198 to students from the HEERF Student Grant portion. Historical Student Grant Disbursements:

### **Estimated Number of 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 4,635 students were enrolled during this reporting period (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021) and could be eligible based on their enrollment during the fall semester. To receive funding, students must also meet the exceptional need criteria.

### **Number of Students Receiving HEERF Funds**

During this reporting period (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021) Baker College distributed HEERF Student Grants to 91 students. Note: funds were distributed to 3,439 fall semester students during the previous reporting period.



## **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 specific eligibility requirements. The methodology utilized for each of the HEERF funding sources varied slightly.

### **CARES Act Methodology:**

Qualified students must meet all of the following (this list is not all-inclusive):

- Registered in at least one on-campus course that transitioned to the online format or a lab/clinical/work experience course that has been delayed due to COVID-19
- Enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree program
- Meet federal Title IV eligibility requirements
- US citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid social security number
- Males must be registered with the selective service
- Not in default or owe an overpayment of Title IV funds
- Meet the financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress rules
- Not be enrolled in elementary or secondary school
- Incurred increased expenses as a direct result of the disruption of campus operations

### **CRRSA Act Methodology:**

Qualified students must meet all of the following (this list is not all-inclusive):

- Registered in at least one course for fall 2020 or spring 2021 semesters
- Enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree program (not in secondary school)
- A US citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid social security number
- Completed the Emergency Relief Funds Application to document exceptional need

### **ARP Act Methodology:**

Qualified students must meet the following criteria:

- Registered in at least one course for spring 2021, summer 2021, or fall 2021 semesters and 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.
- Students who received CRRSAA funds during the spring 2021 semester were not awarded additional ARP funds during the spring semester.



### **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.

#### **CARES Act Methodology:**

The amount of assistance was determined by the Federal CARES Act Emergency Assistance Application and/or eligible expenses identified by Baker College based on institutional disruption and course delays. The amounts were calculated on an overall average of expenses incurred and are prorated based on the student's financial aid need level (utilizing the EFC as calculated through the FAFSA process).

- Technology assistance: \$500
- Equipment purchase: up to \$500
- Living/housing allowance for delayed coursework: up to \$2000
- Living allowance based on student needs: up to \$1100
- Housing expense assistance based on student needs: up to \$900
- Child care assistance based on student needs: up to \$600

#### **CRRSA Act Methodology:**

The type of assistance was determined based on the student's responses listed on the Federal Emergency Relief Funds Application. The maximum amounts were determined based on the living allowance figures used to calculate the cost of attendance for one semester; the amount awarded to students was prorated based on the student's need level utilizing the EFC calculated from the FAFSA application.

Students who requested emergency assistance with tuition expenses (costs they are unable to pay due to Coronavirus) were also awarded funds to help pay their outstanding charges.

The maximum living allowance figures for CRRSA Act funds are:

- Technology assistance: \$500
- Equipment purchase: up to \$500
- Living allowance: up to \$1100
- Housing expenses: up to \$1200
- Child care: up to \$1200
- Transportation: up to \$500
- Medical expenses: up to \$1000



### **ARP Act Methodology:**

During this reporting period (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021), additional fall semester awards were made to students who did not receive funds for fall semester. Students were awarded if they registered for fall semester and/or applied for financial aid after October 1, 2021. 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.

### **CARES Act Notification & Instructions:**

- On April 27, 2020 an email was sent to all students who were enrolled in at least one on-campus course for spring semester as of March 13, 2020. In addition, an email was sent to all online and non-degree seeking students informing them of our awarding criteria and their ineligibility based on the fact that there was no disruption to online courses.
- During the week of May 11, 2020 all students meeting the qualifying criteria were awarded the emergency grant funds and were sent an email including any action steps required. Students who were determined to be Title IV eligible had no required action; however, we recommended that they set up their refund preference with BankMobile (if not done previously). Students who had not previously completed a FAFSA or the application, were given instructions to accept their award which includes the self-certification of Title IV eligibility.

### **CRRSA Act Notification and Instructions:**

- On January 7, 2021 an email and follow-up text message was sent to all potentially eligible students (students who had attended on or after March 13, 2020). The email included instructions for completing the application for emergency relief funds and clarified the eligibility changes under this new grant. The email message also included information about re-evaluation (professional judgment) in the event that the student was unemployed (or had reduced income) as a result of Coronavirus.



### **CRRSA Act Notification and Instructions: (Continued)**

- Students that applied for and qualified for CRRSA Act funds with an outstanding balance were sent a follow-up email in February with a link to an authorization form to determine if the student wanted their emergency funds to be applied toward their outstanding balance. The email clearly stated that the authorization was voluntary and would not impact their total award.

### **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.
- Beginning on September 9, 2021, qualified students who are attending fall 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.

Additional information is available on our [Coronavirus Website](#) which includes a Q&A document.

*Questions regarding Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students should be directed to:*  
[financialaid@baker.edu](mailto:financialaid@baker.edu)