

**Montgomery College**  
**Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**  
**Revised 3rd Quarter 2021**  
**Student Assistance Report**

**OPEID Number:** 00691100  
**Report Date:** Updated January 6, 2022 for October 7, 2021  
**Contact:** Judith M. Taylor, Director of Student Financial Aid

**1. Statement of Use**

On April 9, 2020, Montgomery College (MC) received notification that the College was awarded \$10,995,749 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with no less than fifty percent (\$5,497,875) for Emergency Assistance Aid Grants to students. The guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) stated that these are direct emergency grants for students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus (food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). The College must prioritize students with the greatest need and the funds may not be used to cover tuition and fees. MC signed the Certification and Agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act on April 19, 2020, and received the allocation on April 24, 2020.

On February 16, 2021 Montgomery College received notification that an additional \$5,497,875 would be available to award to students through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Act. CRRSAA removed the requirement that a student must be eligible for Title IV aid to receive financial assistance under the HEERF programs and expanded eligibility to Non-degree seeking, non-credit, dual enrollment, and continuing education students. Students exclusively enrolled in distance education may also now receive these funds. CRRSAA requires prioritization of need and can be used to cover any component of student's cost of attendance, emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition; food; housing; health care (including mental); and childcare. The grant can only be applied to tuition cost with the permission of the student.

On May 15, 2021 Montgomery College received notification that an additional \$20,493,396 would be available to award students under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In addition to the expanded eligibility given with the CRRSAA Act, HEERF III guidance with ARPA opens emergency grant eligibility to students who are Maryland Dreamers, DACA students, and other similar undocumented students, as well as International students studying under F1 and other visas types. Prioritization of the ARPA grant is based on exceptional need. First priority to domestic students, defined as Title IV eligible US citizens and eligible non- citizens, Dreamers and DACA qualifiers with exceptional need. Then F1 and other VISA holders with exceptional need are the next priority. ARPA as with CRRSAA can be used to cover any component of student's cost of attendance, emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition; food; housing; health care (including mental); and childcare. ARPA can only be applied to tuition cost with the permission of the student.

**2. Award Amount**

MC received \$31,489,146 combined from HEERF I, II, III for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The college also allocated \$1,536,410 of the HEERF I institutional portion to students as well as \$130,311 from our MSI grants.

**3. Total amount of HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students this quarter.**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2021 MC awarded \$2,992,500.00

Amount requested to cover tuition	\$2,154,000.00
Amount directly paid students	\$838,500.00

**4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.**

In order to be eligible to receive a HEERF grant at MC, students needed to complete an application, meet the eligibility criteria and terms of the application and either be currently enrolled, or were enrolled after March 13, 2020. We received 2179 HEERF Emergency Student Aid Applications for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Of the estimated 2179 students, 1998 met all eligibility requirements based on submitting the application for the quarter, or submission of a previous application and now meeting an eligibility and/or priority criteria.

**5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.**

As of October 7, 2021, 1998 student awards were made through HEERF grants in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Award Category	Number of Active Student Awards
Requested grant to cover tuition	1437
Requested direct payment	561
Total	1998

**6. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive.**

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter all students received an award amount of \$1500. To assure student awards were correctly prioritized eight awarding priority groups were established. All remaining funds from HEERF I and HEERF II were awarded along with HEERF III using HEERF III - ARP eligibility guidance.

ARP1 Priority Award Group 1	Pell Eligible FAFSA completed
ARP1 Priority Award Group 2	MD State Financial Aid Form (MSFAA) completed Pell eligible EFC
ARP1 Priority Award Group 3	Domestic means tested programs (eligible for federal/state/county need-based benefits) No FAFSA
ARP1 Priority Award Group 4	Domestic Income based on 2021 GEER Income chart** (FAFSA or No FAFSA)
ARP1 Priority Award Group 5	International means tested programs (eligible for federal/state/county need-based benefits) tested, No FAFSA
ARP1 Priority Award Group 6	International Income based on 2021 GEER Income chart** (FAFSA or No FAFSA)
ARP1 Priority Award Group 7	Domestic Lowest need- last priority
ARP1 Priority Award Group 8	International Lowest need -last priority

**GEER Program Income Eligibility Guidelines**

Income Guidelines		
Household Size	Yearly Income Per WDCE Guidelines	Hourly Wage
1	\$40,130	\$19.29
2	\$54,219	\$26.07
3	\$68,309	\$32.84
4	\$82,399	\$39.61
5	\$96,488	\$46.39
6	\$110,578	\$53.16
7	\$124,667	\$59.94
8	\$138,757	\$66.71

**7. Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.**

- All students who received grants received an email notification from the financial aid office regarding the amount of the grant, what it is for, and why they are receiving it.
- The College President announced the receipt of the HEERF-ARP Act funds and the application process in frequent updates to the college community.
- The MC Office of Communications published the grant information and online application process on the college website.
- The grant availability was also announced through the MC Financial Aid Office's social media platforms.
- Email notifications have been sent to enrolled students with updates regarding the ARPA grant application and eligibility criteria.
- Students who have applied for CRRSAA Emergency Grants, but are ineligible, received notification explaining why they are ineligible and a link to apply for the ARPA grant.
- Summer ARPA application posted 5/27/21.
- Fall ARPA application posted 8/31/21.