

# HEERF III Emergency Grant

## American Rescue Plan (ARP)

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)

Quarterly Report: For the quarter ending March 31, 2022

Published: April 08, 2022

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) was authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2. It was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and provides \$40 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARP funds are in addition to funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260 and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. This new law gives the U.S. Department of Education funding to distribute to institutions of higher education in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus through the HEERF III.

- Notre Dame de Namur University has signed and returned the Certifications and Agreements for the grants to the U.S. Department of Education and intends to use no less than \$1,615,183 of the funds received under the ARP (a)(1) programs to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.
- Under ARP section 2003(a)(1), Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) was allocated \$3.2 million in HEERF III funding. Of this amount, Notre Dame de Namur University will receive \$1,615,183 for emergency financial aid grants to students (CFDA 84.425E Student Aid Portion Allocation) and \$1,612,898 can be used to defray expenses associated with coronavirus (CFDA 84.425F Institutional Portion Allocation).
- As of March 31, 2022, the total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the ARP (a)(1) program is \$622,450.
- The total estimated number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP (a)(1) program is approximately 300 students.
- The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to Students under the ARP (a)(1) programs is 287 students.

- Students who were enrolled at NDNU in summer 2021 and/or fall 2021 were eligible to receive grants. Students who are enrolled in spring 2022 are eligible to receive grants. Students who enroll in summer 2022, fall 2022 and spring 2023 will be eligible to receive grants. Similar to the previous HEERF I and II funding, the U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to prioritize ARP HEERF III grants to students with exceptional financial need, such as Pell Grant recipients. In compliance with this directive, NDNU has developed an ARP HEERF III grant allocation matrix based on students' Pell status, Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated in the FAFSA, as well as academic level and enrollment status. Grants ranged from \$700 to \$6,000.
- The spring 2022 HEERF III grant is in the planning phase. A similar allocation approach used for the fall 2021 grant will be used for the spring 2022 distribution. More information about the spring 2022 grant will be announced in the near future.

## **ARP HEERF III Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How much funding is available to NDNU students and how will funds be allocated?**

Under the ARP HEERF III program, NDNU has been allocated \$1,615,183 to be distributed as emergency financial aid grants to eligible students. NDNU awarded approximately 8% of the available funding to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the summer 2021 semester, 31% to students enrolled in fall 2021 and will award approximately 61% across the spring 2022, summer 2022, fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters.

### **Who is eligible to receive an ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

According to the U.S. Department of Education's final rule (May 14, 2021, 86 FR 26608), the HEERF funding is now available to all students regardless of their Title IV aid status. This means that DACA recipients as well as international students and online students who were previously excluded are now eligible for HEERF student grants.

Students who are enrolled at NDNU in spring 2022, summer 2022, fall 2022 and spring 2023 are eligible to receive the grant. Similar to the previous HEERF I and II funding, the U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to prioritize ARP HEERF III grants to students with exceptional financial need, such as Pell Grant recipients. In compliance with this directive, NDNU has developed an ARP HEERF III grant allocation matrix based on students' Pell status, Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated in the FAFSA, as well as academic level and enrollment status.

## **Are students who are enrolled exclusively in online programs eligible to receive the ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

Yes. This is a change from the previous policy set by Congress under the CARES Act.

## **Is there an application process?**

No. The University will determine eligibility and award amount based on an allocation matrix that includes financial need and academic level.

## **Will I be notified if I qualify for an ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

Students who meet the eligibility criteria will receive notification to their NDNU student email account.

## **How much aid will I receive if I qualify for an ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

ARP HEERF III emergency grant amounts are based on an allocation matrix using the following criteria:

- Prioritization will be given to students who are known to have exceptional need based on information available to the Financial Aid Office, such as those students who receive Pell Grants.
- The student's level of study will also be considered with prioritization given first to undergraduate students and then to graduate students.
- The total number of eligible enrolled students is also included in the calculation.

Grants given to students who were enrolled in summer 2021 received between \$1,400 to \$2,500. Grants given to students who were enrolled in fall 2021 received between \$2,000 and \$6,000. Information about the spring 2022 through spring 2023 grants will be announced in the near future.

## **How and when will ARP HEERF III emergency grants be distributed to eligible students?**

NDNU will disburse ARP HEERF III emergency grants to eligible students after the last day to add/drop for each semester. Checks will be issued to students within seven (7) days of the ARP HEERF III emergency grants being posted to students' accounts. Students will receive their funds as a paper check, sent through U.S. mail. Any account balances owed to the university will not be deducted from the ARP HEERF III emergency grant, unless requested by the student.

Students may request to apply their ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds to their student account by sending an email to the Business Office. This email request must be submitted each semester to the Business Office email, [businessoffice@ndnu.edu](mailto:businessoffice@ndnu.edu) by the due date noted in the email communication sent to student's NDNU email address and must be sent from the NDNU student email account.

If the Business Office does not receive a request by the due date, the full amount of the ARP HEERF III emergency grant will be issued as a paper check.

### **Where will I receive my check?**

Students will receive checks mailed to the permanent home address listed on the student portal.

To update the address, please log onto the campus portal using the following link: <https://campusportal.ndnu.edu/ics/> and click on the silhouette in the upper right-hand corner.

- Select *My Profile & Settings*
- Click *Contact Information*
- Drop down the *Addresses* window and complete update

Please know that the change may take several days to appear on the student portal. For questions or assistance to update a mailing address, please immediately contact the Office of the Registrar at [registrar@ndnu.edu](mailto:registrar@ndnu.edu).

### **How can I check on the status of my ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

All student account activity is posted to the student Campus Portal. To log onto the student Campus Portal account, please use the following link: <https://campusportal.ndnu.edu/ics/>

To navigate to the student account and check on the status of the student ARP HEERF III emergency grant:

1. Enter the Student ID # and password to log in
2. Click on the *Student* tab at the top of the page
3. Click on *Student Account Activity* in the menu on the left side of the page
4. Click on *My Balance*
5. Click on the actual balance displayed (even if it is \$0.00); this will show your account transactions with descriptions and dates.
6. Scroll to the bottom to view ARP HEERF III disbursements. If it is after the disbursement date and there is no information, this means the

student did not qualify for a disbursement. Otherwise, there will be a credit to the account with the description "HEERF III (   \* ) Grant".

\* *The semester (e.g., Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022 or Spring 2023)*

Please refer to DETAIL, scroll to the bottom to see the descriptions. If a check has been mailed, there will be a debit that with the same description and amount of the disbursement.

### **Can ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds be used to pay for tuition or outstanding balances for fees, debts or other amounts owed to NDNU?**

Yes. The grant funds are for the students to use however they choose but are intended for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations resulting from the coronavirus. The ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance (tuition, course materials, technology) or for costs that arise due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare.

### **I got this money as a refund. Does this mean my student account balance has been paid off?**

No. Distribution of ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds is made directly to students and not applied by the University toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by the student, unless the student has requested the funds be applied to their outstanding student account balance. As such, receipt of the emergency grant funds does not indicate satisfaction of their financial obligations to NDNU for any charges incurred during the current term or any prior terms. Please check your current student account balance on Campus Portal.

### **Will receiving an ARP HEERF III emergency grant impact my financial aid?**

No. Recipients of emergency grants will see no impact on the calculation of their financial need.

### **Do I have to pay this money back?**

No. Any funds a student received from the ARP HEERF III will not need to be repaid.

### **Are ARP HEERF III emergency grants taxable?**

No. The grants are not included in gross taxable income. For that reason also, students who use some of their grant to pay for course materials

required for online learning cannot claim that expense as a qualifying tax deduction or credit.