

American Rescue Plan Act | Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds III Update | 16-Feb-22

Allocation: \$2,479,509.00

Month	# Awards by Month	\$ Spent by Month	Total Awards	Total \$ Spent
September 2021	55	121,432.00	55	121,432.00
October 2021	87	111,921.00	142	233,353.00
November 2021	123	108,273.00	265	341,626.00
December 2021	228	211,242.00	493	552,868.00
January 2022	600	534,575.00	1093	1,087,443.00
February 2022*	451	392,446.00	1544	1,479,899.00
*16-Feb-2022			Remaining:	999,910.00

Tier	Enrollment Level by Credit Hours	# of Awards	Amount per Award	Total \$ Spent
1	Full-Time (12+)	982	\$1,000.00	\$982,000.00
2	Three-Quarter Time (9-11)	123	\$750.00	\$92,250.00
3	Half-Time (6-8)	147	\$500.00	\$73,750.00
4	<Half-Time (1-5)	133	\$250.00	\$33,000.00
Total Block Grants Paid		1385		\$1,181,000.00
Total Past Due Balances Paid		159	\$46.00 to \$15,127.00	\$298,899.00
Grand Total Paid as of 16-Feb-2022		1544		\$1,479,899.00

Delivery Option	% of Recipients	Total \$
Direct Payment	51%	632,500.00
Applied to Account	49%	548,500.00

The total past due balances paid through the appeal process plus the funds applied to account balances was significant:

\$548,500 + \$298,899 = \$847,399

Timeline:

Month	Funds	Focus
August 2021	HEERF I HEERF II	Spent the remaining HEERF I and HEERF II funds on students appealing for exceptional need due to the pandemic.
September 2021	HEERF III	Public announcements promoting these funds. Included information in messages sent out by FAO/BO. Processed appeals for past due balances in coordination with students enrolling for fall 2022.
October 2021	HEERF III	Processed appeals for past due balances. Began processing block grants.
November 2021	HEERF III	Shifted focus to processing block grants. Continued processing appeals for past due balances.
December 2021	HEERF III	First week in December bulk of block grant payments made right before fall 2021 balances due on December 14.
January 2022	HEERF III	First and second weeks in January, another large expenditures of these funds coinciding with students with remaining fall bills. Mini surge in distributions as students returned to campus.
February 2022	HEERF III	Increased focus on past due appeals. Reached out to applicants with missing information. Mass email to federal need-based aid recipients. Included information in BO message to high school students. Barton Online provided information each new session.
March 2022	HEERF III	Continue to assess, reach out
April 2022	HEERF III	Goal: Funds spent by April 1 st .
May, 2022	HEERF III	Deadline to have funds spent.

Observations and Insights:

- HEERF I and HEERF II were processed with no application requirement except for appeals for students with exceptional need. HEERF III required an application. Without an application for HEERF I and HEERF II, there was a lot of extra processing on the back end to work through undeliverable funds and reallocate to other students. Having the application for HEERF III transferred the extra work to the front end of the process but there have been less undeliverable funds.
- There is a lot of manual work to administering these funds. Application processing, communicating to students, disbursing the funds, delivering the aid, reconciling the aid between departments and with the U.S. Department of ED all required many steps to get everything correct as the handling of these funds will be audited. Both the institutional and student allocations are subject to periodic reporting.
- HEERF III was a valuable source of funding to assist students at critical times.
 - ✓ Past due balances
 - ✓ Fall payment due
 - ✓ Risk of being dropped for non-payment
- Coordinated inter-departmental effort increased efficiency of processing and service to students. Communications to students included FA Office and Business Office with responses often including the next steps to expect.
- Scholarship Universe worked well for the HEERF application.
- The determined amounts seemed to be on the mark. They were impactful by enrollment level.
- Students are generally grateful for these funds and expressed their gratitude.