

Bolivar Technical College Policies and Procedures for the ARP Act

The US Government has once again expanded on the emergency relief funds available to students by passing the most recent American Rescue (ARP) Act 2021. The available funds are also known as HEERF III, or Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III funds. As such, the ARP represented the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Taken together, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116–136), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), and the ARP represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III, respectively.

The institution has currently been authorized to disburse **\$ 711,594.00** to students for any component in the students Cost of Attendance. This includes room, board, transportation and personal expenses or expenses due to COVID. In addition, the funds may be used for tuition and fees, but only with the express written consent of the student. The school will accept an email from a student if they want to designate the funds be applied to their tuition and fee account.

Similar to the HEERF II, students do not have to be Title IV eligible to receive HEERF III. Student eligibility requirements under Section 484 in Title IV of the HEA of 1965 do not apply when awarding HEERF III. Additionally, HEERF III is also available to undocumented students, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, dreamers and students studying abroad.

It is the intent of this institution to administer HEERF III funds by prioritizing students whom demonstrate exceptional financial need, such as students who receive Federal Pell Grants. Students who are not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants may still be eligible for the HEERF III funds depending upon the student population, funds available and the schools policy below. Students not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants must demonstrate exceptional need due to the COVID 19 pandemic. If a student has an unusual impact due to the COVID pandemic, he/she may request consideration of a professional judgement under Section 479A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA).

- The college will divide the total awarded amount by 1/3, retaining the remaining 2/3 for upcoming semesters (Fall 2021 & Spring 2022). The college will prioritize the Pell Grant students first, then remaining students thereafter. Students will be asked to sign an attestation regarding their exceptional need for COVID funds. An eligible student is determined by enrollment in the college as of November 1, 2021, regardless of credit hours enrolled.

- Based on the number of students who attested to their COVID impact, the funding cycle budget dates, and fund amount, the college will distribute \$1,500.00 per eligible student for the Fall 2021 semester.

The institution will not (1) condition the receipt of financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the institution, (2) use the financial aid grants to satisfy a student's outstanding account balance, unless it has obtained the student's written (or electronic), affirmative consent, or (3) require such consent as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for the financial aid grant.

ARP Act emergency student funding is only available to students that are enrolled and attending classes as of **November 1, 2021**. Students on an Approved Leave of Absence are also eligible based on the above selection criteria review.

The institution will not discriminate in the awarding of CRRSAA grant funds and will evaluate students based on prioritizing Pell Eligible students and all students on their demonstration of exceptional need.

The institution will apply the grant to the student by check.

NOTE: HEERF grants are not Title IV funds, so Title IV awarding/packaging rules do not apply. It is understood based on released guidance from the USDE that HEERF III grants are not treated as estimated financial assistance (EFA) when packaging students. Likewise, HEERF III grants are not treated as taxable income or untaxed income for Title IV federal student aid purposes.