



## **HEERF III**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 included supplemental COVID-19 relief funds. This new COVID stimulus bill included \$36 billion for higher education institutions and students.

Ozark Christian College certified with the Department of Education on May 24, 2021, receipt of additional funding for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP.

Ozark Christian College received \$768,141 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

### **Eligible Students**

Similar to the HEERF II funds, the HEERF III funds include no student eligibility requirements either. The HEERF III funds can be awarded to online students as well. Eligible student groups include citizens, permanent residents, international students, refugees, asylum seekers, DACA recipients, other DREAMers, and similar undocumented students.

### **Allowable Uses**

Allowable uses of funds are more flexible than in the CARES Act. Students may use the grants toward:

- any component of their cost of attendance
- emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as:
  - tuition
  - food
  - housing
  - health care (including mental)
  - child care

Unlike the CARES Act, the ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Federal Pell Grants.

OCC estimates that 559 students are eligible to receive Emergency Grants under the ARP.

As of October 1, 2021, 480 students have received a total of \$692,300 Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the ARP program.

## **Process for Awarding**

EFC will be used to determine exceptional need. Those with an EFC of \$15,000 or less will be considered to have need with Pell-eligible students considered the most in need.

- Pell Eligible: 219 students; \$1,900 awarded; \$416,100 total
- EFC \$5,847-\$15,000: 90 students; \$1,500 awarded; \$135,000 total
- EFC above \$15,000: 147 students; \$1,000 awarded; \$147,000 total
- No FAFSA: 103 students; \$800 awarded; \$82,400 total

Any remaining funds will be awarded first to Pell-eligible students and then to any student using an application process.

OCC's Student Financial Services emailed a notice of award to eligible students that included what the funds could be used for as well as instruction for acknowledging that they accepted the funds. Students were also given the choice of receiving the funds as a credit on their student account, via direct deposit, or by paper check.