

# **The CARES Act requires all colleges and universities participating in the program to provide access to the following information.**

## **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT HEERF III Student Pandemic Relief**

- East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (ESU) has signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement form for the ARPA Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III) and intends to use no less than the required amount of funds received to provide HEERF grants to students.
- ESU has received \$9,000,698 under HEERF III to be provided to students in the form of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
- As of 6/17/2021, none of these funds have been distributed to students.
- As of 6/17/2021, all of the funds received under HEERF I and \$2,006,960 of HEERF II funds have been distributed to students. \$5,241,622 has been distributed in pandemic relief under these two programs to date.
- An estimated 7,800 students are currently potentially eligible for these funds. As of 6/17/2021, during the aid year 2019-2020 980 students (removing duplicates) were sent pandemic relief checks for a total amount of \$1,053,945. As of 6/17/2021, during the aid year of 2020-2021 1,427 students (removing duplicates) were sent pandemic relief checks for a total amount of \$4,187,677.
- ESU used a solicitation and application process to distribute grants prioritizing those with known need demonstrated by PELL eligibility. Awarding of HEERF III will begin with the fall 2021 semester.
- Reporting for HEERF II and HEERF III allocations will commence as required by the US Department of Education.

## **HEERF II (CRRSAA) Reporting**

- [Quarterly Budget and Expenditure Reporting](#) under CRRSAA Sections 314(a)(1) and 314(a)(2).
- East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (ESU) has signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement form for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds and intends to use no less than the required amount of funds under the CRRSAA program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
- ESU has received \$3,234,662 to be provided to students in the form of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students from the CRRSAA program.
- As of 3/31/2021, \$622,050 has been distributed to eligible students.
- An estimated 5,841 students were potentially eligible for these funds. As of 3/31/2021, 1,745 students have received funds for the Spring 2021 semester.
- ESU used a solicitation and application process to distribute grants prioritizing those with known need as demonstrated by PELL eligibility.
- Remaining CRRSAA funds will be awarded on a case-by-case basis as applications are reviewed.

## Prior CARES Act Disclosures

- [Quarterly Budget and Expenditure Reporting](#) under CARES Act Sections 18004(a)(1) Institutional Portion, 18004(a)(2), and 18004(a)(3), if applicable.
- East Stroudsburg University of PA (ESU) has signed and returned to the Department of Education the CARES Act Certification and Agreement. This document is an assurance that ESU has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
- ESU received \$3,234,662 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students on May 7, 2020.
- The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants was distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act in two phases through a number of student outreach efforts. As of March 31, 2021 the University distributed \$3,234,662 under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.
- The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act in Phase I & II was 5,841.
- As of March 31, 2021, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act is 983 in Phase I and 1,734 in Phase II. The total number of students, removing duplicates for those who received in both Phase I and Phase II, is 1,743.

### **ESU used the following methodology for evaluating whether students were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants, and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.**

Eligibility for the funds was based on:

1. Verifying attendance for Spring 2020 semester at ESU for Phase I; verifying attendance for Spring 2020 and/or Fall 2020 for Phase II.
2. Verifying Title IV eligibility.
3. Verifying program of study was not 100% on-line prior to Spring 2020.

### **Phase I (Representing one-third of the funds and is now closed)**

ESU solicited requests for funds from students through three outreach efforts:

- Outreach Effort 1 – A survey was sent to all students inquiring whether the disruption created an interruption in their academic plan that would necessitate taking summer classes. CARES Act Grants were disbursed directly to students. The amount of the award represents an estimated amount that would support at least 3 credits of summer tuition and books. (ESU rates were used as a guide) As funds went directly to students they could enroll at the school of their choice.
- Outreach Effort 2 – We recognize students who have outstanding Spring 2020 balances might especially be experiencing difficulties due to COVID-19. Therefore, a survey has been sent to students who have Spring 2020 balances asking them if they have a need. All

requests were reviewed and funding was based on funds availability, using the maximum Pell Grant award as a guide. Funds were disbursed directly to students.

- Outreach Effort 3 – All eligible students were emailed information about the CARES ACT and were provided a direct link to an application for funds on our foundation website. Requests were reviewed and funds disbursed based on needs of those applying. Award amounts varied based on request and availability of funds.

## **Phase II (Representing two-thirds of the funds and is now closed)**

- ESU set aside two thirds of the funds for assisting students who experienced need past the Spring 2020 term. The early fall review required enrollment during Spring 2020. The late fall review required enrollment during Spring 2020 or Fall 2020.
- ESU solicited requests for funds from students for an early fall distribution. This solicitation is now closed, applications were reviewed, and awards made.
- ESU solicited requests for funds from students for a late fall distribution through student email and social media. This solicitation is now closed, applications were reviewed, and awards made.
- ESU solicited requests from students for an early Spring 2021 distribution. This solicitation is now closed, applications were reviewed, and awards made. ESU has exhausted all CARES Act Funds.