



ARP/HEERF III Emergency Grants to Students

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. One section of the ARP established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) and allocated funds to colleges and universities to use for emergency grants to students for expenses that arise due to the coronavirus.

The ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need when awarding HEERF III grants.

The total amount of funds allocated to Lees-McRae College for HEERF III grants is \$1,370,989. Funds will be awarded in multiple phases.

On August 30, 2021, Lees-McRae College conducted direct outreach to each fall 2021 student, via campus email, to explain the Special Circumstances Appeal process and to provide all related forms to complete said process. Students are encouraged to submit an appeal if their family's financial circumstances have changed.

Phase 1: A large portion of HEERF III grants was distributed to fall 2021 students who have a valid 2021–22 FAFSA on file, with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) in the 0–16,000 range.

- A total of 491 fall semester 2021 students filed the 2021–22 FAFSA with an EFC in the 0–16,000 range.
- A total of 337 main campus students were awarded a total of \$880,500 in HEERF III grants. Grant amounts vary by student based on the results of their 2021–22 FAFSA (Expected Family Contribution—EFC) and range from \$1,500 to \$3,500.
- A total of 154 distance learning students were awarded a total of \$131,250 in HEERF III grants. Grant amounts vary by student based on the results of their 2021–22 FAFSA (Expected Family Contribution—EFC) and range from \$500 to \$1,000.
- Students were notified via campus email on August 31, 2021 of the source of the grants and their specific grant amount. Funds were disbursed to students on September 3, 2021 via direct deposit or paper check.

Phase 2: On September 7, 2021, after the Phase 1 HEERF III grants were disbursed to students based on an EFC range of 0–16,000, Lees-McRae College sent an email to all remaining fall 2021 students to share a HEERF III Grant Application. Students are encouraged to complete and return the application if their family has been impacted by COVID-19.

Students who received a HEERF III grant in phase 1 are not disqualified from applying for additional grant consideration.

- Funds are distributed to applicants based on demonstrated expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which include but are not limited to: Tuition/Educational Expenses, Food, Housing, Healthcare (including Mental Healthcare), and Childcare. As ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, EFC is taken into consideration when reviewing applications. Applicants who are non-FAFSA filers will receive lower amounts. Funds are distributed based on exceptional and documented need.
- As of September 30, 2021, 15 HEERF III applications have been received, and as a result, 15 additional grants have been awarded. An additional \$21,750 has been distributed to eligible students based on submitted applications. 14 are main campus students and 1 is a distance learning student.
- The remaining funds are being held to provide emergency grants through the HEERF III application and/or the Special Circumstances Appeal process.