

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

HEERF Update for the period of January 1 – March 31, 2021

Iowa Western Community College (Iowa Western) received a total of \$9,659,851 through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)—Award #P425E200910.

\$1,587,692 – CARES, Section 18004(a)(1), awarded April 22, 2020

\$1,587,692 – CRRSAA, Section 314(a)(1), awarded January 17, 2021

\$6,214,467 – ARP, Section 2003(a)(1), awarded May 11, 2021

\$9,659,851 – Total HEERF award

### CARES, Section 18004(a)(1)

As of July 6, 2020, Iowa Western has awarded and distributed all HEERF funding awarded for student emergency financial aid grants under CARES, Section 18004(a)(1). A total of 1,913 students received awards prior to June 30, 2020 totaling \$1,587,697.86.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Based on federal guidelines, students had to meet the following eligibility requirements to receive CARES Act assistance:

- Enrolled at Iowa Western for the spring 2020 semester,
- Degree seeking (not a visiting student from another institution or a high school student taking dual enrollment courses),
- Enrolled in courses that included face to face instruction on March 27, 2020 (not taking only online courses), and
- Completed a current FAFSA application on file.

A total of 1,913 Iowa Western students met the eligibility criteria to receive CARES Act emergency financial assistance grants.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Awards were distributed to two categories of students: eligible students who completed applications and eligible students without completed applications.

*ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITH APPLICATIONS:* An application for CARES Act financial assistance grants was made available to eligible students on May 5, 2020 with a priority deadline of May 15, 2020. Emails and text messages were sent to all eligible students with instructions and a link to the application. The first round of CARES Act emergency financial assistance grants was delivered to eligible students with completed applications in early June 2020. Exact date of award receipt was determined by the students' preference of debit card, bank account or check. Following the priority period, the application remained open until the final deadline of May 31, 2020. Students who completed applications before the final deadline received their assistance by June 30, 2020.

1,181 of the 1,913 eligible students completed applications and received financial assistance awards totaling \$1,455,015.54. Priority deadline applications accounted for 1,104 students and \$1,363,748.61. Final deadline applications added 77 students and \$91,266.93.

*ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITHOUT APPLICATIONS:* After the close of the application period, the remaining funding (132,682.32) was equitably awarded to the 732 eligible students who did not complete an application. Student aid funding was distributed to these students by June 30, 2020. All students were notified of their awards through email. 732 eligible students without applications received \$132,682.32.

## **AWARDS**

1,104 applications were completed by the May 15, 2020 priority deadline. All were categorized by a matrix which included three student specific variables: 1) the student's response to the application question, 2) their financial need identified by EFC on their FAFSA, and 3) the number of credit hours in which they were enrolled. Each application was scored and given a point total according to the matrix.

Using basic accounting techniques, the points from all 1,104 priority deadline completed applications were tabulated and divided into the available funding to determine a dollar value per point. A portion of the funding was reserved for applications received after the priority deadline (May 15, 2020) and before the final deadline (May 31, 2020). 77 additional applications were completed prior to May 31, 2020, bringing the total completed applications to 1,181. All 77 applications received by the final deadline were awarded following the same matrix and point value as the other applications.

An award minimum of \$300 was established for all applications. Only two applications fell below the \$300 minimum. The other award values for completed applications ranged from \$381.87 to \$1,782.06. The most commonly awarded value was \$1,400.19 which was distributed to 222 students.

To maintain equity for the eligible students without applications, Iowa Western elected to grant all students \$181.26. The college opted to cover the difference between the total funding awarded to students (\$1,587,697.86) and the funding received by the institution for student aid under Section 18004(a)(1), (\$1,587,692)

## **CRRSAA, Section 314(a)(1)**

Iowa Western received \$1,587,692 in additional HEERF funding as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), Section 314(a)(1). CRRSAA requires that an institution provide the "same amount" in student emergency financial aid grants that it was required to distribute from the original CARES Act HEERF award (\$1,587,692).

As of March 31, 2021, a total of 1,711 students received awards totaling \$1,213,725 from CRRSAA, Section 314(a)(1) funds.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

A total of 3,031 Iowa Western students met the eligibility criteria.

- Must be enrolled at Iowa Western for the Spring 2021 semester,
- Must be degree seeking (not a visiting or a high school concurrent student), and
- Must not be an international student.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

Awards were distributed to all eligible students who completed applications from March 2 to March 31, 2021. The application used five criteria to determine need: 1) currently enrolled credit hours, 2) Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) from FAFSA, 3) student self-determined level of need, 4) outstanding balance, and 5) specific areas of need. Each CRRSAA application was scored using the matrix below.

## SCORING MATRIX

11+ credits = 6 pts  
4-10 credits = 4 pts  
1-3 credits = 0 pts

### EFC

- High (\$0-\$5,575)= 4 pts
- Moderate (\$5,576-\$20,000)= 2 pts
- Low (\$20,001+ or no FAFSA)= 0 pts

### Need Self-Determination

- High= 6 pts
- Moderate= 4 pts
- Low= 2 pts

### Outstanding balance >\$99

- Yes= 2 pts
- No= 0 pts

### Areas of Need

- Technology= 1 pt
- Housing= 1 pt
- Food = 1 pt
- Childcare = 1 pt

Once scored, each application was then placed into one of six award categories:

Points	Award
0-12	\$275
13-15	\$650
16-17	\$750
18-19	\$825
20	\$900
21-22	\$975

At the conclusion of the application period (11:59pm on March 31, 2021), 1,797 completed applications had been submitted and 1,711 awards were made by March 31, 2021 totaling \$1,213,725. The average award was \$709.37. The remaining 86 awards were made after March 31, 2021. Awards were distributed based on the students' identified preference of debit card, bank account or check. The exact date of receipt varied based on delivery preference, but all were distributed within 10-15 days of application submission.

### ARP, Section 2003(a)(1)

Iowa Western received \$6,214,467 in additional HEERF funding as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Section 2003(a)(1). As of March 31, 2021, no student emergency financial aid awards have been made from APR, Section 2003(a)(1) funds.