

Friday, October 8, 2021

HEERF Student Aid Update for the period of July 1 through September 30, 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). Iowa Western elected to distribute the funding for student emergency financial aid grants in two phases as detailed below.

As of September 30, 2021, both phases were completed and a total of 3,016 students received awards totaling \$1,589,850.

	Awarded Students	Awarded
Phase One (Spring 2021)	1,797	\$1,271,300
Phase Two (Summer 2021)	1,219	\$318,550
Total:	3,016	\$1,589,850

PHASE ONE (SPRING 2021):

ELIGIBILITY

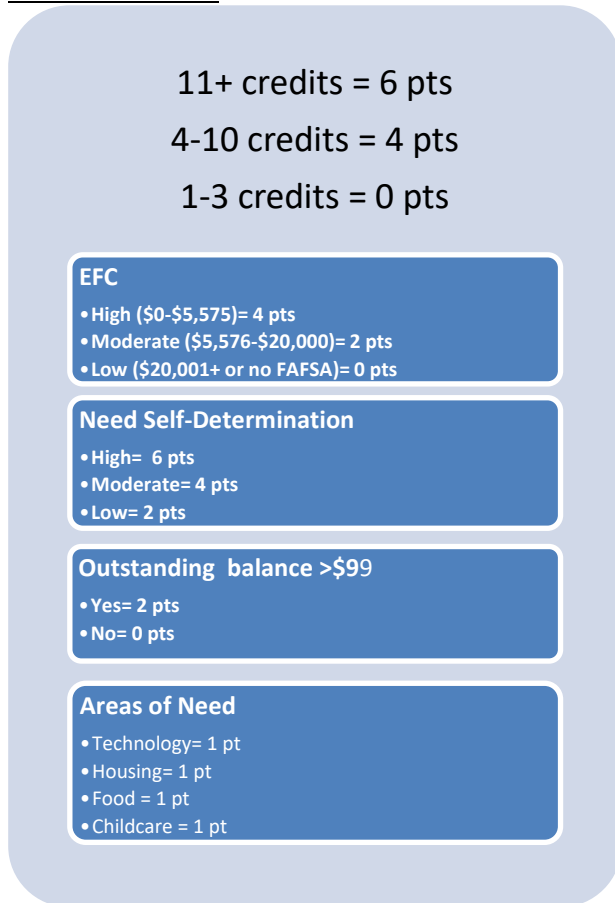
A total of 3,031 Iowa Western students met the eligibility criteria.

- 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

A light blue rounded rectangle containing a scoring matrix. At the top, it lists credit hour ranges and their corresponding points: 11+ credits = 6 pts, 4-10 credits = 4 pts, and 1-3 credits = 0 pts. Below this are four blue rounded rectangles, each representing a criterion with its scoring options:

- 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 totaling \$1,271,300 in awards distributed by April 2, 2021. The average award was \$707.46. All qualifying students were notified of their awards through email. 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.

PHASE TWO (SUMMER 2021):

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be enrolled for a complete 2021 Accelerated Summer Session (Summer Session I, Summer Session II, Summer Session III or Summer Session IV),
2. Must be degree seeking,
3. Must not be an international student, and
4. Must not have received a CRRSAA student assistance grant for any other 2021 Accelerated Summer Session.

DISTRIBUTION

Awards will be distributed to all eligible students based on the EFC on their current FAFSA. Students without a FAFSA on file will be considered low need.

- High need EFC= \$0-\$5,575
- Moderate need EFC= \$5,576-\$20,000
- Low need EFC= \$20,001+, or no FAFSA on file

Award values will be preset and based on criteria. No application is required.

- High need= \$350
- Moderate need= \$250
- Low need= \$100

Timeline:

Session	Session End Date	Awarded Students	Awarded	Average Award	Distributed
Summer I	May 28, 2021	115	\$29,950	\$260	June 6
Summer II	June 25, 2021	114	\$31,100	\$273	July 9
Summer III*	July 23, 2021	990	\$257,500	\$260	August 6

Session III includes the regular summer session along with accelerated sessions that ended on the same date. All qualifying students were notified of their awards through email. Awards were distributed based on the students' identified preference of debit card, bank account or check.

At the conclusion of Phases I and II, a total of \$1,589,850 had been awarded; all of the CRRSAA, Section 314(a)(1) student aid and \$2,158 from ARP, Section 2003(a)(1).

ARP, Section 2003(a)(1)

Iowa Western received \$6,214,467 in additional HEERF student aid funding as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Section 2003(a)(1). As of September 30, 2021, 3,478 student financial aid awards have been made from APR, Section 2003(a)(1) funds in the amount of \$3,609,800. Iowa Western elected to distribute the funds in two phases; Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. As of September 30, 2021, all Fall 2021 awards have been distributed.

PHASE ONE (FALL 2021):

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be enrolled for Fall 2021 and remain enrolled after 10 days and/or Administrative Withdrawal for Non-Attendance.
2. Must be degree seeking.

DISTRIBUTION

The need of eligible students will be scored based on the EFC on their current FAFSA and their Fall 2021 credit costs (# of credits). Awards will be distributed based on the total score of both EFC and credit costs. Students without a FAFSA on file will be considered low need.

- EFC/Need:
 - High need EFC= \$0-\$5,575 (4pts)
 - Moderate need EFC= \$5,576-\$20,000 (2pts)
 - Low need EFC= \$20,001+ (also no FAFSA on file) (0pts)
- Credit Costs
 - High = 11+ credits (3pts)
 - Medium=7-10 credits (1pt)
 - Low= 1-6 credits (opts)
- Total Need/Score (EFC + Credit Costs)
 - High Need= 6+ points
 - Medium Need= 3-5 points
 - Low Need= 0-2 points

Award values were preset and based on criteria. No application required.

AWARDS

- High Total Need= \$1200
- Medium Total Need= \$1000
- Low Total Need= \$800

Phase	Awarded students	Awarded	Average award	Distributed
Phase One	3,478	\$3,609,800	\$1,038	September 16, 2021

COMMUNICATION

All eligible students received two emails. The first was sent on August 31. The email informed students of potential HEERF aid and outlined eligibility. The second email was sent on September 8 to all eligible students. The email confirmed eligibility and informed each student of their award value and an estimated distribution date.

As of September 30, 2021, \$3,609,800 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Section 2003(a)(1) had been awarded. The remaining funds are scheduled to be distributed as Phase Two at the start of the spring 2022 semester.