

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)

Posted 10/08/2021

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARP Funds are in addition to funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), Public Law 116-260 and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136, Emergency funds available to institutions and their students under all emergency funds total \$76.2 billion.

Lincoln College signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement form under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students and assures it has used, or intends to use, the mandated amount of the funds for emergency financial aid grants to students.

Lincoln College has received \$2,126,965 from the U.S. Department of Education representing its allocation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III), a provision of the ARP, for emergency financial aid grant purposes.

Lincoln College has not distributed the student portion of funding to date.

Since a significant percentage of the HEERF national funding model is based on each respective higher education institution's number of Pell Grant recipients, Lincoln College expects to establish a largely Pell Grant recipient-based distribution formula. A Pell Grant recipient-based formula was chosen because Pell Grant recipients are, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education, deemed those with the greatest financial need. Lincoln College plans to distribute the emergency financial aid grants to all Pell Grant recipients and other qualifying recipients that are actually enrolled both during the Fall 2021 semester and as of October 22, 2021. The amount of the emergency financial aid grant for each qualifying student is expected to include a base grant amount plus a variable grant amount based on the ratio of each qualifying student's individual Fall 2021 semester Pell Grant award as a percentage of total Fall 2021 semester Pell Grant awards made to all qualifying Pell Grant recipients.

Students who receive an emergency financial aid grant will receive communication informing them their emergency financial aid grant was part of the CRRSAA funding through the U.S. Department of Education. The communication will note the grant funds are to be used for any component of a student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare. In addition, students will be assured their emergency financial aid grant will not impact their student account balance in any way unless they provide Lincoln College authorization to apply the award to their tuition account.