

# **Emergency Relief Fund FAQ (ARP) April 6**

## **What is the ARP/HEERF III?**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 116-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021. Like HEERF I and II, Berkeley received funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for coronavirus-related expenses (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare, and child care).

## **How much HEERF III funding did Berkeley College receive?**

Berkeley College has been allocated \$6,724,209 in New York and \$6,392,731 in New Jersey to provide emergency financial aid grants.

## **Who is eligible for a HEERF III emergency grant?**

As a result of guidance received from the Department of Education on May 11, 2021, students no longer need to be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen to receive HEERF. As such, as we did with HEERF II, we have suspended the requirement of having ISIRs on file. However, we will be awarding HEERF III to only domestic matriculated students currently in attendance in winter 2022, who have never received a HEERF grant while attending Berkeley College. This includes continuing, new, and transfer students. For this round, HEERF III part 2, we are not requiring an application, however, the student must submit the Response Form, not later than April 1, 2022. All students who respond in a timely manner will receive the award. We anticipate Response Forms going out to all eligible students during the month of February. We will inform students of the value of the awards within the first two weeks of April.

## **Am I eligible for an emergency grant even if I owe the College money?**

Yes. If a student meets all the other eligibility criteria, the student may receive an emergency award even if a current open balance exists with the College. In fact, HEERF III allows the student to apply the award directly to an open balance. The student will have the opportunity on the HEERF III Response Form to choose whether to apply the award toward an open balance, including up to the winter 2022 semester or to receive it as a refund. The response form is required. It will tell us if the student wants the refund or to apply it toward balance(s). The decision to provide authorization for the College to apply the funds to an open balance is not reversible. Should a balance not

exist, or the award is greater than the balance, the College will automatically provide the remainder of the award to the student as a refund.

### **How and why is the HEERF III part 2 awarding approach different?**

In prior rounds, we have required students to certify their eligibility using an application. With the current variant of COVID-19, and the College temporarily pivoting again to virtual, it is reasonable to state that all our students are eligible due to the disruption of classes. Unfortunately, as we approach the exhaustion of the funds made available to us, by the U.S. Department of Education, we must limit these awards to only those who have not received it prior to this round.

### **What is the HEERF III part 2 Response Form?**

Students are required to complete and submit the Response Form to let us know: If they wish to apply the award to any appropriate open balance, up to and including the winter 2022 semester or If the student wishes to receive a refund We anticipate sending the Response Form to all eligible students during the month of February. The deadline for submission is April 1, 2022.

### **Do I need to apply for an emergency grant?**

Students do not need to apply for HEERF III round 2 and there is no application. However, to receive the grant, the Response Form must be submitted no later than April 1, 2022. After having read the “who is eligible” section, students who think they should be eligible and did not receive an award should contact Financial Aid at [studentfinance@BerkeleyCollege.edu](mailto:studentfinance@BerkeleyCollege.edu). Before making final award amount decisions, we will wait to see how many students respond. HEERF III regulations require the institution to prioritize students with exceptional need and domestic students. As such, we will be awarding a larger amount to students with a zero EFC than to students with an EFC greater than zero. Students without an EFC will not be considered.

### **How much emergency grant money will I receive?**

Based on the regulations, and our remaining funding levels, HEERF III awards part 2 have been distributed equally among eligible students that submitted the response form by April 1, 2022. Students with a zero EFC in New York were awarded \$3,514.78. In New Jersey, zero EFC students received \$1,671.61. Students with EFCs greater than zero were awarded \$2,600.41 in NY and \$724.59 in NJ. All awards were determined based on the amount of funds available and the number of students that responded on time.. Awards were based on the student’s EFC at the time of our determination. There

will be no appeals for EFCs that change after the award was made. Students that did not respond to our original communication, follow-up emails, texts, and phone calls, were deemed ineligible on April 4, 2022 and were sent a communication informing them of such.

### **How will I receive my emergency grant?**

Emergency grants will be received via BankMobile Disbursements, a technology solution, powered by BMTX, Inc. If you have any questions about BankMobile, please contact [SAOnline@BerkeleyCollege.edu](mailto:SAOnline@BerkeleyCollege.edu).

### **When will I receive my emergency grant?**

Dissemination of the Response Form will begin in mid to late February. We anticipate informing students of their award amounts within the first two weeks of April.

### **What if I need more money than the emergency grant I receive?**

We understand that students have significant needs during this time. The HEERF III emergency financial aid grants are meant to help meet your financial needs, but we know the grants may not be enough money for some students. If you are having substantial financial difficulties, please reach out to Financial Aid at [studentfinance@BerkeleyCollege.edu](mailto:studentfinance@BerkeleyCollege.edu). If you have further need that can be documented, we may be able to impact your Federal Aid using "Professional Judgement". Note: If you are already receiving full Federal Pell and Federal Loans we will not be able to assist you with Federal Aid.

### **Is there a deadline to apply?**

We must receive the Response Form by April 1, 2022.