

Emergency Relief Fund FAQ (ARP) October 12

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 \$1,589,897 in New York and \$1,498,286 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 US citizen or an eligible non-citizen to receive HEERF. As such, as we did with HEERF III, we have suspended the requirement of having ISIRs on file. However, we will be awarding HEERF III to only matriculated students currently in attendance. (Fall 2021). Further, we are applying a stratification to these awards. Based on the regulations HEERF III awards will be distributed as follows: Students with EFC (Estimated Family Contributions) equal to zero will receive up to \$850 (NJ students) and \$1,100 (NY students). Students with EFC great than zero will receive up to up to \$650 (NJ students) and \$900 (NY students). Students without FAFSAs (thus no EFC) will be assumed to be either an International or Undocumented student and will receive up to \$450 (NJ students) and \$700 (NY students). Award decisions will be made based on the application date and the student's EFC at that time. There will be no appeals for EFCs that change after the award is made.

Do I have to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive an emergency grant?

As a result of guidance received from the Department of Education on May 11, 2021, students no longer need to be a US citizen or an eligible non-citizen to receive HEERF. As such we have suspended the requirement of filing a FAFSA that would result in having ISIRs on file. However, awards will be determined based on the student's EFC.

Therefore, eligible students are encouraged to file the FAFSA before applying for HEERF III.

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

Yes. If you meet all the other eligibility criteria and certify that you have eligible expenses, you may receive an emergency grant even if you have current open balances with the College. In fact, HEERF III allows the student to apply the award directly to an open balance. You will have the opportunity on the HEERF III Application to choose whether to apply the award towards an open balance and/or to receive it as a refund. This authorization is not required and will not modify your application opportunity. However, the decision to provide authorization for the college to apply the funds to an open balance is not reversible. Should you have no balance, or the award is greater than your balance, the college will automatically provide the remainder of the award to you as a refund.

Do I need to apply for an emergency grant?

Emergency grants require an application and certification of use of funds. The college has identified eligible students based on the criteria established by the Department of Education and will send the application/certification form directly to them. If you think you should be eligible and did not receive the application, contact Financial Aid at studentfinance@BerkeleyCollege.edu. Unlike HEERF I, HEERF III regulations require the institution to prioritize students with exceptional need.

How much emergency grant money will I receive?

Each student will certify and apply for the amount of their eligible expenses; however, the maximum amount per student is contingent on the EFC. Based on the regulations HEERF III awards will be distributed as follows: Students with EFC (Estimated Family Contributions) equal to zero will receive up to \$850 (NJ Students) and \$1,100 (NY Students). Students with EFC great than zero will receive up to \$650 (NJ Students) and \$900 (NY Students). Students without FAFSAs (thus no EFC) will be assumed to be either an International or Undocumented Student and will receive up to \$450 (NJ Students) and \$700 (NY Students). Award decisions will be made based on the application date and the student's EFC at that time. There will be no appeals for EFCs that change after the award is made.

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.

When will I receive my emergency grant?

Application approvals are made on a rolling basis, as they are received.

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. 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?

Berkeley provided moving deadlines through the semester. The final deadline being December 18, 2021. However, the college reserves the right to award these funds to students that we are in contact with, through January 18, 2022. Any remaining funds will be awarded in the subsequent semester.