

ARP Act emergency relief Funds for students

July 10, 2021

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) was authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on May 11, 2021.

- Among other things, the ARP Act provides emergency relief funds for students. The only statutory requirement is that the funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare), or to reduce existing tuition expenses on student account (incurred since March 13, 2020).

MSMC received a total of \$2,573,865 in emergency grant funding to be awarded to students. ONLY students who are or could be eligible to participate in Title IV (federal financial aid) programs are eligible to receive these funds. We have awarded \$2,573,865 to 2,116 eligible students.

In order to qualify for ARP Act funds, students must meet the following criteria:

- Enrollment at the Mount during the COVID-19 national emergency
- Completed 2019-2020 and/or 2020-2021 FAFSA and received or was eligible to receive federal financial aid (Title IV) funds
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) based on FAFSA must be less than \$30,000 for students enrolled full-time (12 credits or more)
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) based on FAFSA must be less than \$10,000 for students enrolled at least half-time (6-8 credits)

The funds were distributed based on the authorization students provided on the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) III form to either: (1.) Apply the funds to student account to assist in payment of tuition expenses incurred after March 13, 2020 OR (2.) Issue a check payable to the student to assist with cost of attendance or emergency costs. Funds awarded by check were mailed to student's home address. Awards issued by check were not reduced by any unpaid balance on the student account. Please note that the funds initially appeared as a credit on the student bill.

Students may find answers to frequently asked questions on our CARES FAQ page: [CARES FAQ](#).

Any questions that are not addressed in the CARES FAQ page should be directed via email to SFS@msmc.edu.

Mount Saint Mary College has provided the U.S. Department of Education with a signed Certification and Agreement and assurance that we have used no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.