

## **Update 11 Activity at 9-30-21 Issued October 7, 2021**

### **HEERF I (CARES), II (CRRSAA), and III (ARP) Public Disclosure**

#### **All Funds Under HEERF I and II Have Been Disbursed to Students**

#### **Funds under HEERF III (ARP) Began Disbursing Fall Semester 2021**

#### **Criteria required for public disclosure:**

1. Eastern Connecticut State University signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50% of the funds received under section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF I (CARES Act) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. Additional supplement student funds received under HEERF II (CRRSAA) and HEERF III (ARP) will also be distributed to students as required.
2. The initial amount of funds Eastern Connecticut State University received for Financial Aid Grants to Students under HEERF I (CARES) was \$4,433,725 and \$2,216,863 of this amount represent the no less than 50% portion to provide Emergency Financial Aid to our students. In January 2021 the university was provided a supplement under HEERF II (CRRSAA) of an additional \$4,843,490 in institutional funds and \$2,216,863 in additional student funds as a revision to the original grant. In May 2021 HEERF III (ARP) provided an additional \$6,222,200 in institutional funds and \$6,224,051 in additional student funds. In total there have been \$13,282,552 institutional funds and \$10,657,777 in student funds awarded in HEERF I, II and III.
3. As of September 30, 2021, we have distributed \$2,216,863 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to our students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the HEERF I (CARES) and \$2,216,823 under HEERF II (CRRASS) for a total of \$4,433,726. All funds for HEERF I and II have been distributed. HEERF III (ARP) funds of \$3,027,156 have been distributed as of September 30, 2021.
4. The estimated total number of students who have successfully qualified, or were originally considered potentially eligible, to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 1800(a)(1) of HEERF I (CARES) was 3,813 students and under HEERF II (CRRSAA) 3,429. HEERF III (ARP) eligible students at September 30, 2021 was 3,841.
5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 1804(a)(1) HEERF I (CARES) was 3,146 students and under HEERF II (CRRSSA) was 3,411. HEERF III (ARP) funds were distributed to 3,841 students as of September 30, 2021.
6. The institution set aside a minor portion of the HEERF I (CARES) student amount for a Student Emergency Grant Program. As of March 31, 2021, the Student Emergency Grant Program has distributed \$221,700 to 821 students. The distribution of the major funding was calculated using the potential total distribution of credit hours in the spring semester of all students who successfully qualified, or are considered potentially eligible, to participate in programs under

Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The initial \$1,704,654 awarded to full-time undergraduate non-Pell student was \$476.28 and \$666.84 for a Pell student. The value awarded for a full-time graduate student was \$357.21. Undergraduate students are considered full-time when enrolled in 12 or more credits and graduated students are considered full-time when enrolled in 9 or more credits. Part-time non-Pell undergraduate students were awarded at a rate of \$39.69 per credit and \$55.57 for Pell eligible students. Part-time graduate students were awarded at \$39.69 per credit hour. For example, a part-time non-Pell eligible student taking 3 credits would receive \$119.07 ( $3 * \$39.69 = \$119.07$ ).

Once all eligible 3,146 students were identified, the remaining \$290,262 was awarded in December 2020, full-time undergraduate non-Pell student received \$81.12 and \$113.55 for a Pell student. The value awarded for a full-time graduate student was \$60.84. Part-time non-Pell undergraduate students were awarded at a rate of \$6.76 per credit and \$9.46 for Pell eligible students. Part-time graduate students were awarded at \$6.76 per credit hour. In March of 2021 any remaining CARES funds were distributed to students exhausting the \$2,216,863 grant.

HEERF II (CRRSAA) funds were distributed in March 2021 in the same manner as HEERF I (CARES) with the addition of online only students and students who qualified by attestation. Full-time undergraduate non-Pell student received \$599.04 and \$838.68 for a Pell student. The value awarded for a full-time graduate student was \$449.28. Part-time non-Pell undergraduate students were awarded at a rate of \$49.92 per credit and \$69.89 for Pell eligible students. Part-time graduate students were awarded at \$49.92 per credit hour. All HEERF II (CRRSAA) funds have been distributed exhausting the grant.

HEERF III (ARP), once again the institution set-aside, up to \$500,000 in funds, for Emergency Financial Aid. Guidance for the Emergency Financial Aid will be provided to our students in October 2021. In September of 2021 \$3,027,156 of the HEERF III (ARP) funds were distributed in the same manner as HEERF II (CRRSAA) utilizing the new guidelines that allowed DACA and undocumented students to receive funds, eliminating the requirement for attestation or proof of US citizenship for eligibility.

HEERF III (ARP) has 3 levels of award based on expected family contribution (EFC) that expand beyond the earlier Pell and Non-Pell student model. Full-time-Undergraduate with an EFC of \$0 to \$5,846 (Pell) received \$1,008, with an EFC of \$5,847 to \$11,692 received \$864, and a student that did not have an EFC calculated or their EFC was over \$11,962 received the Base \$720. The value awarded for a full-time graduate student with an EFC of \$0 to \$5,846 was \$756, with an EFC of \$5,847 to \$11,692 received \$648, and a student that did not have an EFC calculated or their EFC was over \$11,962 received the Base \$540. Part-time under graduates and graduate students with an EFC of \$0 to \$5,846 received \$84 per credit hour, with an EFC of \$5,847 to \$11,692 received \$72 per credit hour, and a student that did not have an EFC calculated or their EFC was over \$11,962 received the Base \$60 per credit hour.

7. Guidance regarding HEERF I, II and III was provided to students on our Eastern Connecticut State University web page and by email to our student population as follows below,

## **HEERF I (CARES)**

### **Federal Emergency Funds**

Today I am sharing the following information with Eastern students and their parents, as well other members of the University community, regarding federal support being provided to the University through the Coronavirus Assistance, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Funds have been approved by Congress and will be distributed to state governments for various purposes and directly to institutions of higher education for emergency funding.

Eastern will receive \$4,433,725 in emergency funding through the CARES Act. Of that amount, \$2.2 million will provide partial relief to the University to offset lost revenues and additional expenses incurred due to COVID-19. In addition to more than \$6 million in housing and meal refunds disbursed to students, the University has incurred other expenses related to COVID-19 and continues to maintain its operations remotely, paying employees and covering all other normal operating expenses.

The other half of the emergency funds — \$2,216,863 — will be used to provide direct financial relief to students. Eastern is working with the other three state universities and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System Office to finalize the distribution model, including the amount students will receive and eligibility requirements. Once the model is finalized, disbursements will be made using the refund system and for students who are not registered for e-Refund individual checks will be mailed to their home address.

### **If you have not registered for eRefund, please register TODAY!**

We expect payments made by eRefund will get you your money approximately one week earlier than anyone receiving a check in the mail.

### **There is no fee to set up an eRefund and this is the quickest way to get your money.**

1. Go to [eWeb](#)
2. Go to your Student Account
3. Click "view account, make deposits/payments and set up payment plan"
4. Select Electronic Refunds in the top menu
5. Follow the prompts

While some details remain to be finalized, I can tell you that eligible students will receive funds based on credit hours, amounts will vary based on the students full-time or part-time status. Pell

students will receive additional funds based on guidance provided by the Federal Government. In total, we plan to distribute \$2 million directly to students, with an additional \$200,000 — 10 percent — available to support emergency requests. Currently we are developing the process to request consideration of support from the \$200,000 emergency fund. We will make more information available to you as details are finalized.

Jim Howarth

Vice President for Finance and Administration

**CARES ACT and Eastern Connecticut State University  
Update May 1, 2020**

**New federal requirements have been released that limit student eligibility for distribution of CARES Emergency Funding.**

To be eligible for an automatic payment under the CARES Act, students must meet the following criteria:

- been enrolled in classes as of March 27, 2020;
- filed a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) for the 2019/2020 financial aid year;
- been determined to be Title IV eligible as outlined in the FAFSA; and
- completed all Office of Financial Aid verification requirements.

We strongly encourage students who have not filed a 2019-20 FAFSA to do so by **June 30, 2020** at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), so that your eligibility for CARES funding can be determined. Upon completing the FAFSA, please be sure to use the Eastern school code (**001425**) so that it will be routed to us for processing.

We expect to receive the funds as early as next week and will begin to disburse the automatic payments at that time. **Students do not apply for payments; the University will issue payments to eligible students.** Eligible students will receive automatic payments based on credit hours; amounts will vary based on the students full-time or part-time status. Pell students will receive additional funds based on guidance provided by the Federal Government.

Disbursements of the automatic payments will be made using the eRefund system and for students who are not registered for e-Refund individual checks will be mailed to their home address.

**If you have not registered for eRefund, please register TODAY!**

**We expect refunds made by eRefund will get you your money approximately one week earlier than anyone receiving a refund check in the mail.**

**There is no fee to set up an eRefund and this is the quickest way to get your money.**

- 1. Go to eWeb**
- 2. Go to your Student Account**
- 3. Click "view account, make deposits/payments and set up payment plan"**
- 4. Select Electronic Refunds in the top menu**
- 5. Follow the prompts**

## COVID-19 Financial Relief for Current Students

March 12, 2021

Dear Eastern Connecticut State University student:

The University has been awarded \$2,216,863 in additional funds from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (HEERF II; commonly known as the CARES Act) to support grants for current students.

To qualify for a grant, students must meet several criteria:

1. Matriculate at Eastern Connecticut State University for the spring 2021 semester
2. A U.S. citizen through birth or naturalization
3. A U.S. Permanent Resident with a valid, unexpired U.S. Permanent Resident Card
4. Eligible for federal financial aid as a Noncitizen (see [Eligible Noncitizen](#) for requirements)

If you received a CARES grant payment in December 2020 and are currently enrolled at Eastern for the spring 2021 semester, you do not need to take any additional action. Students who are not currently enrolled, receive waivers, or are taking fewer than three credits will not qualify for this payment.

Students who could qualify for grant funds under item 2, 3 or 4 above will need to complete an attestation form being sent to your Eastern email account from [Caresact@easternct.edu](mailto:Caresact@easternct.edu). You must complete and submit the form by 1 p.m. on Monday March 22, 2021, to be eligible. Any forms received after March 22 at 1 p.m. will not be eligible for the grant. Questions regarding the distribution of CARES funds should be sent to [Caresact@easternct.edu](mailto:Caresact@easternct.edu).

If you have not signed up for Eastern's eRefunds system, **we suggest you sign up today** as it is the quickest way for you to receive your money. An eRefunds payment will get to you approximately one week earlier than a check sent by mail.

**There is no fee to set up an eRefunds and it is the quickest way to get your money. Use the following process to set up your eRefunds payment.**

6. Go to [eWeb](#)
7. Click Student Services
8. Click Student Account
9. Click Refunds Menu Option at the top of page and then follow the prompts

Thank you. Stay safe and have a successful spring semester.

Sincerely,

James Howarth  
Vice President for Finance and Administration

**Provided Definition**

Home Planning and Institutional Research Home Eligible Noncitizen

# ***Eligible Noncitizen***

A U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swains Island), U.S. permanent resident (who has an I-151, I-551 or I-551C [Permanent Resident Card]), or an individual who has an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing one of the following designations:

- "Refugee"
- "Asylum Granted"
- "Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)"
- "Conditional Entrant" (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
- Victims of human trafficking, T-visa (T-2, T-3, or T-4, etc.) holder
- "Parolee" (You must be paroled into the United States for at least one year and you must be able to provide evidence from the USCIS that you are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose and that you intend to become a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.)



**Sample Attestation Letter**

From: [caresact@easternct.edu](mailto:caresact@easternct.edu)

Subject: HEERF II (CARES Act) Grant Program - Attestation

Dear Students Name,

You are receiving this email to provide you with opportunity to qualify for HEERF II (CARES Act) grant funds.

Please complete your HEERF II (CARES Act) Grant Program Attestation by [clicking here](#) or copying and pasting the following link into your browser:

<https://www.XXXXXXX>

**The attestation must be completed and submitted by 1:00 pm on Monday March 22, 2021 to be considered eligible for the grant funds.**

If you have any questions, please email [caresact@easternct.edu](mailto:caresact@easternct.edu).

Sincerely,

CARES Act Team



## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the American Rescue Plan (ARP)**

### **How much will Eastern receive from the American Rescue Plan (ARP)?**

Eastern will receive \$6,224,051 for Eastern students and \$6,222,200 for institution expenses.

### **Who will qualify for ARP grant money?**

Students must be currently enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University to qualify.

### **How will the funds be distributed?**

The funds will be distributed through 2 programs

- Primary Relief - Program does not require enrolled students to apply and will be based on the student's full time or part time status.
- Emergency Relief Fund - Program will be for emergency fund requests and enrolled students are required to submit their specific reason for emergency aid to a committee for review.

## **Primary Relief Program**

### **What is the Primary Relief Program?**

The Primary Relief Program is where the majority of ARP Funds will be distributed and does not require any information to be submitted by the student to qualify. Students currently enrolled at Eastern who are matriculated students and are taking more than 3 credit will be automatically eligible unless they are receiving tuition waivers. Students with tuition waivers are not eligible unless your waiver is one of the following:

- Graduate Interns
- National Guard
- Resident Assistant
- Veterans
- Yellow Ribbon

### **Do I need to be a US Citizen to receive Primary Relief Program ARP funds?**

Current students who are US Citizens, undocumented, and DACA students are all eligible for ARP funds.

### **How will the amount I receive be calculated?**

Primary Relief Program payments will be based on the students estimated family contribution (EFC) and status as a full-time student or part-time student. Part-time students will receive a prorated amount based on their current semester registered credits.

### **When will the Primary Relief Program payment be distributed?**

We expect to distribute the fall semester payment of Primary Relief Program ARP grant funds by the end of September 2021. The spring semester payment is expected to be distributed by the end of February 2022. Students who register for eRefunds will receive their funds faster than those receiving checks sent to their home address listed in their Banner student account.

**How will payments be distributed?**

If you signed up for eRefunds you will receive your funds faster than a check mailed to your address. If you are not signed up for eRefunds your check will be mailed to your home address as identified in your Banner student account.

**What is the fastest way to receive the funds?**

There is no fee to set up eRefunds and it is the quickest way to get your money. Use the following process to set up your eRefunds payment.

1. Go to [eWeb](#)
2. Click Student Services
3. Click Student Account
4. View Account, Make Deposits/Payments and Setup Payment Plan
5. Electronic Refunds is under My Profile Set up on right-hand side of page
6. Click Refunds Menu Option at the top of page and then follow the prompts

If you do not sign up for eRefunds your funds will be sent in a check to the home address you have identified in your Banner student account. To get the funds fast sign up for eRefunds today!!

**How much money will I receive?**

The actual amounts are not determined at this time. The payment amount for the fall semester will be calculated when all approved students are determined using the fall semester September 16, 2021 census date. The payments will be based on your estimated family contribution (EFC) and status as a full-time student or part-time student. Part-time students will receive a prorated amount based on their current semester registered credits. The spring semester will follow the same procedure using the February 9, 2022 census date.

Questions on the Primary Relief Program should be to be addressed to [ARPAct@easternct.edu](mailto:ARPAct@easternct.edu)

**Emergency Relief Fund**

**Eastern has established up to \$500,000 of the ARP student portion to be used for Emergency Relief funds that students can apply directly for award consideration.**

The Emergency Relief Program instructions and process are currently under development and will be available at the start of the fall semester.

Eligibility will follow the same criteria as the Primary Relief Program with the addition of International students who will also be eligible for the Emergency Relief Fund.

Students will need to apply for consideration of relief funds under the Emergency Relief Fund

## **Update Regarding American Rescue Plan Payments to Students - Fall Semester 2021**

**The American Rescue Plan Primary Relief Plan Funds will be released to students by the end of September. ARP funds are being provided to the student to assist with any component of their 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. Students determine how they use their ARP funds including paying existing student account balances.**

**To get your funds fast sign up for eRefunds today. See instructions below and sign up today!**

There is no fee to set up eRefunds and it is the quickest way to get your money. Use the following process to set up your eRefunds payment.

1. Go to [eWeb](#)
2. Click Student Services
3. Click Student Account
4. View Account, Make Deposits/Payments and Setup Payment Plan
5. Electronic Refunds is under My Profile Set up on right-hand side of page
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If you do not sign up for eRefunds your funds will be sent in a check to the home address you have identified in your student account. To get the funds fast sign up for eRefunds today!!

### **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the American Rescue Plan (ARP) (as of 9-22-21)**

#### **Who will qualify for ARP grant money?**

Students must be currently enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University to qualify.

#### **How will the funds be distributed?**

The funds will be distributed through two programs

- **Primary Relief** - Program does not require enrolled students to apply and will be based on the student's full time or part time status.
- **Emergency Relief Fund** - Program will be for emergency fund requests and enrolled students are required to submit their specific reason for emergency aid to a committee for review.

### **Primary Relief Program**

#### **What is the Primary Relief Program?**

The Primary Relief Program is where the majority of ARP Funds will be distributed and does not require any information to be submitted by the student to qualify. Students currently enrolled at Eastern who are matriculated students and are taking more than 3 credits will be automatically eligible unless they are receiving tuition waivers. Students with tuition waivers are not eligible unless your waiver is one of the following:

- Graduate Interns
- National Guard
- Resident Assistant
- Veterans
- Yellow Ribbon

**Do I need to be a US Citizen to receive Primary Relief Program ARP funds?**

Current students who are US Citizens, undocumented, and DACA students are all eligible for ARP funds.

**How will the amount I receive be calculated?**

Primary Relief Program payments will be based on the students estimated family contribution (EFC) and status as a full-time or part-time student. Part-time students will receive a prorated amount based on their current semester registered credits.

**When will the Primary Relief Program payment be distributed?**

We expect to distribute the fall semester payment of Primary Relief Program ARP grant funds by the end of September 2021. The spring semester payment is expected to be distributed by the end of February 2022. **Students who register for eRefunds will receive their funds faster than those receiving checks sent to their home address listed in their student account.**

**How will payments be distributed?**

**If you signed up for eRefunds you will receive your funds faster than a check mailed to your address.** If you are not signed up for eRefunds your check will be mailed to your home address as identified in your student account.

**How much money will I receive?**

The payment amount for the fall semester was calculated using the fall semester September 16, 2021 census date. The payments are based on your estimated family contribution (EFC) and status as a full-time student or part-time student. The term Base refers to a student with and EFC above \$11,692 or where an EFC has not been calculated. Part-time students will receive a prorated amount based on their current semester registered credits.

Full Time Undergraduate EFC \$0 to \$5,846 will receive **\$1,008**

Full Time Undergraduate EFC \$5,847 to \$11,692 will receive **\$864**

Full Time Undergraduate Base will receive **\$720**

Part Time Undergraduate EFC \$0 to \$5,846 will receive **\$84 per credit hour**

Part Time Undergraduate EFC \$5,847 to \$11,692 will receive **\$72 per credit hour**

Part Time Undergraduate Base will receive **\$60 per credit hour**

Full Time Graduate EFC \$0 to \$5,846 will receive **\$756**

Full Time Graduate EFC \$5,847 to \$11,692 will receive **\$648**

Full Time Graduate Base will receive **\$540**

Part Time Graduate EFC \$0 to \$5,846 will receive **\$84 per credit hour**

Part Time Graduate EFC \$5,847 to \$11,692 will receive **\$72 per credit hour**

Part Time Graduate Base will receive **\$60 per credit hour**

The spring semester will follow the same procedure to calculate the payments using the February 9, 2022 census date.

**Questions on the Primary Relief Program should be to be addressed to [ARPAct@easternct.edu](mailto:ARPAct@easternct.edu)**

## **Emergency Relief Fund**

**Eastern has established up to \$500,000 of the ARP student portion to be used for Emergency Relief funds that students can apply directly for award consideration.**

The Emergency Relief Program instructions and process are currently under development and notification of the application filing process will be sent to all students in early October.

Eligibility will follow the same criteria as the Primary Relief Program with the addition of International students who will also be eligible for the Emergency Relief Fund.

Students will need to apply for consideration of relief funds under the Emergency Relief Fund

