

UC SANTA BARBARA

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships: HEERF Quarterly Report, January 10, 2022

Background

The University of California, Santa Barbara signed and returned a Certification of Agreement with the Department of Education to accept funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2. The ARP established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) to provide emergency financial aid grants to students and requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students.

These critical funds help eligible UC Santa Barbara students cover any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arose due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

Federal Emergency Aid Grant Reporting

As of October 1, 2021, a total of \$58,748,496 has been allocated to UC Santa Barbara in higher education emergency relief funds for students.

The estimated number of students potentially eligible to be considered to receive Emergency Financial Aid grants in quarter four (October 2021 – December 2021) was 26,114. As of December 31, 2021, \$230,598 was disbursed to 307 unduplicated students.

Federal Emergency Aid Grant Criteria and Eligibility

Undergraduate Students – UC Santa Barbara initially made federal HEERF funds available to students that had submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Generally, HEERF funding was awarded based on financial need as determined by their financial aid application.

To determine the eligible population, UC Santa Barbara performed need calculations based on budget (cost of attendance) and the EFC from the aid application. Students were then placed into groups based on this need calculation. These groups included students with Pell-eligible EFCs, students with grant-eligible EFCs, and the students who had calculated need but would otherwise not be grant-eligible. Award amounts varied depending on which group a student fell into. Additionally, OFAS targeted specific populations that historically have shown exceptional needs. These included student parents, formerly incarcerated students, former foster youth, unaccompanied homeless youth and students with an approved dependency override appeal. Qualifying students in these groups received an additional amount of funding.

For awards made during this quarter, students were required to complete the "COVID ARP Consideration Form" in order to be considered for \$1,000 awards. Financial aid applicants without demonstrated financial need, students who are ineligible to submit a financial aid application and students who chose not to submit a financial aid application were all encouraged to complete this form. In cases where the applicant subsequently met the original need-based criteria, they received an award consistent with the financial need calculation described above. Additionally, students could consult with the Financial Crisis Response Team to be considered for awards of varying amounts.

Graduate Students – To be considered for funding during this quarter, students were required to submit an application through the Graduate Division. Applications were evaluated on a rolling basis and funded as expeditiously as possible. Award amounts varied depending on students' individual circumstances.

In all cases, financial aid grants were based on emergency costs that arose due to coronavirus or eligible expenses under the student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare.

Email to Students:

UC SANTA BARBARA

Dear UCSB Student,

We're happy to inform you that you have been awarded the COVID ARP Grant, which was made available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) based on your appeal for funding due to financial hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your ARP Grant will be disbursed to BARC tonight. Awards will be refunded in full, and can be used to pay for any educational expenses in your Cost of Attendance, including paying down any amounts that might still be owed on your BARC account.

[Log in to MyAidStatus](#)

If you would like to get in touch, please use the following options to contact us:

- Visit our website's homepage to "Join the Line" and receive a call from an advisor
- Text OFAS to 805-585-5821
- Email us at: <https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/contact-us>



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