



American Rescue Plan (ARP) - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) for Students FAQs

1. What is the ARP - HEERF Student Emergency Fund?

- The HEERF Student Emergency Fund for students is from the latest Federal Stimulus package – The American Rescue Plan, passed March 11, 2021 by Congress. The funds are made available to institutions of higher education with a portion set aside for additional student emergency financial grants.

2. Do I have to complete a FAFSA to be eligible for the HEERF Student Emergency Funds?

- No. Students do not have to have a FAFSA on file, but are highly encouraged to do so. If your financial situation has changed due to a change of income or loss of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic, please file a Special Circumstance Form with the Financial Aid office.

3. Is there a limit of Emergency Aid that I can receive for the year?

- Yes, limits have been set according to length of Certificate program and enrollment status. See Tiers at the end of this document.

4. Who is eligible for assistance from the HEERF Student Emergency Fund?

- Students enrolled in a program at least 76 hours in length, which leads to a Certificate of Completion.
- Must have already completed High School or its equivalent.

5. Do I have to be eligible to receive financial aid?

- No. Students do not have to be eligible to receive financial aid to receive HEERF Funds, but do need to have an exceptional need or extraordinary financial circumstance to request these emergency student aid funds.

6. Do I have to complete an application to receive HEERF Funds?

- Yes, you must fill out an application to receive HEERF Emergency Aid funds.

EXCEPTION: Students in programs that are 600 hours or longer that are deemed eligible for Pell Grant have already demonstrated a financial need through their FAFSA, and will be awarded the emergency aid grant automatically starting with the Fall 2021 enrollments. All others must apply to receive HEERF Funds.

Students must have an active student status at Apollo Career Center. Students must be taking classes in the period the HEERF student emergency funds will be used.

7. Are International students eligible to receive HEERF Funds?

- Yes. Undocumented student and international students may receive HEERF Funds.

8. What can the HEERF Emergency Fund be used for?

- Students may use the emergency financial aid grant toward any component of their Cost of Attendance, such as tuition or fees as well as additional costs that may arise including:
 - Food
 - Housing
 - Healthcare (including Mental Health)
 - Childcare
- HEERF student emergency grants are prioritized for students based on exceptional need or extraordinary financial circumstances.

9. Can I apply for the HEERF Funds if I already received emergency grants?

- Yes. Students who already received emergency funds should contact the Student Financial Aid office to determine eligibility. Please refer to the Tiers below for maximum award eligibility.

10. How will I know if my HEERF application is approved?

- Students will receive an email notification about their HEERF application status. Email notices are sent to students' email account on file, so please make sure you have provided your current email address.
- Please allow up to 10 business days for receiving an email notice about the approval or denial of your application.

11. How will I receive the funds if I qualify?

- Students who are approved for HEERF funding will indicate in their HEERF application if they wish to receive HEERF funds by check, or have funds applied directly to their account.
 - Funds applied directly to tuition charges will first pay for any outstanding tuition and fees, and any remaining credit will be refunded to the student.
- Students receiving a direct check refund may still use their funds to help pay an unpaid balance on their student account.

12. Am I eligible to receive a direct refund if I have an outstanding balance on my account.

- Yes. Students can choose how they would like to receive their HEERF emergency funds.

13. If I'm on a tuition payment plan, can I use these funds to pay off my balance?

- Yes. Students can indicate on their HEERF application if they would like to have funds applied to their outstanding balance of Tuition.

14. Are there other resources that can help me if I'm not eligible for HEERF funding?

- Yes. If your financial situation has changed due to a change of income or loss of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Financial Aid office can help you update your FAFSA through filing a Special Circumstance Form.
- Visit the Apollo Career Center Financial Aid page to view available scholarship applications and additional resource options.

HEERF III Student Emergency Aid Methodology

As of May 12, 2021, Apollo Career Center has been allocated \$484,529 through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (HEERF III) for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Phase 1 – June 2021

Apollo Career Center determined that active students that began enrollment in Spring 2021 and were enrolled in a 600-hour or longer program as of June 3, 2021 were deemed eligible to receive Phase 1 Emergency Financial Aid Grant for students. There were 36 active students that were requested to fill out a Google Form to request or decline emergency financial aid grants.

Phase 2 – July 2021

As we enter our Summer 2021 short-term enrollments as well as the Fall 2021 enrollments, we implemented a tiered system for Emergency Financial Aid Grants & opened up the application process to include Short-Term:

HEERF III TIERS:

	ACTIVE STUDENT IN 600-HR OR LONGER PROGRAM		
	Financial Aid eligible programs are divided into a minimum of 2 payment periods, this is the maximum emergency aid grant per payment period		
	Full-Time Enrollment Status	3/4-Time Enrollment Status	1/2-Time Enrollment Status
Federal Pell Grant Recipient (automatic eligibility)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 750.00
Non-Pell eligible (must complete application)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 750.00
	ACTIVE STUDENT IN A SHORT-TERM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM		
	Short-Term programs under 600 hours vary in length from 3 weeks to 6 months; therefore, allocations are based on total hours in the program, and students deemed eligible may only receive a one-time emergency aid grant		
	Program Length 201 Hrs - 599 Hrs	Program Length 151 Hrs - 200 Hrs	Program Length 76 Hrs - 150 Hrs
Must complete application	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00

Apollo Career Center must ensure that emergency student aid funds are issued to students that demonstrate **exceptional need**. Students that file a FAFSA and are eligible for Pell Grant funding have already demonstrated an exceptional financial need through the results of the FAFSA and will automatically receive grant awards starting with Fall 2021 enrollments.