



Monroe County Community College:

ARPA - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting

January 1, 2022 – Quarterly Report

Monroe County Community College (OPEID 002294) signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 17, 2020. On January 14, 2021 the U.S. Department of Education announced an additional \$22.7 billion available to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is allocated to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), which appropriated \$39.6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III. Taken together, the CARES Act, the CRRSAA, and the ARPA represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III.

MCCC's allocation of funding received through the ARPA is \$4,898,160. MCCC will use no less than \$2,486,363 received under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARPA to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants directly to students.

The ARPA requires that institutions prioritize students with *exceptional need*, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. The MCCC HEERF Task Force determined the institutional process for allocating Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students from the HEERF III funding. MCCC awarded HEERF III funds to regular-degree and guest students enrolled in the Fall 2021 semester through a block grant process.

To prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, MCCC has defined maximum award limits for students based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA, which is a standardized data element used to confirm financial need. The EFC range and award amounts were approved by the MCCC HEERF Task Force.

- Pell Eligible Students with a 0 EFC: ARPA Award = \$2500
- Pell Eligible Students with an EFC between 1 and 5846: ARPA Award = \$1750
- Title IV Eligible Students with an EFC greater than 5846: ARPA Award = \$1000
- Non-FAFSA Filer Regular-Degree Students: ARPA Award = \$ 500

Based on MCCC's methodology of using the EFC from the FAFSA to prioritize students with exceptional need and awarding ARPA Emergency Grants to regular-degree and guest students, the estimated total number of MCCC students eligible to receive an Emergency Grant under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARPA is 1868 students (unduplicated headcount) enrolled in the Fall 2021 semester.

To expend the remaining ARPA Emergency Grants in Winter 2022, the MCCC HEERF Task Force will identify the students enrolled in the highest number of credit hours for the Winter 2022 semester who also have a zero EFC to prioritize students with exceptional need. Students enrolled in the highest credit hour course load have fewer hours available to work, which in combination with a zero EFC on the FAFSA, prioritizes students who demonstrate the greatest financial need. The total number of regular-degree and guest students enrolled in the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 semesters combined is 2240 (unduplicated headcount).

As of January 1, 2022, MCCC has issued \$2,477,750 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants from ARPA funds directly to 1868 MCCC students. MCCC students were notified about the availability of these Emergency Financial Aid Grants through postings on the MCCC website and via a letter sent directly to students who qualified based on the methodology defined by the MCCC HEERF Task Force.