



Monroe County Community College:

ARPA - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting

April 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 Economics 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 and Winter 2022 semesters through a block grant process.

Fall 2021 Semester Emergency Grants

For the Fall 2021 semester, to prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, MCCC 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.

Winter 2022 Semester Emergency Grants

In February 2022, MCCC made the decision to allocate an additional \$1,501,487 from the institutional portion of HEERF III to ARPA Emergency Grants for students. Following the same requirement to prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, to distribute these additional Emergency Grants in the Winter 2022 semester, 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 = \$1500
- Pell Eligible Students with an EFC between 1 and 5846: ARPA Award = \$1000
- Title IV Eligible Students with an EFC greater than 5846: ARPA Award = \$ 750
- Non-FAFSA Filer Regular-Degree Students: ARPA Award = \$ 425

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 1697 students (unduplicated headcount) enrolled in the Winter 2022 semester.

As of April 1, 2022, MCCC has issued \$3,987,850 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants from ARPA funds directly to 2240 MCCC students (unduplicated headcount) enrolled in the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 semesters. This total is based on \$2,486,363 from the student portion of HEERF III and \$1,501,487 from the institutional portion of HEERF III. 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.