



Monroe County Community College:

ARPA - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting

July 1, 2021 – 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 will be awarding HEERF III funds to regular degree-seeking 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 has been confirmed by the MCCC HEERF Task Force, but the award amounts are still to be determined by the Task Force.

- Pell Eligible Students with a 0 EFC: ARPA Award = TBD
- Pell Eligible Students with an EFC between 1 and 5846: ARPA Award = TBD
- Title IV Eligible Students with an EFC greater than 5846: ARPA Award = TBD
- Non-FAFSA Filer Regular-Degree Students: ARPA Award = TBD

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 seeking students, the estimated total number of MCCC students eligible to receive an Emergency Grant under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARPA is 1240 students (unduplicated headcount) enrolled in the Fall 2021 semester.

As of July 1, 2021, MCCC has issued \$2,000 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants from ARPA funds directly to 1 MCCC student. The MCCC HEERF Task Force expects to award the remaining ARPA Emergency Grants for the Fall 2021 semester.

MCCC students will be notified about the availability of these Emergency Financial Aid Grants via a press release and a letter sent directly to students who qualify based on the methodology defined by the MCCC HEERF Task Force.