

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)-Grants to Students First Quarter Report March 31,2023

## **Reporting Requirements:**

- 1. Louisiana College acknowledges that the institution has signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Funding Certification and Agreement for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. The total amount originally allocated to the institution for the purpose of providing these emergency student aid grants under HEERF I was \$573,753 of which the institution received its grant notification dated April 28, 2020 from the Department of Education. Under HEERF II, as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021 (CRRSAA) Section 314(c)(3), the institution received notification dated January 17,2021 of an additional allocation of \$573,753, increasing the total amount of funding available to \$1,147,506 for providing these emergency financial aid grants to students. On May 15, 2021, the institution received notification of additional funding under HEERF III, The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, which was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Louisiana College was allocated \$1,691,330 to provide additional emergency financial aid grants to students which were awarded during the Fall 2021 semester.
- **2.** Accordingly, as of the 1st Quarter 2022 Report dated 03/31/2022, the institution has distributed a total of **\$2,834,662** under HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to eligible students.
- **3.** As of the 1st Quarter 2022 Report, the institution estimates a total of **955** students were eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act. Eligibility was expanded under Section 314(c)(3) of the CRRSAA thereby increasing the number of eligible students to approximately **1,000**. The number of students eligible under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP is estimated to be approximately **1,117**.
- **4.** As of the 1st Quarter 2022 Report, **519** students received grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, **976** students received grants under Section 314(c)(3) of the CRRSAA, and **1,117** students have received grants under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP. The total number of unduplicated students receiving awards under HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III is **1,660**.
- **5.** For distribution under HEERF I, the college awarded grants in accordance with ED's guidance whereby eligible LC students who were enrolled Spring 2020 or Fall 2020 were considered for a grant for the cost and disruption of their in-seat course(s) transitioning to an online platform. The Department of Education indicates students who filed or who are eligible to file a FAFSA may receive emergency financial aid grants



if they were otherwise eligible for Title IV funding. However, students who were enrolled exclusively in online courses for Spring 2020 or Fall 2020 were not eligible for emergency financial aid grants.

All Title IV eligible students (Graduate & Undergraduate) enrolled at least half-time <u>who submitted</u> <u>applications</u> for the CARES Act Student Emergency Grant were awarded a base award with incremental increases based upon financial need as indicated by Pell eligibility or EFC.

- **6.** For distribution under HEERF II and HEERF III, the college awarded grants to all eligible students enrolled at the time of awarding in the Spring 2021 semester and the Fall 2021 semester. Grants were awarded in varying amounts based upon documented need with Pell eligible students receiving higher award amounts. In March of 2023, the final balance of \$4,174 to four students enrolled during Spring 2023 who were identified by the Financial Aid Office as having additional need.
- **7.** Instructions, directions or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants are as follows:



1<sup>st</sup> Communication: 4-30-2020

Dear Students,

Sending along this message tonight regarding the CARES ACT which includes grants for full time students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, health care, and child-care expenses. If you have sustained expenses in one or more of these categories, you may be eligible for assistance. Students who were 100% online prior to March 13 are ineligible to receive assistance (Federal Government requirement).

To expedite this process please reply via email to <u>CARES20@lacollege.edu</u> by May 6 acknowledging that you have incurred such additional expenses. Please note this email address will be operational by 10am tomorrow (Friday, May 1).

Please understand this has been front of mind for me and my Leadership Team for several weeks as we have worked with the US Department of Education to gain accurate information. This situation has been fluid as the Federal Government has continued to provide additional guidance week by week.

In the coming days I will be sending you a different email regarding room and board refunds for full time residential student this Spring semester.

Know I am praying for you to Finish Strong this Semester!

RICK BREWER, PhD, MBA President & CEO Professor of Management Louisiana College 318-487-7400



2<sup>nd</sup> Communication: 5-7-2020

Dear Students,

More good news!

Please read the following information carefully and follow directions accordingly.

As part of the recently passed CARES Act, the <u>Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund</u> (HEERF) provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. The funds are to be used to cover additional expenses resulting from the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare). At this time, it has not been decided if these grants will be considered tax-free so please be aware of the possibility that the funds may be taxable to you.

Students must be eligible to participate in Title IV Federal Financial Aid programs in order to qualify for the emergency grant funds. Additionally, students who were enrolled exclusively in an online program on March 13, 2020, the date of the President's declaration of national emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak, are not eligible.

If you have had additional expenses that meet the criteria above, you may apply for the student grant through the MyLC portal. Once you log in, click on the "CARES" tab and complete the simple application. The deadline to apply for funding is **Monday, May 11, 2020**. The Financial Aid Office will process the applications to determine eligibility and award amounts in the order they are received. Please allow at least 48 hours after submission of your application before inquiring about the status.

Our goal is to distribute this money to our students as quickly as possible via direct deposit. <u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> You must provide your banking information for direct deposit. If you have not already signed up for direct deposit, do so by logging into the MyLC portal, click on the "Direct Deposit Info" tab, complete and submit the direct deposit form.

I am grateful for this opportunity to help relieve some of the burden caused by these unusual times.

## RICK BREWER, PhD, MBA

President & CEO Professor of Management Louisiana College 318-487-7400



3<sup>rd</sup> Communication: 5-19-2020

Subject: CARES Act Student Emergency Grant

Your application for the CARES Act Student Emergency Grant has been processed and a grant has been awarded to you. You should have your funds in your bank account in the morning if you signed up for direct deposit. Otherwise a paper check will be mailed tomorrow.

Thank you,

Louisiana College Business Office



4th Communication: 10-12-2020

Dear Students,

My prayer is that each of you came through the hurricane without harm and I am pleased to be able to share some good news with you at this difficult time.

As part of the recently passed CARES Act, the <u>Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund</u> (HEERF) provides funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. The funds are to be used to cover additional expenses resulting from the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare).

In order to qualify for the emergency grant, students must be eligible to participate in Title IV Federal Financial Aid programs as indicated by having a current FAFSA on file with the Louisiana College Financial Aid Office. Additionally, students who are enrolled exclusively in an online program are not eligible.

Please read the following information carefully and follow directions accordingly.

If you are currently enrolled at least half-time for the Fall 2020 semester at Louisiana College and you have had additional expenses that meet the criteria above, you may apply for this grant. Grant applications are available in the Louisiana College Business Office. All applications must be completed in the presence of Business Office personnel. Additionally, you must present a valid government-issued picture ID at the time of application. Copies of such identification will not be accepted and your Louisiana College ID will not suffice as appropriate identification since it is not government-issued. The deadline to apply for funding is Monday, October 26, 2020.

After the application window has closed, applications will be processed to determine eligibility and award amounts with first priority given to students who have not previously received CARES grant funds. If funds are still available after awarding first-time recipients, then students who have already received CARES funding will be considered for an additional award.

I am grateful for this opportunity to help relieve some of the burden caused by these unusual times.

RICK BREWER, PhD, MBA

President & CEO Professor of Management Louisiana College



5th Communication: 03-26-2021

Dear Students,

**IMPORTANT NEWS!** 

Please read the following information carefully and follow directions accordingly.

As part of the HEERF II Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) which was signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 27, 2020, Louisiana College has received funding to provide additional financial aid grants to students. The allowable use of grant funds includes any component of a student's cost of attendance and emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare.

I am pleased to inform you that currently enrolled students have been awarded these grants in varying amounts based upon documented financial need. The grants will be issued in the form of paper checks and may be picked up in person in the LC Business Office beginning at 8:00 Monday morning, March 29, 2021 through 4:30 Thursday afternoon, April 1, 2021. All students will be required to present a valid government-issued picture ID to pick up a check. Copies of such identification will not be accepted and your Louisiana College ID will not suffice as appropriate identification since it is not government-issued.

I am hopeful that this funding will help relieve some of the financial burden of our students and their families during this time.

Sincerely,

RICK BREWER, PhD, MBA President & CEO Professor of Management Louisiana College 318-487-7400



6th Communication: 11-02-2021

Dear Students,

**IMPORTANT NEWS!** 

Please read the following information carefully and follow directions accordingly.

As part of the HEERF III American Rescue Plan (ARP) which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, Louisiana College has received funding to provide additional financial aid grants to students. The allowable use of grant funds includes any component of a student's cost of attendance and emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare. It is the student's responsibility to determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

I am pleased to inform you that all currently enrolled students have been awarded these grants in varying amounts based upon documented financial need. The grants will be issued in the form of paper checks and may be picked up in person in the LC Business Office beginning at 8:00 Thursday morning, November 4, 2021 through 11:30 Friday afternoon, November 5, 2021. All students will be required to present a valid government-issued picture ID to pick up a check. Copies of such identification will not be accepted and your Louisiana College ID will not suffice as appropriate identification since it is not government-issued.

I am hopeful that this funding will help relieve some of the financial burden of our students and their families during this time.

Sincerely,

RICK BREWER, PhD, MBA President & CEO Professor of Management Louisiana College 318-487-7400