

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF) Reporting

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (Southwest Tech) acknowledges that the college signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement, and intends to use no less than 50 percent of the funds (\$391,8815 and \$1,799,123 respectively) received under the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) (a)(1) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Southwest Tech estimates since Spring 2021 there were 2,297 students enrolled in at least one credit in a financial aid eligible programs and were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs. **As of December 31, 2021, Southwest Tech distributed the following:**

- **CRRSAA Program: \$391,815 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 714 students.**
- **ARP Program: \$970,132.62 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 597 students.**

Effective June 1, 2021:

In determining Emergency Financial Aid Grants, Southwest Tech did not require students to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). As required under CRRSAA and ARP, funding can be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

Institutions who received HEERF funds must prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are experiencing exception need, such as students who may be eligible for other federal or state need-based aid or have faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, or food or housing insecurity.

To identify students with exceptional need, as required in Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund regulations, Southwest Tech Financial Aid uses the Pell Grant eligibility as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and allows students to self-identify exceptional need categories during the application for funds.

Students must meet the following criteria at the time of disbursement: Enrolled in at least one credit in a financial aid eligible program; Per semester grant amounts are as follows:

- Students with exceptional need (as defined above):
  - 12 or more Credits \$2,000
  - 9-11 Credits \$1,500
  - 6-8 Credits \$1,000
  - Less than 6 credits \$500
- Students without exceptional need:
  - 12 or more Credits \$1,500
  - 9-11 Credits \$750
  - 6-8 Credits \$500
  - Less than 6 credits \$250

Communications via email, website and student portal presence, presenting in student meetings assisted in educating students about this opportunity.

March 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021:

In determining Emergency Financial Aid Grants, Southwest Tech did not require students to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) but uses it to confirm U.S. Citizenship and determining exceptional need. Students who do not complete a FAFSA application must self-certify their citizenship status on the application for funds.

As required under the CRRSAA Act, funding can be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. Institutions who receive HEERF II funds must prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. For the Spring 20-21 semester, to identify students with exceptional need, as required in Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund regulations, Southwest Tech uses the Pell Grant eligibility as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All students who completed the FAFSA and are Pell Grant eligible will receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant automatically if they meet the following criteria at the time of disbursement: Enrolled in a financial aid eligible program; Enrolled in at least six credits as of the date the funds are disbursed; Be a U.S citizen or national, a permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen. Grant amounts are as follows: 12 semester credits or more – \$250; 6 - 11 semester credits – \$125.

Non-Pell Grant eligible and non-FAFSA filing students who are experiencing an emergency related situation due to the coronavirus can apply for up to \$500 by completing the Emergency Financial Aid Grant application. Additionally, Pell Grant students with additional need can apply for funds through the application process. The following award limits have been established: Pell Grant eligible students can receive a maximum of \$750.00 per semester; Non-Pell Grant eligible and non-FAFSA filing students can receive a maximum of \$500.00 per semester.