

## **ARP: American Rescue Plan (HEERF III) FAQs**

### **What is HEERF III?**

HEERF III is the third round of funding under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) signed into law on March 11, 2021, by President Biden as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. HEERF III allocates funding to institutions and students in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **How do I apply for HEERF III?**

No application is needed. Funds are being distributed to all Full-time Grad and Part-time/Full-time Undergrad students as of September 20, 2021, with priority be given to Pell eligible undergrad students.

### **How much was Clarke awarded for emergency financial aid grant under HEERF III?**

Clarke was awarded \$1,030,377 for distribution directly to students as financial aid emergency grants.

### **How much money can I receive under HEERF III?**

Award amounts vary depending on estimated family contribution, which is determined by your FAFSA.

### **Am I eligible to receive a grant under HEERF III?**

At Clarke, Full-time Grad and Part-Time and Full-Time Undergrad students enrolled in the fall semester as of September 20, 2021, with additional funds given to undergrad students who are Pell eligible are qualified to receive HEERF III funds.

### **How does Clarke define exceptional need for HEERF III eligibility?**

Clarke relies on the federal methodology that determines a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on the 2021-22 FAFSA to define exceptional need.

### **What is my EFC?**

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated according to a formula established by law and considers your family's taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits (such as unemployment or Social Security) based on the information you submit on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Schools use the [EFC](#) to determine financial need and eligibility for need-based aid.

### **How will I receive this money?**

HEERF III grants will be provided directly to students through our normal refund system. Students who have not already done so can provide direct deposit banking information by logging into their myinfo and selecting Bank Information. If we do not have direct deposit information for a student, a check will be sent to the mailing address of record within 10-14 business days. Students may also select to first apply the grant directly to their outstanding student balance by completing this consent. Any credit balance remaining on account will be distributed to the student via direct deposit or check.

### **Will HEERF III affect my other aid?**

No, your financial aid emergency grant will not affect your eligibility for other types of aid.

### **Do I need to repay the grant I receive?**

No, this grant does not have to be repaid.

### **Can students who previously received a financial aid emergency grant under HEERF I or II also receive HEERF III money?**

Each of the three appropriations (HEERF I—Federal CARES Act, HEERF II—CRRSAA, and HEERF III—American Rescue Plan Act) under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) have differed in amounts and guidelines regulating distribution of

funds. HEERF III funds are distributed following regulatory guidelines, regardless of whether students have previously received a HEERF distribution or not.

**I need assistance but don't fall into any of the eligible categories. How can I receive help?**

We encourage you to reach out to the Financial Aid Office to go through your specific situation. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has also allowed institutions of higher education to make financial aid adjustments for any individual who has experiences financial hardship due to COVID-19. This may include loss of employment, income or undue financial burden. If your FAFSA information has changed since it was submitted, please complete this [form](#).

**How will Clarke notify students about HEERF III?**

Each eligible student will receive an email notifying them of their eligible amount and what steps need to be taken in order to have the award disbursed. They may choose to have applied to their student account, direct deposit into a bank account, or a paper check.

**Are the Emergency Grants taxable?**

Funds disbursed through HEERF III are not considered taxable income.