

# **United States Department of Education: American Rescue Plan (ARP/HEERF III) Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Required Disclosure and Reporting**

**As of: March 31, 2022**

## **ARP/HEERF III Interim Report**

***Requirement: An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.***

The College of New Jersey has signed and returned the certification and agreement to the Department of Education. The College will use the designated funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

***Requirement: The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.***

The total funding provided to The College of New Jersey for ARP emergency financial aid grants to students: \$6,534,920.

***Requirement: The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).***

\$296,500 of ARP was distributed to students for the quarter ended March 31, 2022.

***Requirement: The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.***

Estimated number of students eligible to participate: 8,098

***Requirement: The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.***

149 students received an ARP emergency financial aid grant for the quarter ended March 31, 2022.

***Requirement: The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.***

HEERF III emergency financial aid grants continued to be awarded during the Fall of 2021. Per federal guidelines, only students enrolled at TCNJ after March 2020 could apply for these funds and Title IV eligibility was no longer a requirement to apply.

An online application was created, accessible to students by using their PAWS email and password. The online application asked students if they were facing financial challenges due to an eligible COVID condition. The seven COVID conditions were as follows: income loss/decrease, food insecurity, housing insecurity, childcare expenses, health care expenses, educational material costs and/or an extenuating circumstance. Each one of these conditions was assigned a monetary value ranging from a minimum of \$500 dollars to a maximum of \$1,000. Students could answer yes to one or multiple questions depending on their individual circumstance but awards were capped at \$5,000 maximum. Students were given an option to receive a payment or have any grant awards credited to their TCNJ student account balance. The application was open for approximately six weeks. Once the application closed, award eligibility was determined and payments or credits were distributed.

***Requirement: Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.***

The College of New Jersey has communicated to students through emails the eligibility criteria used, award amounts given and timeline for distribution of funds. We have also updated our CARES Act website (<https://financialaid.tcnj.edu/caresact/>) with the latest information available. HEERF III eligibility and included information on the Special Circumstance process at TCNJ for reevaluations of the FAFSA income reported based on job loss, decreases in income, etc.