

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
Student Portion Quarterly Report
December 31, 2021

Acknowledgement of Signed Certification and Agreement

On April 27th, 2020 SMC signed and submitted to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement with the assurance that we intend to use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Total Amount of Funds SMC Will Receive

In the initial CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) allocation, SMC received a total of \$761,058 from the Department for emergency grants to students who have had expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

In the subsequent Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II), SMC received an additional \$761,058 to award as emergency grants to students.

In the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III), SMC received \$2,601,083 to award as emergency grants to students.

Total Amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants Distributed

For the period of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, SMC distributed \$3,400 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students from ARP funds.

Estimated Number of Students Eligible to Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants

Approximately 1,671 students enrolled in the Fall 2021 semester were eligible to receive emergency grants. 1,664 students received grants in the previous quarter.

Total Number of Students Who Have Received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant

During the period of October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, SMC distributed emergency grants to 4 students.

Methods Used to Determine Which SMC Students Receive a Grant Award and The Amount of That Award

SMC distributed emergency grants to all students enrolled in the Fall 2021 semester, with the exception of students in consortium agreements with SMC's university partners. In order to prioritize students with exceptional need, students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 0 on their 2021/2022 FAFSA received a grant in the amount of \$1200. Students with an EFC between 1 and 6000 received a grant in the amount of \$1000, students with an EFC between 6001 and 20,000 received \$750, and students with no FAFSA or an EFC greater than 20,000 received \$500.

Communication to Students Regarding Emergency Grants

Email Sent to Fall 2021 Eligible Students

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provided schools with funds to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. SMC will be awarding COVID relief grants to nearly all enrolled students at the end of September. Individual amounts will be between \$500 and \$1200 per student, based on financial need as calculated from the 2021-2022 FAFSA.

Ferris State and Michigan State Consortium students are not eligible for grants at SMC, but may be eligible for funds through those schools. Consortium students should contact their home schools (FSU or MSU) for more information. Students enrolled exclusively in late-start classes beginning in October will receive their grant once those classes have begun.

COVID relief funds can be used for any emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus, or for any educational expenses including tuition, food, housing, books and supplies, technology, transportation or childcare. The grants will not be applied to student accounts, but will be disbursed directly to students via check or direct deposit. Please note that receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a current or past semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.

The fastest way to receive your emergency grant is through direct deposit. If you have not set up your direct deposit bank account information through the Bill and Payment Center in SMC Wired, please do so by clicking on "Bill and Payment Center" from the Student Resources tab in Wired and selecting "Refunds" from the menu at the top. Please note that direct deposit set-up may take several days depending on your

banking institution, so it is important to do so as soon as possible. Also, please be sure we have your correct mailing address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.

If you have any questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@swmich.edu.

Email Sent to Fall 2021 Grant Recipients

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students for emergency expenses that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, or transportation.

*A grant in the amount of \$(AMOUNT) will be automatically disbursed to you. Grant processing will begin this week, and checks will be mailed on Friday. These funds will **not** be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC but rather will come to you as a direct deposit or a check in the mail. Please note that receipt of an emergency grant does not mean that you do not owe an outstanding balance for a past, current or future semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these emergency funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

If you have any questions regarding this grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@swmich.edu.