

American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), Pub. L. No. 117-2
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF III”)
Quarter 3 Report: July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

Simpson College is eligible to receive funds under Section 2003(a)(1) (CFDA 84.425E) of the American Rescue Plan Act signed by the President of the United States on March 11, 2021 (ARP, P.L. 117-2). This law appropriated funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent and prepare for coronavirus.

Section 2003(7) of the ARP requires recipients to provide emergency financial aid grants to students in an amount equivalent to the sum of two amounts: 50 percent of the portion of its allocation from CRRSAA section 324(a)(1)(A)-(D) and 100 percent of the portion of its allocation from CRRSAA section 314(a)(1)(E)-(F).

Under section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP recipients must make financial aid grants to students which may include students' cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care, or childcare.

On May 20, 2021, Simpson College was notified that a supplemental award had been made in the amount of \$1,882,119.00 pursuant to section 2003(a)(1). Simpson College has complied with the requirements of the ARP Act, as follows:

- 1) Simpson College acknowledges that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution will use the applicable amount of funds designated under the ARP (a)(1) program to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. By drawing down the awarded funds, Simpson College agreed to be bound to conditions set forth in the Supplemental Agreement.

Simpson College agreed to make financial aid grants to students, which may be used for any component of the students' cost of attendance. Simpson College retained discretion to determine the amount and availability of each individual financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws and agreed to prioritize students with exceptional need. Simpson College acknowledged that it may not distribute student grants in a manner that discriminates against individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or sex. Simpson College did not condition the receipt of financial aid grants on any student's continued or future enrollment at the institution and did not require students to consent to the application of the financial aid grants to outstanding account balances.

- 2) Simpson College has received a total allocation of \$1,882,119 funds from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under ARP (a)(1).
- 3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed by Simpson College to students under the ARP (a)(1) programs as of September 30, 2021 is \$107,579.55.

- 4) The estimated total number of students at Simpson College that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP (a)(1) program is 732. Students were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants based on the following definition of “exceptional need”: having a family EFC of \$20,000 or below.
- 5) As of September 30, 2021, the total number of Simpson College students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP Act is 65.
- 6) Simpson College utilized the following method to determine which students would receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 2003(a)(1) of the ARP Act.
 - a) For the first round of ARP funding, we funded the remaining applications we received for HEERF II, CRRSAA, that we were unable to fund due to exhausting all of our CRRSAA funds.
 - b) We had previously sent an email to all students who had not received the full \$1,904 in CRRSAA Grant funds AND had an expected family contribution of \$15,000 or below to solicit applications for the remaining CRRSAA Funds. Applications were due on May 14 and were reviewed on May 17 and 18. Again, students were required to tell us if they wanted a check mailed directly to them or if they wanted their funds to post to their student account to pay their balance.
 - c) Simpson College determined that we would define “extreme need” as students with an expected family contribution of \$15,000 or less to determine eligibility for application for funds.
 - d) After all CRRSAA funds were depleted, we still had 65 eligible applications, so we reviewed these application on June 1, 2021. A review committee (comprised of the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment and Financial Assistance, the Associate Director of Financial Aid and the Director of Foundation and Government Support Programs) evaluated each application to determine whether expenses reported by the student were allowable and the amount of the grant each student would receive, if any. All remaining applications were funded.
 - e) Following evaluation of the applications, ARP funds were disbursed to the appropriate student accounts the week of June 1 and checks were issued and mailed on June 8. Funds were passed through a new account that was initially created only for CARES Grant Funds. All disbursements were issued to students via a check payment or credit to the student account with the written request to do so, with instructions given to students at the time of check delivery.
 - f) For the remaining portion of the ARP HEERF III funds designated to Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, Simpson has determined that the eligible EFC is \$20,000 or below. Simpson will be distributing block grants to these students based on the following EFC ranges:

EFC Range	ARP lock Grant
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0 - \$5,846 (Pell Eligible)	\$2,800
\$5,847 - \$10,000	\$1,800
\$10,001 - \$15,000	\$1,500
\$15,001 - \$20,000	\$1,000

- 7) All students enrolled at Simpson College as of March 25, 2021 who had an EFC of \$15,000 or below received email communication with instructions on how to apply for the CRRSAA Grants, which also became the ARP round 1 applications. The application for the CRRSAA/ARP Grants was made available in electronic form on the students' campus portal. Students were informed by email regarding the outcome of their applications' review, whether they received funds, and in which amount, if any.

All students enrolled at Simpson College as of September 21, 2021 who had an EFC of \$20,000 or below received email communication informing them that they would be receiving a block grant. The email directed students to their student portal, where they indicated whether they wanted to have the ARP funds sent to them directly as check payment or credited to their student account. Any student who does not respond with their preference for payment by September 30, 2021 will receive a check payment. Checks will be issued/credit posted no later than October 18, 2021.