

### **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (HEERF I)

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Pub. L. No. 116-260 (HEERF II)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), Pub. L. No. 117-2 (HEERF III)

### **Quarter 4 Report: October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021**

Simpson College is eligible to receive funds under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020); Section 314(a)(1) (CFDA 84.425E) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act signed by the President of the United States on December 27, 2020 (CRRSAA, P.L. 116-260); and 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). These laws appropriated funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represent three streams of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent and prepare for coronavirus.

Under section (a)(1) of HEERF 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.

Simpson College has complied with the requirements of the award as follows:

- 1) Simpson College signed and returned the Certification and Agreements with the Department of Education to accept allocated funds from the CARES, CRRSAA, and ARP (a)(1) programs 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 received a cumulative award in the amount of \$3,335,169 (\$726,525 under CARES, \$726,525 under CRRSAA, and \$1,882,119 under ARP) from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (a)(1).
- 3) The total amount of funds disbursed to students from HEERF (a)(1) funds during quarter 4 of 2021 was \$1,694,700

- 4) The estimated total number of students at Simpson College who were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the HEERF (a)(1) program during quarter 4 of 2021 was 737. Of these, 16 were newly eligible recipients due to the receipt of a FAFSA, change in their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) due to special circumstance overrides, or their beginning enrollment date occurring during the fourth quarter (Term 2 enrollment). Additionally, 2 of previously awarded students became eligible for additional disbursements during quarter 4 due to a change in their EFC. 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) The total number of Simpson College students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section (a)(1) of HEERF during the quarter 4 of 2021 is 736.
- 6) Simpson College utilized the following methodology to determine which students would receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section (a)(1) HEERF.
  - 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 inform Simpson whether 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” for CRRSAA grants 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 applications on June 1, 2021. A review committee (comprised of the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment and Financial Aid, 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 students 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) Due to a large number of student and family inquiries, it became apparent that the need for Emergency Grants was very high. Therefore, for the remaining portion of the ARP HEERF III funds designated to Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, Simpson determined that the eligible EFC would be increased to \$20,000 or below. Simpson distributed block grants to these students based on the following EFC ranges:

EFC Range	ARP Block Grant
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

- g) On September 20, 2021 the Financial Aid office provided a list of ARP-eligible students to the IT department. On September 21, IT opened up a notification on the student portal with two options for students to choose delivery method of ARP funds: disburse funds to their student account as a credit, or receive a check. Students' deadline to select their distribution option was September 30, 2021. On October 4, 2021, the business office disbursed the grants to students following each student's preferred delivery method. Checks were issued on October 18, 2021.
- h) Due to the receipt of new FAFSAs, changes in students' Expected Family Contribution (EFC) due to special circumstance overrides, or students beginning enrollment after the ARP block grants were disbursed, the Financial Aid Office identified additional students who qualified for Emergency Grants. These students received individual emails or had individual appointments with Financial Aid staff to select their preferred delivery method for funds. On December 13, 2021, the business office disbursed the grants to students following each student's preferred delivery method.
- 7) 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 did not respond with their preference for payment by September 30, 2021 received a check payment. Checks were issued/credit posted on October 18, 2021.

Following the October 2021 block grants, the Financial Aid office launched a marketing plan including emails, postcards, letters to families, and Facebook Live videos informing students and families of the need to inform the Financial Aid office if their financial circumstances had changed since 2019 due to Covid. Letters and postcards were mailed to student campus mailboxes and home addresses. Emails were sent to students' and parents email addresses. Facebook Live videos were offered live and embedded in emails. The Financial Aid office invited those whose circumstances had changed to submit a request for Professional Judgment/Special Circumstance Override.

On December 5, 2021 students who became eligible after disbursement of the October 2021 grants received an email explaining that they would be receiving an ARP Grant from the student portion of funds distributed to Simpson College, under the American Rescue Plan – HEERF III. They were informed that federal guidance encourages colleges to distribute these funds to students with exceptional financial need, and that they met this qualification because their EFC is \$20,000 or below. Students were informed of the allowable uses for these funds and that, in order for Simpson to apply these funds directly to their student account, they must give permission to do so by completing a form. Students were also given the option to receive a check, checks will be disbursed by December 23, 2021.