

Kutztown University ARPA Student Aid Report #4 (3/31/2022)

PR/Award No. P425E200501

Introduction

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the **CARES Act** (H.R. 748), which provides emergency relief funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), found in Section 18004 of the CARES Act, provides funding to institutions of higher education “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” This report provides details on the first award Kutztown University (KU) received under the HEERF, the funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

On December 27, 2020, **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)** was passed. Section 314 of CRRSAA provides additional funding to institutions of higher education through the U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). This round of funding is known as HEERF II.

On March 11, 2021, **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** was passed. This Act provides additional funding to institutions of higher education through the U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) providing economic relief due to the pandemic. This round of funding is known as HEERF III.

Acknowledgements

Kutztown University (KU) acknowledges that they have signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement. We agree and state compliance that KU has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP to provide programs and Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

Total Awards

KU has received a total of \$17,341,773 in student funding from all 3 programs.

- CARES HEERF 1 in the amount of \$3,712,483
- CRRSAA HEERF II in the amount of \$3,712,483
- ARPA HEERF III in the amount of \$9,916,807

This report discusses the use of funds for the student portion only.

Funds Disbursed from Report

CARES HEERF I student funds disbursed in full by April 1, 2021 to 6,897 students.

- Final Report is located <https://www.kutztown.edu/affordability/ku-cares-financial-assistance/cares-act-2020.html>

CRRSAA HEERF II student funds disbursed in full by June 28, 2021 to 4,802 students.

- Final Report is located here <https://www.kutztown.edu/affordability/ku-cares-financial-assistance/crrsaa-act-2021.html>

Between June 4, 2021 and close of business on Mar 31, 2022, KU has awarded ARPA - HEERF III:

Disbursement Dates	KU awarded per quarter	# of students per quarter	Total # of Students Awarded from Inception	Total Awarded from Inception
6/4 - 6/8/2021	12,963.29		11	12,963.29
6/9 – 6/28/2021	11,189.89		16	24,153.18
6/29 – 6/30/2021	3,370	18	18	27,523.18
7/1 – 9/30/2021	119,850.36	103	117	147,373.54
10/1 – 12/31/2021	6,432,411.50	6753	6760	6,579,785.04
1/1 – 3/31/2022	319,288.86	265	6751*	6,899,073.90

*numbers may decrease based on returned or refused refunds

Student Eligibility

Student Eligibility has expanded from the criteria used within HEERF I & HEERF II funding known as the CARES Act and CRRSSA respectively. FAFSA completion is no longer required, nor is making satisfactory academic progress, however the grant states a focus for funding must be on those with exceptional need and can also be used to cover tuition costs at KU.

A mass release strategy was developed and implemented during the Fall 2021 semester releasing a significant portion of the allotted ARPA funding focusing on our most needy students and reaching some of our students not previously eligible such as, but not limited to, DACA, undocumented and international students.

Application requests continued through March 2022 with a decision to process a 2nd mass release to qualifying students about April 1, 2022.

For the remainder of the available funds we will remain in a request only phase, on a first come first approved basis, until the funds are depleted.

Based on the expansion of student eligibility, all students at Kutztown University are eligible to apply for these funds.

Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much

Students were reviewed and received an award if they met the following criteria during the Fall 2021 semester.

Criteria	Amount per
EFC 0 - UG&GR	1,500.00
EFC - 1 to 5711 - UG & GR	1,250.00
EFC - 5712 to 16000 - UG only	1,000.00
EFC - 16001 to 40000 - UG only	750.00
All remaining UG students that don't fit the EFC criteria above	250.00

For the Spring 2022 semester, a mass release was approved to release \$835 to all undergraduate students with an EFC of \$25,000 or less.

An online request form is currently being utilized to award the remaining portion to close out the granted award.

Instructions or Directions Given to the Students

The same application / request process for the additional funds with CRRSAA has remained in place for the ARPA funding. Additional directives for application to the students bill and/or refund request for external costs were clarified and added.

A dedicated ARPA funding webpage was added to our website similar to the CRRSAA and CARES webpages. On this ARPA webpage, a link is provided for students to make additional fund requests to be reviewed by the KU Care Team.

Communications have been shared with all students regarding these funds both as student announcements and to each student who received a mass release award about additional funding options if needed. These communications contained the following information:

- General instructions on the purpose and allowable uses of funds,
- Anticipated disbursement date,
- Method of disbursement,
- A link to the online request form for additional emergency funds,
- Contact information for questions, and
- Acknowledgement of the federal government as the source of funding.

Copies of instructional/informational materials given to the students will include the following, which will be attached to a future report:

1. Online Funds Request form (link and advertising emails regularly shared)
 - Now requires approval if the student wants funds to pay their tuition bill at KU
2. KU's ARPA webpage
3. Emails when the Fall 2021 mass release occurred and how to apply for additional funding if needed
4. Emails regarding the final mass release in the Spring 2022 semester and additional resources available to help students who may still be in need.