

# Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding Reporting

## Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

### Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA Act)

### American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act)

Northland Community & Technical College – April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

### (Final Report)

- 1. 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.**

Northland Community & Technical College signed and submitted the Certificate and Agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on April 13, 2020. Northland Community and Technical College will direct all student emergency funds to students as required by the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

- 2. 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.**

Northland Community and Technical College was notified on January 14, 2021 that the college would receive \$677,705 of student emergency funds as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. On May 11, 2021, Northland Community and Technical College was notified that we will receive \$2,791,361 of student emergency funds as part of the American Rescue Plan.

- 3. 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).**

As of April 2021, all student emergency funds through CRRSAA have been disbursed.

#### CRRSAA Funds Disbursed

Month Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
March 2021	\$641,879.85
April 2021	\$35,300
May 2021	\$0
June 2021	\$0
July 2021	\$0
August 2021	\$0

#### ARP Funds Disbursed

Month Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
July 2021	\$2300
August 2021	\$0

September 2021	\$0
October 2021	\$1,384,950
November 2021	\$186,050
December 2021	\$79,450
January 2022	\$4,000
February 2022	\$912,450
March 2022	\$222,686.15

*\*On March 10, 2022 \$525.15 in HEERF funds was redistributed to a student due to an uncashed check.*

**4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.**

Based on student eligibility as defined below, Northland Community & Technical College identified 1,062 students as eligible for funds. This number has increased now that all students enrolled since March 13, 2020 are eligible to receive emergency funds.

**5. 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.**

1,708 students have received Emergency Financial Aid Grants under CRRSAA and ARP combined.

**6. 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.**

**CRRSAA**

Only students who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants. Students will demonstrate eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 the HEA by having a FAFSA on file at Northland showing eligibility at the time funds are distributed. Students who have not filed a FAFSA may not receive emergency financial aid grants. The criteria to participate in programs under Section 484 of the HEA include but are not limited to the following: U.S. citizenship or eligible noncitizen; a valid Social Security number; registration with Selective Service (if the student is male); and a high school diploma, GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting.

Eligible students include students who are enrolled and attending at least one course that is all of the following:

- Online, hybrid or ground based
- Credit or non-credit course
- Semester-based course
- Enrolled as of March 19, 2021
- Is not dropped, withdrawn, or reported with a last date of attendance before March 19, 2021

Students not eligible under Department of Education and Northland guidelines:

- Students not enrolled in a Title IV eligible program
- Students who are not US citizens or eligible non-citizens

- DACA/DREAM Act Students
- International students
- Postsecondary enrollment option students (PSEO)/Concurrent high school students
- Students receiving senior citizen tuition rates
- Students utilizing an employee tuition waiver
- Students incarcerated
- **Base Award:** Northland defines a student with financial need to be a student with an EFC from a 2020-2021 FAFSA as of March 19, 2021 as Pell Eligible, Minnesota State Grant eligible or with an EFC at or below 15,000.
- Students meeting eligibility guidelines and who are either Pell Eligible, Minnesota State Grant Eligible or who have an EFC of 15,000 or less will receive a base grant in the amount of \$525.15.
- CRRSAA funds will help students pay for essential needs (housing, food, toiletries) as well as increased technology costs related to online courses, e.g. computer, internet and modem costs.
- No application is required to receive the Base award.
  
- Emergency Funds
  - Emergency funds will be available to students meeting eligibility guidelines.
  - Students who have not submitted a FAFSA may also apply for the emergency funds. These students must self-certify they meet eligibility guidelines.
  - Students will be eligible for up to \$1,000 in emergency funds. A student can submit multiple requests, but the total of all requests cannot exceed \$1,000.
  - Students apply for an emergency grant on a first-come first-serve basis.
  - Students must state their reason for their request for an emergency grant on the application and provide the amount spent.
  
- DACA and International Students were not eligible for the CRRSAA Emergency Fund, but guidance released on May 11, 2021 allowed these students to access the funds. Beginning May 11, 2021 these students could apply for emergency funds.

### **ARP**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. On October 12, 2021, Northland Community & Technical College began disbursing Student Aid funds to students via both automatic and application grants. The funds are from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and are governed by federal guidelines.

Northland devised a plan, that was approved by its student senate, in which 60 percent of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds will be distributed to students in the fall of 2021 term and the remaining 40 percent in the spring of 2022 term.

Eligible students for the fall of 2021 include students who are enrolled and attending at least one course that is one or all of the following:

- Online, hybrid or ground based
- Credit or non-credit course
- Semester-based course
- Enrolled as of October 8, 2021

- Is not dropped, withdrawn, or reported with a last date of attendance before October 8, 2021 or at the time of disbursement for fall 2021 funds.

Students not eligible under Department of Education and Northland guidelines:

- Students not enrolled in a Title IV eligible program
- Postsecondary enrollment option students (PSEO)/Concurrent high school students
- Students receiving senior citizen tuition rates
- Visiting or non-degree seeking student
- Student participating in 100% employer-funded courses
- Minnesota State system employee utilizing and employee tuition waiver
- Students currently incarcerated
- **Base Award:** Northland defines a student with financial need to be a student with an EFC result from the 2021-2022 FAFSA as Pell Eligible or with an EFC at or below 19,750 (Northland's Cost of Attendance).
- Students meeting eligibility guidelines and who are either Pell Eligible or who have an EFC of 19,750 or less will receive a base grant between \$750 to \$1500 for the **fall of 2021** term:
  - Pell Eligible \$1500
  - EFC (5847-10,000) \$1250
  - EFC (10,001-15,000) \$1000
  - EFC (15,001-19,750) \$750

Eligible students for the spring of 2022 include students who are enrolled and attending at least one course that is one or all of the following:

- Online, hybrid or ground based
- Credit or non-credit course
- Semester-based course
- Enrolled as of February 11, 2022
- Is not dropped, withdrawn, or reported with a last date of attendance before February 11, 2022 or at the time of disbursement for spring 2022 funds.

Students not eligible under Department of Education and Northland guidelines:

- Students not enrolled in a Title IV eligible program
- Postsecondary enrollment option students (PSEO)/Concurrent high school students
- Students receiving senior citizen tuition rates
- Visiting or non-degree seeking student
- Student participating in 100% employer-funded courses
- Minnesota State system employee utilizing and employee tuition waiver
- Students currently incarcerated
- **Base Award:** Northland defines a student with financial need to be a student with an EFC result from the 2021-2022 FAFSA as Pell Eligible or with an EFC at or below 19,750 (Northland's Cost of Attendance).
- Students meeting eligibility guidelines and who are either Pell Eligible or who have an EFC of 19,750 or less will receive a base grant between \$250 to \$1175 for the **spring of 2022** term:
  - Pell Eligible \$1175
  - EFC (5847-10,000) \$850
  - EFC (10,001-15,000) \$500
  - EFC (15,001-19,750) \$250

- ARP funds will help students pay for components of the student's cost of attendance (including tuition, fees, books, housing, food, etc.), for healthcare including mental health or for unexpected emergency costs that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- No application is required to receive the Base award.
- Emergency Funds
  - Emergency funds will be available to students meeting eligibility guidelines.
  - Students who have not submitted a FAFSA may also apply for the emergency funds. These students must self-certify they meet eligibility guidelines.
  - Students will be eligible for up to \$1,000 in emergency funds per term. A student can submit multiple requests, but the total of all requests cannot exceed \$1,000 per term.
  - Students apply for an emergency grant on a first-come first-serve basis.
  - Students must state their reason for their request for an emergency grant on the application and provide the amount spent.

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

**CRRSAA**

- a. The distribution plan was presented to and approved by the Northland Community & Technical College Student Senate.
- b. The Northland Covid-19 Website was updated to include CRRSAA Act funds.
- c. After our eligible-student list was finalized, we sent emails to the students asking them to check the accuracy of both their local and permanent addresses within their student eServices account, and Northland provided directions on setting up direct deposit for those who wanted to do so.
- d. After final vetting of the eligibility list, the Director of Financial Aid sent a personal email to each student notifying them of their eligibility for the base grant and the amount they were receiving.
- e. Information on the emergency grant application was shared with all students by their college-assigned email account.

**ARP**

- a. The distribution plan was presented to and approved by the Northland Community & Technical College Student Senate.
- b. The Northland Covid-19 Website was updated to include ARP funds.
- c. After our eligible-student list was finalized, we sent emails to the students asking them to check the accuracy of both their local and permanent addresses within their student eServices account, and Northland provided directions on setting up direct deposit for those who wanted to do so.
- d. After final vetting of the eligibility list, the Director of Financial Aid sent a personal email to each student notifying them of their eligibility for the base grant and the amount they were receiving.
- e. Information on the emergency grant application was shared with all students by their college-assigned email account.
- f. Notification of emergency grant and award amounts were mailed to students by their college-assigned email account.