

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act (CRRSA Act)
American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act)

Riverland Community College – Reporting Period: April 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021

- 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.**

Riverland Community 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. Riverland Community 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.**

Riverland Community College was notified on January 14, 2021 that the college would receive \$636,122 of student emergency funds as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act. On May 11, 2021, Riverland Community College was notified that we will receive \$2,674,014 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 August 2021, all student emergency funds available through CRRSAA have been disbursed.

CRRSAA Funds Disbursed	
Month Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
March 2021	\$626,300.00
April 2021	\$9,670.00
May 2021	-\$1,295.0
June 2021	\$1,000.00
July 2021	\$0
August 2021	\$447.00

ARP Funds Disbursed	
Month Disbursed	Amount Disbursed
September 2021	\$1,000

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, Riverland Community College identified 1,224 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.**

1,215 students have received CRRSAA Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
1 student has received ARP Emergency Financial Aid Grant

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 Riverland 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:

- Both Ground-based or online
- Credit-earning
- Semester-based course
- Enrolled as of March 24, 2021
- Is not dropped, withdrawn, or last date of attendance before March 24, 2021

Students not eligible under Department of Education and Riverland 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
- Concurrent high school students
- Postsecondary enrollment option students (PSEO)
- Students receiving senior citizen tuition rates
- Students enrolled in non-credit courses
- Students incarcerated

- **Base Award:** Riverland defines a student with financial need to be a student with an EFC from a 2020-2021 FAFSA as of March 24, 2021 below Riverland cost of attendance.
 - Students meeting eligibility guidelines and having an EFC lower than Riverland's cost of attendance will receive a base award of funds based on their enrollment level for spring semester 2021.
 - 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.
 - Base funds will be distributed based on the student enrollment level as follows:

Full time (12+ credits)	\$440.00
Three quarter time (9-11 credits)	\$330.00
Half time (6-8 credits)	\$220.00
Less than half time (1-5 credits)	\$110.00

- **Supplemental Award:** Riverland recognizes our highest need students are students with a Pell eligible EFC from a 2020-2021 FAFSA as of March 24, 2021
 - Students meeting eligibility guidelines and having a Pell eligible EFC will receive the base award as well as a supplemental award based on student enrollment level for spring semester 2021.
 - These are our neediest students for which a small financial obstacle can prevent students from succeeding. The COVID-19 pandemic will disproportionately affect this group of students.
 - CRRSAA funds will help students pay for essential needs (housing, food, toiletries) as well as assistance in establishing and maintaining technology needs, e.g. computer, internet and modem costs.
 - Supplemental funds will be distributed based on the student enrollment level as follows:

Full time (12+ credits)	\$300.00
Three quarter time (9-11 credits)	\$225.00
Half time (6-8 credits)	\$150.00
Less than half time (1-5 credits)	\$75.00

- No application is required to receive either the Base or Supplemental 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 documentation of paid receipts to show the amount spent. The documentation requirement will be waived if it is a food request. Food requests will be based on SNAP monthly benefit as follows:

SNAP: Maximum Benefit Amounts per Month	
People in your household	Amount to spend on food each month
1	\$204
2	\$374
3	\$535
4	\$680
5	\$807
6	\$969
7	\$1,071
8	\$1,224
For each additional person over 8...	Add \$153

- 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

As of September 30, 2021 the distribution plan for Fall 2021 had not been finalized. Only emergency funds have been disbursed. Emergency funds have been disbursed with the following guidelines:

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) contained the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) III which provides emergency funding to colleges to assist students in need during the coronavirus pandemic. Per guidance from the federal government, these grants will be distributed to our students with exceptional need, which will be identified by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Minnesota Dream Act Application.

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

- Both Ground-based or online
- Credit-earning
- Semester-based course
- Is not dropped, withdrawn from all of their courses for the term

Students not eligible under Department of Education and Riverland guidelines:

- Students not enrolled in a Title IV eligible program
- Students who are not US citizens or eligible non-citizens
- Concurrent high school students
- Postsecondary enrollment option students (PSEO)
- Students receiving senior citizen tuition rates
- Students enrolled in non-credit courses
- Students incarcerated

Emergency Funds

- Emergency funds will be available to students meeting eligibility guidelines.
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- 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.
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SNAP: Maximum Benefit Amounts per Month	
People in your household	Amount to spend on food each month
For each additional person over 8...	Add \$153

Emergency funds will be available for students enrolled Fall 2021, Spring 2022, and Summer 2022. Students must be enrolled during the term they are applying for to receive funds.

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

- a. The distribution plan was presented to the Riverland Community College Student Senate as well as the progress of the plan was provided during their regular Senate meetings.
- b. The Student Emergency Funds Application Website was updated to include CRRSAA Act funds.
- c. After our eligible-student list was finalized, we compared it with reports from BankMobile of who had inactive accounts. Messages and phone calls were sent to those students notifying them that they should review their accounts with BankMobile before funds were sent to students.
- d. The Director of Financial Aid sent a personal email to each student notifying them of their eligibility and the amount they were receiving.