

## **FAQs for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)**

### **What is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)?**

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) authorized by the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP), was signed into law on March 11, 2021.

Central Alabama Community College (CACC) is scheduled to receive a total allocation under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) in the amount of \$4,140,378, of which a minimum of \$2,101,322 will be distributed to eligible students for specific expenses related to the cost of attendance or emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.

### **Which students are eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants from the HEERF III?**

Student eligibility for HEERF III funds will be determined by CACC based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education Supplemental Grant Funds for Students Agreement, HEERF III Student FAQs, and the American Recovery Plan of 2021 (a)(1) Student Aid (ARP).

Students who are or were enrolled in an institution of higher education during the COVID-19 national emergency are eligible for emergency financial aid grants from HEERF III, regardless of whether they completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or are eligible for Title IV. Institutions are directed with the ARP funds to prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances. Exceptional need could include students who have faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, or food or housing insecurity.

The College will utilize all available resources to identify eligible students including, but not limited to, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the College student information system, and other data sources.

### **How much can I expect to receive?**

This is undetermined at this time. The webpage will be updated as information becomes available. Please check back at a later date for additional information.

### **How will I be notified of my award status?**

This is undetermined at this time. The webpage will be updated as information becomes available. Please check back at a later date for additional information.

### **How will these funds be disbursed?**

Actual award distributions will be made via check delivered through the U.S. Postal Service to the last identified address available in the student's admission record or by electronic refunds to the bank account information currently on file for the student. To receive funds as quickly as possible, it is recommended that all students complete the process with the Business Office for electronic refunds.

### **Can CACC apply the HEERF award to my student account to pay outstanding balances?**

With a student's permission, HEERF III grant funds may be used to satisfy account charges that were posted to the student's account prior to December 27, 2020, so long as the student was enrolled during a period of time for which the national emergency was declared.

### **Will the HEERF grant funds impact my financial aid award at CACC?**

HEERF grant funds will not have an impact on current financial aid awards or any future financial aid awards.

### **Will I need to report HEERF III grant funds on my federal tax return?**

Emergency financial grants (HEERF I, HEERF II, and/or HEERF III) made to students because of an event related to the COVID-19 national emergency are not included in the student's gross income. For more information, please visit the [IRS website](#).

**Who can I contact for more information or if I have questions about my award?**

If you have questions about the HEERF III grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office.