

**American Rescue Plan (ARP)
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)
Student Financial Aid Reporting
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh**

Reporting Period: October 1 – December 31, 2021

Post Deadline: January 10, 2022

Overview: In April, 2020, the University Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO) signed and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) the Certification and Agreement form and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than the required amount of funds received to provide Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grants to students.

UWO received two supplemental Grant Award Notifications (GAN) from ED on Monday, May 24, 2021. UWO is committed to award the supplemental award amount of \$10,481,374.00 in Emergency Grants to eligible students (Award #P425E200162). UWO also received a supplemental award of \$10,377,286.00 for the Institutional portion that is reported separately.

Emergency Student Aid funds under ARP were awarded in May 2021 for the summer 2021 term. Plans are well underway to award funds during the fall 2021, and spring 2022 semesters. The official student headcount for these semesters is undetermined at this time. The estimated number of students who will be eligible to receive HEERF III funds will continue to fluctuate as enrollment changes continue for these semesters. [Federal Register Document number 2020-19041](#), the Department of Education provides the following seven reporting criteria for Student Aid quarterly reports. Institutional recipient responses to each reporting criteria are provided below:

- (1) An acknowledgement that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

UWO Response: UW Oshkosh Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) signed the original Certification and Agreement in April 2020, certifying that the institution intends to use no less than 50% of funds received under the CARES act for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

- (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.

UWO Response: As of May 24, 2021, UW Oshkosh has received the following funds to support Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students:

CARES, HEERF I, 4/20/2020: \$3,103,881
CRRSAA HEERF II, 1/18/2021: \$3,103,881
ARP, HEERF III, 5/24/2021: \$10,481,374
Total: \$16,689,136

- (3) The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission (i.e., as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

UWO Response: The total amount of Emergency funding awarded and disbursed during the fall 2021 semester was \$4,975,500.

- (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.[1]

UWO Response: For the reporting period, mainly the fall 2021 semester, 9,789 students were eligible to be considered for the HEERF III funding. This represented all of the students enrolled during the fall semester.

- (5) The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

UWO Response: The total number of students who received funding during the fall 2021 semester was 6,347 students. This included undergraduate and graduate students. This brings the total number of students who received funding to 14,810 students.

- (6) The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

UWO Response: For the fall semester, we considered students who filed the FAFSA. We established tiers of eligibility based on FAFSA EFC ranges. The students who demonstrated a greater need were given the larger amounts of funding. Those who did not file the FAFSA were encouraged to do so to be considered for the funding.

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

UWO Response: We emailed all students early that funding would be available to assist students with education expenses. We encouraged students to file the FAFSA if they hadn't already done so. A second email reminder was given so they could file the FAFSA prior to the deadline for receiving the funding. When we saw visitors to the Financial Aid Office early in the fall, we encouraged them to be sure and file the FAFSA. We tried multiple ways to get the word out to file the FAFSA.

In order to help students who might have difficulties paying for their school expenses due to challenging circumstances because of the pandemic, the Financial Aid Office sent postcards to all students early in the semester to their permanent addresses. We focused on special conditions that may have made it challenging for families to pay education expenses in the fall. Students were directed to contact the Financial Aid Office to discuss their unusual situations or circumstances. Through this process, we assisted 64 students who needed additional assistance through this initiative.