

Kutztown University ARPA Student Aid Report #3 (9/30/2021)

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 Sept 30, 2021, KU has awarded ARPA:

| Disbursement Dates | KU awarded | Total # of Students Awarded | 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 – 9/30/2021 | 123,220.36 | 117 | 147,373.54 |

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 has not been developed for these funds for the Fall 2021 semester however we estimate that roughly 5,000 students would once again be eligible while still focusing on those most needy. We are currently in a request only phase.

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

KU will likely utilize a similar two-part approach to assist as many students as possible when a release strategy is developed. An online request form is currently being utilized.

Instructions or Directions Given to the Students

The same application / request process for the additional funds with CRRSAA has remained in place.

At this time, an additional webpage dedicated to ARPA funding is published (following the CARES Act / CRRSAA model). On this webpage, a link is provided for students to make additional fund requests to be reviewed by the KU Care Team.

Additionally, students that were enrolled in summer classes were emailed about the funding and how to make a request should they have been impacted by the pandemic. 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 a mass release strategy is developed and communicated for Fall 2021