# VCSU Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (ARP Act)

### **HEERF III**

## The American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP Act)

The third round of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) funds were authorized by congress in the 2021 American rescue Plan Act which was signed in to law on March 11, 2021. VCSU will use 100% of the student portion of the funds received under the ARP Act to provide Emergency Grants to students.

VCSU signed and return to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (ARP).

### **HEERF Quarterly Reporting 4.1.2022**

EMERGENCY GRANTS TO STUDENTS						
Total Funds Available	Date Application Submitted	Date Application Approved	Date Funds Drawn Down			
\$1,051,168	NA	NA	3/23/2022			

Guidance indicated that "institutions are required to prioritize grants to students demonstrating exceptional financial need, such as those who receive Pell Grants, when awarding relief grants." This ARP round also allows grant awards to students exclusively enrolled in distance education programs.

VCSU agreed that both VCSU Undergraduate and Graduate program students would be a cohort given consideration. Pell-eligible students were identified as the student with exceptional need. We then had two categories of every other enrolled student (those who completed a FAFSA and those who did not.) We determined that 970 students were eligible. Distributions were processed on 2/21/2022. The break-down of the three groups is:

#### **Relief Grants to Undergraduate Students:**

	# with	Award Amt	# with Pell	Award Amt	# without	Award Amt	Total
	FAFSA				FAFSA		
Less-Than-Half-	16	\$150	11	\$50	33	\$100	\$6,250
Time							
Half-Time	25	\$250	15	\$100	19	\$150	\$10,600
Three-Quarter-	31	\$300	14	\$150	21	\$200	\$15,600
Time							
Full-Time	578	\$400	221	\$200	117	\$250	\$304,650
Undergraduate							\$337,100
Total							

#### **Relief Grants to Graduate Students:**

	# with FAFSA	Award Amt	# with Pell	Award Amt	# without FAFSA	Award Amt	Total
Less-Than- Half-Time	10	\$150	5	\$50	46	\$100	\$6,350
Half-Time	29	\$250	8	\$100	38	\$150	\$13,750
Three- Quarter- Time	1	\$300	0	\$150	1	\$200	\$500
Full-Time	3	\$400	2	\$200	2	\$250	\$2,100
Graduate Total							\$22,700

Grand Total: \$359,800

Students were sent an email to their VCSU email notifying them of the disbursement. Students who did not have direct deposit established were emailed by the VCSU Business Office to pick up their check or provide a mailing address to have it sent to them.

### Email to students:

Valley City State University is thankful for your continued attendance. Our institution has received Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) under the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act. We are disbursing fund to our students to defray tuition and academic expenses. You are receiving funds because you are enrolled in a degree-seeking program and enrolled for Spring Semester 2022.

Grants to students with exceptional need are the priority of this funding. We hope this assistance will allow you to continue your academic pursuits, enroll in VCSU classes, and help with financial needs you might have.

Please review your Campus Connection account for details. The payment will be made directly to you. If you have outstanding VCSU charges, please consider using these funds to reduce that balance. If you have direct deposit set up, funds will be disbursed in that manner. (Please allow 3-5 business days for this transaction.) If you do not have direct deposit set up, you can pick your check up at the VCSU Business Office. Checks not picked up in person will be mailed to your permanent mailing address on March 11, 2022.

VCSU's allocation of HEERF III ARP Act is not expended and we will disburse the remaining fund to Summer Term 2022 students.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, ending March 31, 2021: **\$359,800**.

The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs during the  $1^{st}$  Quarter, ending March 31, 2021: **970** 

The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, ending March 31, 2021: **970** 

4/04/2022