

Rolla Technical Institute/Center (RTI/C)
Section 18004 ARES Act – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF 1),
Section 314 CRRSAA – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF 2), &
Section 2003 ARP – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF 3)
Emergency Student Grants – Notice to Students

CARES Act

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act). This Act created an education stimulus package that included a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF 1), which contained over \$6 billion for postsecondary education emergency grants to students who experienced a disruption of their education as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.

These emergency grant funds are intended to be used for *“expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).”* The hope is that these funds will assist students with their educational expenses and minimize any further disruption of their educational goals.

Any student who is eligible to receive federal student financial assistance and who was not exclusively enrolled in a distance education program at the time of the declaration of the coronavirus national emergency (3/13/2020) is eligible for grant assistance under the HEERF 1.

HEERF 1 Grant award amounts for eligible students at RTI/C have been determined based on U.S. Department of Education guidelines. Additional grant awards may be available to students with unusual circumstances. This is not a loan. These are grant funds provided by the federal government and do not have to be repaid. The HEERF 1 Grant does not have any effect on the lifetime eligibility limitations regarding Federal Pell Grant or Federal Direct Loan awards made under the Title IV federal student aid programs.

CRRSAA Act

On December 27, 2020, President Trump Signed the CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act). This act is supplemental to the CARES Act and significant features of this act with regards to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF 2) emergency student grants are that it has some expanded flexibilities regarding eligibility and that it extends those flexibilities to any balance existing as of 12/27/2020 of the HEERF 1 student emergency grant funds.

Under the CRRSAA, the emergency grant funds are intended to be used for *“any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.”*

RTI/C is no longer awarding funds under the CARES Act (HEERF 1). All of the funds that remained from the HEERF 1 along with the new funds under the HEERF 2 are being awarded under the guidelines of the HEERF 2 outlined by the U.S. Department of Education. The new guidelines require priority for students with financial need as determined by Pell Grant eligibility and/or other methods determined by the institution. RTI/C has developed a tiered award system that gives priority to students with the most financial need. This tiered award system is weighted heavily for students with Pell Eligibility, but also recognizes the financial need of students with low levels of gift aid (cost of attendance minus EFC minus any gift aid).

The HEERF 2 Grant award amounts for eligible students at RTI/C have been determined and additional grants will not be available. This is not a loan. These are grant funds provided by the federal government and do not have to be repaid. Students will be required to sign a certification/agreement. The awards will be issued on February 19, 2021.

If you have any questions about the emergency student grants, please contact the Financial Aid Department.

ARP Act

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the ARP (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021). This act provides supplemental funding for emergency student grants under the under the CRRSAA framework and is known as HEERF 3. Like HEERF 2, HEERF 3 further expanded flexibilities regarding student eligibility and now defines eligible students as, “any individual who is or was enrolled at an eligible institution on or after March 13, 2020, the date of the declaration of the national emergency due to coronavirus.”

Under the ARP, the emergency grant funds are intended to be used for *“any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care.”*

RTI/C is no longer awarding funds under the CARES Act (HEERF 1). All of the funds that remained from the HEERF 1 along with the new funds under the HEERF 2 and 3 are being awarded under the guidelines of the HEERF 2 and 3 outlined by the U.S. Department of Education. The new guidelines require priority for students with financial need as determined by Pell Grant eligibility and/or other methods determined by the institution. RTI/C has developed a tiered award system that gives priority to students with the most financial need. This tiered award system is weighted heavily for students with Pell Eligibility, but also recognizes the financial need of students with low levels of gift aid (cost of attendance minus EFC minus any gift aid).

The initial HEERF 3 Grant award amounts for eligible students at RTI/C have been determined and additional grants will not be available at this time. This is not a loan. These are grant funds provided by the federal government and do not have to be repaid. Students will be required to sign a certification/agreement. The awards will be issued on June 30, 2021.

If you have any questions about the emergency student grants, please contact the Financial Aid Department.

ARP Act – 2021-22 Award Year Update

As of June 30, 2021, RTI/C still had HEERF 3 funds remaining. RTI/C has decided to use institutional HEERF funds along with the remaining student funds in order to provide the 2021-22 students with the same overall level of assistance that the 2020-21 students received from HEERF 1, 2, & 3. The initial HEERF 3 Grant award amounts for eligible students at RTI/C have been determined and additional grants will not be available at this time. This is not a loan. These are grant funds provided by the federal government and do not have to be repaid. Students will be required to sign a certification/agreement. The awards will be issued on September 16, 2021.