

**Montgomery College ARP Act  
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund  
3rd Quarter 2021  
Student Assistance Report**

**OPEID Number:** 00691100  
**Report Date:** October 7, 2021  
**Contact:** Judith M. Taylor, Director of Student Financial Aid

**1. Statement of Use**

On April 9, 2020, Montgomery College (MC) received notification that the College was awarded \$10,995,749 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with no less than fifty percent (\$5,497,875) for Emergency Assistance Aid Grants to students. The guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) stated that these are direct emergency grants for students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus (food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care). The College must prioritize students with the greatest need and the funds may not be used to cover tuition and fees. MC signed the Certification and Agreement for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act on April 19, 2020, and received the allocation on April 24, 2020.

On February 16, 2021 Montgomery College received notification that an additional \$5,497,875 would be available to award to students through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Act. CRRSAA removed the requirement that a student must be eligible for Title IV aid to receive financial assistance under the HEERF programs and expanded eligibility to Non-degree seeking, non-credit, dual enrollment, and continuing education students. Students exclusively enrolled in distance education may also now receive these funds. CRRSAA requires prioritization of need and can be used to cover any component of student's cost of attendance, emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition; food; housing; health care (including mental); and childcare. The grant can only be applied to tuition cost with the permission of the student.

On May 15, 2021 Montgomery College received notification that an additional \$20,493,396 would be available to award students under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In addition to the expanded eligibility given with the CRRSAA Act, HEERF III guidance with ARPA opens emergency grant eligibility to students who are Maryland Dreamers, DACA students, and other similar undocumented students, as well as International students studying under F1 and other visas types. Prioritization of the ARPA grant is based on exceptional need. First priority to domestic students, defined as Title IV eligible US citizens and eligible non- citizens, Dreamers and DACA qualifiers with exceptional need. Then F1 and other VISA holders with exceptional need are the next priority. ARPA as with CRRSAA can be used to cover any component of student's cost of attendance, emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition; food; housing; health care (including mental); and childcare. ARPA can only be applied to tuition cost with the permission of the student.

**2. Award Amount**

MC received \$20,493,396 for ARP Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**3. Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 2003 of the ARP Act of 2021 as of the date of submission.**

As of October 7, 2021, MC has awarded \$1,996,428.

Amount requesting tuition covered	\$1,609,428.00
Amount requesting direct payment	\$387,000.00

**4. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible to participate under Section 2003 of the ARP Act of 2021.**

On July 15, 2021 we estimated at least 5879 MC students were potentially eligible to participate in our first awarding of ARPA grants based on enrollment during summer 2021. Of the 5879 students, two thousand one hundred seventy-nine (2179) completed an application. On September 23, 2021 we added to that estimate an additional 5880 students who entered MC for our fall 21 semester. These groups also included students who submitted applications and were enrolled in a previous eligible semester.

**5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 2003 of the ARP Act of 2021.**

As of October 7, 2021, one thousand three hundred thirty-one (1331) student awards have been made through the student portion of the ARP Act Emergency Assistance Grant.

Award Semester	Number of Active Student Awards	Amount
Fall 21- requesting bill covered	32	\$48,000.00
Fall 21- requesting direct pay	15	\$22,500.00
Spring 21- requesting bill covered	301	\$451,500.00
Spring 21-requesting direct pay	131	\$196,500.00
Summer 21 - requesting bill covered	740	\$1,109,928.00
Summer 21- requesting direct pay	112	\$168,000.00
Total Awards	1331	\$1,996,428.00
Total Number of Unduplicated Students	1331	\$1,996,428.00
<b>Total This Quarter</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>\$1,996,428.00</b>

\*unduplicated

**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 2003 of the ARP Act of 2021.**

To assure student awards are correctly prioritized eight awarding priority groups were established.

ARP1 Priority Award Group 1	Pell Eligible FAFSA completed
ARP1 Priority Award Group 2	MD State Financial Aid Form (MSFAA) completed Pell eligible EFC
ARP1 Priority Award Group 3	Domestic means tested programs (eligible for federal/state/county need-based benefits) No FAFSA
ARP1 Priority Award Group 4	Domestic Income based on 2021 GEER Income chart* (FAFSA or No FAFSA)
ARP1 Priority Award Group 5	International means tested programs (eligible for federal/state/county need-based benefits) tested, No FAFSA
ARP1 Priority Award Group 6	International Income based on 2021 GEER Income chart* (FAFSA or No FAFSA)
ARP1 Priority Award Group 7	Domestic Lowest need- last priority
ARP1 Priority Award Group 8	International Lowest need -last priority

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**Montgomery College**  
Workforce Development & Continuing Education

**GEER Program Income Eligibility Guidelines**

Income Guidelines		
Household Size	Yearly Income Per WDCE Guidelines	Hourly Wage
1	\$40,130	\$19.29
2	\$54,219	\$26.07
3	\$68,309	\$32.84
4	\$82,399	\$39.61
5	\$96,488	\$46.39
6	\$110,578	\$53.16
7	\$124,667	\$59.94
8	\$138,757	\$66.71

Based on the amount of funding we have received from HEERF I, II, and III, and the application pools we receive, we are awarding ARPA grants in standard amounts based only on application correctly submitted and confirmed enrollment.

**Fall2020/Spring2021/Summer -2021**

- Any student with confirmed attendance: \$1500

**Fall-2122**

- Any student with confirmed attendance: \$3000

- **Distributions :**

- 7/09/21: priority group 1 current semester awards
- 7/15/21: priority groups 1-4 current semester awards

- 7/22/21: priority groups 1-8 current semester awards
  - 9/10/21: priority groups 1-8 prior semester awards
  - 9/17/21: priority groups 1-8 did not have 2021 need data but have 2122
  - 10/1/21: priority groups 1-8 WDCE students with confirmed enrollment
- **Remaining ARPA Funds as of 10/1/2021**
    - Remaining \$18,496,968 has been moved to be spent in the 2021-2022 academic year.

**7. Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.**

- All students who received grants received an email notification from the financial aid office regarding the amount of the grant, what it is for, and why they are receiving it.
- The College President announced the receipt of the HEERF-ARP Act funds and the application process in frequent updates to the college community.
- The MC Office of Communications published the grant information and online application process on the college website.
- The grant availability was also announced through the MC Financial Aid Office's social media platforms.
- Email notifications have been sent to enrolled students with updates regarding the ARPA grant application and eligibility criteria.
- Students who have applied for CRRSAA Emergency Grants, but are ineligible, received notification explaining why they are ineligible and a link to apply for the ARPA grant.
- Summer ARPA application posted 5/27/21.
- Fall ARPA application posted 8/31/21.