

**Montgomery College CRRSAA 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 Act (CRRSAA). 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.

**2. Award Amount**

MC received \$5,497,875 for CRRSAA Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**3. Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section 314(a) (1) of the CRRSA Act as of the date of submission.**

As of October 7, 2021, MC has awarded \$4,296,438.

Amount requesting tuition covered	\$2,748,938.00
Amount requesting direct payment	\$1,547,500.00

**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 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.**

On February 16, 2021 we estimated 18,769 MC students were potentially eligible to participate in the program based on completion of a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and enrolled at the institution at the time of or after the COVID-19 declared emergency. As of May 24, 2021, an additional 471 students became potentially eligible. Of the 19,240 students, three thousand one hundred ninety-seven (3197) completed an application. We are continuing to award these students and also those additional students who have become eligible under HEERF III guidance.

**5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 314(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.**

As of October 7, 2021, three thousand two hundred twenty-nine (3229) student awards have been made through the student portion of the CRRSA Act Emergency Assistance Grant. One (1) award was canceled due to the student not meeting the eligibility criteria for CRRSAA. Many students have received grants in more than one semester. This accounts for the difference in awards and students. Three thousand ninety-nine (3099\*) students have active awards.

Award Semester	Number of Active Student Awards	Amount
Spring 21- requesting bill covered	1906	2,188,000.00
Spring 21-requesting direct pay	974	1,097,500.00
Summer 21 - requesting bill covered	375	560,938.00
Summer 21- requesting direct pay	301	450,000.00
Total Awards	3556	4,296,438.00
Total Number of Unduplicated Students	3099	4,296,438.00
<b>Total This Quarter 7/1/21-10/3/1</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>1,010,938.00</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 3144(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act.**

In order to provide maximum support, based on the number of potentially eligible students and the funds available, the size of the award was initially based on the number of credits each student was taking. As subsequent funding became available and eligibility criteria changed with HERRF III, we moved from an amount based on enrollment hours to a standard grant amount for all.

**Spring -2021**

- Students enrolled Full time: 12 or more billable hours/credits: \$1500
- Students enrolled ½ to ¾ time: 6 to 11 billable hours/credits: \$1000
- Students enrolled less than ½ time: 1 to 5 billable hours/credits: \$500

**Summer-2021**

- Any student with confirmed attendance: \$1500

## **Fall-2122**

- Any student with confirmed attendance: \$3000
- **Distributions** - April 23, 2021, April 30, 2021, May 9, 2021, May 15, 2021, May 1, 2021, May 28, 2021
  - Students who met the eligibility criteria and had completed the application and 2021 FAFSA on file. We required the FAFSA, since initial CRRSAA guidelines still required citizenship to be checked and an application to allow students to opt in or out of their grant paying tuition charges and attest to the other criteria.
- **CRRSAA Denial letters June 9, 2021**
  - Students who did not meet the conditions for the CRRSAA grant were sent denial letters explaining why they were denied. The letter also gave them the link and encouraged them to apply for the new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) application which expanded eligibility criteria.
- **Remaining CRRSAA Funds as of June 30 ,2021**
  - It was requested by the college administration that we divide our CRRSAA allocation, spending some in spring 21, some in summer 21 and some in fall 21. The remaining \$2,211,874.00 will be spent as the updated Department of Education guidance now allows using the expanded HEERF III, ARPA criteria.
- **Distributions**-July 30, 2021, August 13, 2021, August 20, 2021, August 27,2021, September 10, 2021, September 17, 2021 and October 3, 2021
  - Students with an application on file and now meet the original CRRSAA criteria or expanded criteria under HEERF III guidance.
- **Remaining CRRSAA Funds as of October 7, 2021**
  - The remaining CRRSAA allocation of \$1,201,437.00 will be spent during the 2021-22 academic year, using the HEERF III -ARPA- application and following with the HEERF III criteria.

## **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 MC 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-ARPA 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 is also announced through the MC Financial Aid Office's social media platforms.
- Email notifications have been sent to all financial aid applicants with updates regarding the CRRSAA grant application processing and eligibility criteria.
- Special email notification was sent to all dual enrollment students alerting them to the availability of the CRRSAA grant and application process.
- Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) students were not targeted with notifications because WDCE is still trying to allocate GEER funding to that population.
- 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.
- On 5/26/2021 we closed the CRRSAA grant application and replaced it with the ARPA grant application.