

**P425E200431 – HEERF Student Relief Funding
North Park University
2021 Quarter 3 (July 1 through September 30, 2021) Report**

On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act (H.R. 748), providing 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.”

On December 27, 2020 the President of the United States signed into law the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplements Act (CRRSAA), providing additional funding to HEERF allowing for supplemental awards to be made to institutions of higher education under their existing CARES Act grant agreements. On March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP), also providing additional funding to HEERF and allowing for supplemental awards to be made to institutions of higher education.

This report provides details on the funds North Park University distributed to students during the time period of 7/1/2021 to 9/30/2021 under Award No. P425E200431 and the supplemental funding received through CRRSAA and ARP.

1) CERTIFICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

North Park University signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 11, 2020.

2) AWARD RECEIVED

North Park University has received the following funds under Grant Agreement P425E200431 - HEERF Student Relief funding to help students who have exhibited the highest financial need to help with emergency costs that have presented as a result of the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental health care), or childcare.

CARES Act: \$1,166,436 was received on 4/22/2020 and fully distributed to students by 6/30/2020.

CRRSAA: \$1,166,436 was received on 1/19/2021 and fully distributed to students by 3/31/2021

ARP: \$3,357,886 was received on 5/21/2021.

3) FUNDS DISTRIBUTED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2021:

During the third quarter of 2021 (7/1/2021 through 9/30/2020), North Park University distributed \$36,900 out of the \$3,357,886 received on 5/21/2021 to students.

4) NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2021:

36

5) NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING EMERGENCY GRANTS DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2021

36

6) METHOD USED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING FUNDING DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2021

The following methodology was determined by members of the senior team, along with staff from the Business Office, Student Administrative Services, Athletics, Student Engagement, and Advancement, who conferred on emergency grant funds in the previous spring term, which are outlined below:

- The primary goal of the committee was to make the greatest impact for the greatest number of students with exceptional need. Degree-seeking traditional undergraduates, undergraduates in the School of Professional Studies, and RN Degree Completion students were determined eligible to receive funding during Q3 of 2021 as they are the least likely to have access to additional emergency funding, such as other federal stimulus funds or unemployment.
- Though there was no FAFSA requirement in the legislation, in order to determine a student's need in an equitable and consistent manner in order to prioritize the neediest of students, we reviewed the information provided on the 2020-2021 FAFSA to assist with prioritizing students with exceptional need.
- EFC (estimated family contribution) was used to identify undergraduate students with exceptional need and therefore determined to be eligible for relief funding. Students with an EFC of \$9000 or less, which is the cut-off for receiving the Illinois MAP Grant, received \$1200 in an emergency grant. Undergraduate students with an EFC of \$9001 to \$39,999, which is approximately the amount a traditional undergraduate resident pays to attend North Park, received \$500 in funding.
- There was no distinction made between full- and part-time enrollment when determining the grant amounts. North Park University is aware of student circumstances in which the student will reduce to part-time status to meet financial or familial obligations and it was determined by the committee that part-time students would receive the same funding amount as full-time students.
- While an appeals process for students with a higher EFC was used to distribute funding during 2020, the committee decided against using an appeals process for this distribution due to the fact an appeals process is extremely labor intensive for staff and less than a third of eligible students during former distributions utilized the appeal.

An additional data point was added to the above criteria: students who owed a past due balance in the spring and/or summer term of 2021 were also determined to be eligible for funding during this quarter.

Students had the option to use these funds to pay their tuition as long as they actively opted in for this transfer of funds. Therefore, an email was sent to the students we had identified as receiving the summer funding about this option on July 27 and July 29, 2021. Students who did not respond to the emails were also called by Student Administrative Services on July 29.

7) INSTRUCTIONS/DIRECTIONS GIVEN TO STUDENTS

The text of the email is as follows:

As a result of the passage of the American Rescue Plan, North Park University has been awarded federal funding to help students who have exhibited the highest financial need based on the information presented on their 2020-2021 FAFSA with emergency costs that have presented as a result of the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

The University has determined that, based on your need, you are eligible and prioritized for an emergency grant. Undergraduate students exhibiting the most need will be given a grant of \$1200. Another subset of undergraduate students with less need will receive \$500.

*You have the **option** to put your funds towards your outstanding tuition balance, which will lower what you owe on your past due balance. You must actively **opt-in** to have your funds transferred to your student account by completing this online form. This form must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 30, or you will be sent these funds directly.*

If you would rather receive these funds directly, no further action is required. The funds will be sent to you next week. If you have already provided your banking information in Self Service, then we will send the funds electronically. If not, a paper check will be mailed to the address that we have on file for you.

We hope that these funds will assist you and your family in this time of need.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Office of the President

A student who wished to use the funds to pay their bill was instructed to complete an online form to authorize the transfer of funds. Upon receipt of the authorization, the funds would be transferred to the student's tuition account.

Transfers to tuition accounts were done on Monday, August 2.

Students who actively requested a refund or did NOT actively ask for the funds to be transferred to their tuition accounts were issued the funds on Wednesday, August 3.

Students were able to provide their banking information online through Self Service in order to receive their refunds via ACH. A separate general ledger and AR type have been created to ensure that these funds remain separate from a student's tuition account.

In the event that a student did not have a bank account on file, a paper check was issued and mailed to a student's home address.

Members of the Business Office and Student Administrative Services staff oversaw the student communication around these funds, completed the funds transfers to tuition accounts, and ensured that the funds are delivered to students.