

Press Release

PCC Statement from the Office of the President

October 07, 2021

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. In total, the CRRSAA authorizes \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the \$30.75 billion expeditiously provided last spring through the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. On March 11, 2021, The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2 that provides an additional \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education. Total amount of supplemental funds (CRRSAA and ARP) that PCC received for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is \$1,349,146.

Ten percent of the funds, \$134,050, were distributed this past Summer 2021 semester, about forty-five percent of the funds totaling \$608,750 will be distributed to all enrolled students this Fall 2021 semester, and the remaining \$606,346 will be distributed to Spring 2022 enrolled students. The HEERF funds were distributed to students based on available funding, enrollment status as of October 04, 2021, and student need-based on PELL information and eligibility as of October 06, 2021. The CRRSAA/ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants. In addition, financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education. The HEERF provides PCC with the ability to make funds available to students over a one-year period to help students successfully continue and complete their education. As required, PCC prioritized students who have exceptional need based on pell eligibility information. As stated in the HEERF agreements, PCC retains discretion to determine the amount and availability of each individual emergency financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws, including non-discrimination laws, that it may not condition the receipt of an emergency financial aid grant on continued or future enrollment with the college, and that it may not require a student to consent to the application of the emergency financial aid grant to the student's outstanding account balance as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for an emergency financial aid grant. Financial aid applicants are reminded that they have the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student, or other circumstances described in section 479A of the HEA (**20 U.S. Code § 1087tt**).

Emergency Financial Aid Grants

Total amount of current supplemental funds (CRRSAA and ARP) that PCC received for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is \$1,349,146.

Total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants disbursed to students in Fall 2021 is \$608,750.00.

Total number of Fall 2021 students at PCC to receive the emergency grants is 514.

PCC students were notified of the availability of these emergency grant funds under the CRRSAA and ARP through the institutional primary website, college Facebook page, and campus bulletin boards.

Students were advised that these funds are 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.

Funding Methodology

CRRSAA Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II) funds and American Rescue Plan (ARP)

PCC used the following methodology to determine which students receive Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (CRRSAA HEERF II and ARP HEERF III) Financial Aid Grants

1. PCC distributes the grant funds to students based on the available funding, need based on pell information, and enrollment status of students.
2. Amount of award ranges from \$825 to \$1600.
3. Pell Eligible includes students who are receiving pell and students who have not completed the FAFSA but are pell eligible and demonstrate exceptional need based on available pell information.
4. Identify Pell Eligible Students
 - Must be eligible to participate in programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The criteria include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Be a U.S citizen or national, or permanent resident, or an eligible noncitizen.
 - b. Have a valid Social Security number
 - c. Be registered with Selective Services (applies only to U.S. Citizens who are males between ages of 18-25);
 - d. Have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent (GED, or completion of high school in an approved homeschool setting);
 - e. Not be in default on a Title IV loan.
 - f. Enrolled in a degree or certificate in an eligible program
 - g. Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward his/her degree or certificate program.
5. Non-Pell eligible students awarded are students who are U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents, or an eligible noncitizen that does not meet one or more of the criteria listed above (#3 and #4). Non-Pell eligible students also include international students.
6. As required, PCC prioritized students who are receiving pell or who have not completed the FAFSA but are pell eligible and demonstrate exceptional need based on available pell information.
7. Checks that are not picked up by students after 21 days will be sent to students' mailing address.
8. PCC posted the information listed above on the institution's primary website.

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

A. Students were informed that these funds were to be used for those additional costs of attendance which are related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

B. PCC students were notified of the availability of HEERF concerning Emergency Financial Aid Grants through the institutional primary website, college Facebook page and campus bulletin boards.

C. Eligible students were informed to pick up their HEERF checks at the Business Office, Student Account section. Checks that were not picked up after fourteen (14) days were mailed to students at the address listed on their student record.

D. Financial aid applicants and recipients were reminded that they have the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student, or other circumstances described in section 479A of the HEA (20 U.S. Code § 1087tt).