

## Supplemental Report on the CARES/CRRSSA/ARP Acts Grant Funding Received by Prescott College for student grants through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Report Date: 07/09/2021

1. Prescott College acknowledges that on **April 21, 2020** it signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. Prescott College has received or will receive a total of **\$878,566** from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students via the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

This includes an initial allocation of \$150,659 authorized through The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (**CARES**) Act signed on March 27, 2020 and another \$150,659 authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (**CRRSAA**) Act of 2021 signed on December 27, 2020, and \$577,268 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act signed on March 11, 2021.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students **as of 6/30/2021** under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, CRRSAA Act, and ARP Act is **\$299,338**. (Prior reports: as of 5/22/2020 - \$67,438, as of 7/6/2020 - \$75,913; as of 10/10/2020 -- \$100,130; as of 1/10/2021 \$107,975; as of 3/31/2021 -- \$295,863).
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 [i.e. FAFSA-eligible students] and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act: **1202**
  - # of FAFSA-eligible student students enrolled in spring 2020 term in campus-based programs which converted to on-line instruction: **254**
5. The total number of students as of 6/30/2021 who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, CRRSAA Act, or ARP Act: **624** (Prior reports: as of 5/22/2020 - 165; as of 7/6/20 - 173; as of 10/1/20 - 181; as of 1/10/2021 - 187, 3/30/2021 -- 624.)
6. The following methods have been or are being used by the institution to determine which students will receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they each will receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, CRRSAA Act, and ARP Act.

- i. The Student Union Board (SUB) offered Emergency Relief Grants for on-campus students needing financial assistance shortly after on-campus courses converted to on-line. The SUB grant applications were reviewed to determine those whom applied due to expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus. Grants given to those who had such eligible expenses were initially funded by SUB, but SUB was later reimbursed via money from the CARES grant.
- ii. It was determined that all on-campus undergraduate students who were enrolled on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (the day the national emergency was declared) likely incurred some eligible expenses including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care due to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus, and that it was reasonable to assume these expenses likely ranged from at least \$200 to \$750 per person. These disruptions included the conversion of on-campus classes to on-line, the closing for campus and all associated services except for essential operations, and the request for on-campus students to move off-campus or back home if possible. It was determined that students with the highest financial need likely had the fewest outside resources available to help with these expenses, and thus a sliding scale was used to determine initial grant amounts based on the following criteria:
  - Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the FAFSA
  - Unmet Financial Need – i.e. Cost of Attendance minus the student’s EFC, not previously covered by other financial aid.

Initial grant amounts ranging from \$200 to \$750 were determined using these sliding scales, and disbursed to students already enrolled in either summer 2020 or fall 2020 coursework. As students enrolled for either summer 2020, fall 2020, or spring 2021 courses, additional grants were disbursed.

- iii. All students who received an initial grant as well as any other student enrolled in ground-based courses on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were invited to apply for additional CARES Act emergency relief grant funding via our [CARES/CRRSAA Emergency Relief Grant Application](#), which requests students to describe the expenses they incurred due to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus. Students are encouraged to upload supporting documentation with their request, though supporting documentation is not required. Grant applications are reviewed regularly and additional grants will be disbursed to students on a rolling basis until all available grant funds are exhausted. Beginning in January 2021, after the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) passed on 12/27/2020, which provided additional funding for Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) grants and expanded the eligibility criteria of those who could receive HEERF funds, all students who are eligible for federal aid were invited to appeal for HEERF funding if they had Coronavirus related expenses. **Beginning in May 2021,**

**with the passage of the American Rescue Plan, all students, regardless of previous eligibility or receipt of federal financial aid, who had financial need related to the Coronavirus, were invited to apply.**

- iv. Through review of the CARES/CRRSAA/ARP Emergency Relief Grant Applications previously mentioned, groups of students who are in similar circumstances to those who have applied for additional assistance were identified. Some grants have been issued to these additional students based on the average expenses testified by others in these similar circumstances.
  - v. Additional grants of \$215 each were awarded to On-Campus undergraduate students who enrolled in Spring term. The intent of this additional grant was to assist with technology and internet costs needed to sustain on-line learning necessary due to Coronavirus. This is due to most courses still being delivered at least partially on-line.
  - vi. When funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) became available in early spring (an additional \$150,649 on top of the original \$150,649 from the CARES Act), which opened up the possibility of funds for on-line students who were not previously eligible CARES HEERF funding, the college decided to allot a large portion of the HEERF II funds to this population of students, including undergraduate and graduate students. \$125,525 was reserved for this purpose and these funds were divided into grants ranging from \$275 to \$700 for assistance with expenses related to Coronavirus that fit within the student's cost of attendance. Grant amounts varied based on the student's EFC from their most recently filed FAFSA as well as their enrollment level.
  - vii. With the passage of the American Rescue Plan in March 2021, the funds for which became available in May 2021, we have begun the process of identifying additional students with high financial need as determined either by their Estimated Family Contribution from the FAFSA or because of large past due balance. Emergency grants from this American Rescue Plan money are expected to begin disbursing within the next quarter.
7. Students are issued a letter with instructions / directions / guidance by Prescott College concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, along with a revised financial aid award letter for the current award year. This guidance is delivered to each student who receives their grant via the financial aid office by e-mail to the student's student.prescott.edu e-mail address and/or the e-mail address on the student's FAFSA. Parents of dependent students were also sent a copy of the same e-mail to the parent e-mail address on the student's FAFSA. Below is a sample of the most recent round of letters which students receive.



# Prescott College

Financial Aid Office

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Date

Dear

Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Prescott College is pleased to provide a one-time Higher Education Emergency Relief grant to you in the amount of **\$xxx**. This grant will be disbursed to you in the near future, and [may be applied to your past or current tuition balance](#) if you choose.

Please complete [this consent form](#) **within the next 7 days** to have this grant applied to your student account balance. **This may help you avoid further collections activity** if you have a past due balance. If you choose not to complete the form, your grant will be refunded to you, but then, if you have a past due tuition balance, you will still need to pay that via [prescott.afford.com](http://prescott.afford.com).

In all cases, in accordance with federal requirements, the grant is being awarded to you to help offset expenses you incurred related to the Coronavirus. Examples include direct costs within your cost of attendance, such as tuition and fees, and other indirect costs such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Your particular grant was likely awarded as a result of one of the following two initiatives:

- **High need student possibly in danger of being sent to collections:** You may have been identified as a high-need student who may be facing financial difficulty because of economic strain related to Coronavirus. Students were identified through a combination of factors including their estimated family contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA and/or a past due tuition balance due to Prescott College since the national emergency began. Our hope is that this grant may assist you to avoid possible tuition collection activity or other potential negative consequences of being unable to cover your bills. To make this easy for you, please complete this [consent form](#) to have your Emergency Relief grant applied to your student tuition and fees account.
- **Grants awarded through appeal:** Some additional grants have been awarded to students who petitioned for assistance based on individual expenses and COVID related circumstances that they have experienced. If you have not yet submitted a petition for this reason, and you have an extreme financial need related to Coronavirus above and beyond the \$xxx now being provided to you, you too may [appeal for an additional grant](#). Note that we have very limited funding left to assist with further appeals, and grant requests are reviewed on a first come, first served basis until funding is depleted.

**More about Prescott College's Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) Grants:**

Your grant was made possible through the HEERF Grant allocated to Prescott College through congress via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (passed last Spring), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Act (passed in December 2020), and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) (recently passed this spring). In total, Prescott College received \$878,566 from these three congressional acts specifically designated for student Emergency Relief grants. If you would like to learn more about how Prescott College has allocated these grants to students, please visit our [COVID-19 Updates website at covid.prescott.edu](https://covid.prescott.edu).

Please know that we are thinking of you and hope that you are safe and well. If you have any additional questions regarding your Higher Education Emergency Relief Grant, you are welcome to schedule an appointment with a financial aid counselor or with me [via calendly.com/pcfinaid](https://www.calendly.com/pcfinaid).

Sincerely,

*Bee*

Bee Sena  
Financial Aid Director