

# HEERF III Emergency Grant

## American Rescue Plan (ARP)

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)

Date: December 15, 2021

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) was authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2. It was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and provides \$40 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP funds are in addition to the \$14 billion authorized through the CARES Act and the \$23 billion through the CRRSA Act. These funds are intended to “assist public and private nonprofit colleges and universities in preparing for, preventing, and responding to coronavirus,” and to provide temporary emergency financial assistance to eligible students who are experiencing financial hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under ARP section 2003(a)(1), Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU) was allocated \$3.2 million in HEERF III funding. Of this amount, a minimum of \$1,615,183 must be used for emergency financial aid grants to students (CFDA 84.425E Student Aid Portion Allocation), and a maximum of \$1,612,898 can be used by the institution to defray expenses associated with coronavirus (84.425F Institutional Portion Allocation).

On December 10, 2021, NDNU disbursed ARP HEERF III grant funds to eligible students totaling \$495,000. Grants were given to 200 eligible students with amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000, based on financial need and academic level. Checks were issued on December 15, 2021 to students who did not apply the grant to their existing student account balances. The remaining amount of the ARP HEERF III grant funds will be disbursed to eligible continuing students in spring 2022 and summer 2022.

Of the institutional portion of the ARP HEERF III funds, \$286,228 was drawn on July 30, 2021 to reimburse the university for lost revenue from the write-off of student account bad debt.

### **ARP HEERF III Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **How much funding is available to NDNU students and how will funds be allocated?**

Under the ARP HEERF III program, NDNU has been allocated \$1,615,183 to be distributed as emergency financial aid grants to eligible students. NDNU awarded approximately 8% of the available funding to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the summer 2021 semester, 31% to students enrolled in fall 2021 and will award approximately 61% across the spring 2022 and summer 2022 semesters.

#### **Who is eligible to receive an ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

According to the U.S. Department of Education's final rule (May 14, 2021, 86 FR 26608), the HEERF funding is now available to all students regardless of their Title IV aid status. This means that DACA recipients as well as international students and online students who were previously excluded are now eligible for HEERF student grants.

Students who are enrolled at NDNU in summer 2021, fall 2021, spring 2022 and/or summer 2022 are eligible to receive the grant. Similar to the previous HEERF funding, the U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to prioritize ARP HEERF III grants to students with exceptional financial need, such as Pell Grant recipients. In compliance with this directive, NDNU has developed an ARP HEERF III grant allocation matrix based on students' Pell status, Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated in the FAFSA, as well as academic level and enrollment status.

**Are students who are enrolled exclusively in online programs eligible to receive the ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

Yes. This is a change from the previous policy set by Congress under the CARES Act.

**Is there an application process?**

No. The University will determine eligibility and award amount based on an allocation matrix that includes financial need and academic level.

**Will I be notified if I qualify for an ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

Students who meet the eligibility criteria will receive notification to their NDNU student email account.

**How much aid will I receive if I qualify for an ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

ARP HEERF III emergency grant amounts are based on an allocation matrix using the following criteria:

- Prioritization will be given to students who are known to have exceptional need based on information available to the Financial Aid Office, such as those students who receive Pell Grants.
- The student's level of study will also be considered with prioritization given first to undergraduate students and then to graduate students.
- The total number of eligible enrolled students is also included in the calculation.

Grants given to students who were enrolled in summer 2021 received between \$1,400 to \$2,500. Grants given to students who were enrolled in fall 2021 received between \$2,000 and \$6,000. Information about the spring 2022 and summer 2022 grants will be announced in the near future.

**How and when will ARP HEERF III emergency grants be distributed to eligible students?**

NDNU will disburse ARP HEERF III emergency grants to eligible students after the last day to add/drop for each semester. Checks will be issued to students within seven (7) days of the ARP HEERF III emergency grants being posted to students' accounts. Students will receive their funds as a paper check, sent through U.S. mail. Any account

balances owed to the university will not be deducted from the ARP HEERF III emergency grant, unless requested by the student.

Students may request to apply their ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds to their student account by sending an email to the Business Office. This email request must be submitted each semester to the Business Office email, [businessoffice@ndnu.edu](mailto:businessoffice@ndnu.edu) by the due date noted in the email communication sent to student's NDNU email address and must be sent from the NDNU student email account.

If the Business Office does not receive a request by the due date, the full amount of the ARP HEERF III emergency grant will be issued as a paper check.

### **Where will I receive my check?**

Students will receive checks mailed to the permanent home address listed on the student portal.

To update the address, please log onto the campus portal using the following link: <https://campusportal.ndnu.edu/ics/> and click on the silhouette in the upper right-hand corner.

- Select *My Profile & Settings*
- Click *Contact Information*
- Drop down the *Addresses* window and complete update

Please know that the change may take several days to appear on the student portal. For questions or assistance to update a mailing address, please immediately contact the Office of the Registrar at [registrar@ndnu.edu](mailto:registrar@ndnu.edu).

### **How can I check on the status of my ARP HEERF III emergency grant?**

All student account activity is posted to the student Campus Portal. To log onto the student Campus Portal account, please use the following link: <https://campusportal.ndnu.edu/ics/>

To navigate to the student account and check on the status of the student ARP HEERF III emergency grant:

1. Enter the Student ID # and password to log in
2. Click on the *Student* tab at the top of the page

Click on *Student Account Activity* in the menu on the left side of the page

1. Click on *My Balance*
2. Click on the actual balance displayed (even if it is \$0.00); this will show your account transactions with descriptions and dates.
3. Scroll to the bottom to view ARP HEERF III disbursements. If it is after the disbursement date and there is no information, this means the student did not qualify for a disbursement. Otherwise, there will be a credit to the account with the description "HEERF III ( \_\_ ) Grant".

\* *The semester (e.g., Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022 or Summer 2022)*

Please refer to DETAIL, scroll to the bottom to see the descriptions. If a check has been mailed, there will be a debit that with the same description and amount of the disbursement.

**Can ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds be used to pay for tuition or outstanding balances for fees, debts or other amounts owed to NDNU?**

Yes. The grant funds are for the students to use however they choose but are intended for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations resulting from the coronavirus. The ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance (tuition, course materials, technology) or for costs that arise due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare.

**I got this money as a refund. Does this mean my student account balance has been paid off?**

No. Distribution of ARP HEERF III emergency grant funds is made directly to students and not applied by the University toward any outstanding balances that may still be owed by the student, unless the student has requested the funds be applied to their outstanding student account balance. As such, receipt of the emergency grant funds does not indicate satisfaction of their financial obligations to NDNU for any charges incurred during the current term or any prior terms. Please check your current student account balance on Campus Portal.

**Will receiving an ARP HEERF III emergency grant impact my financial aid?**

No. Recipients of emergency grants will see no impact on the calculation of their financial need.

**Do I have to pay this money back?**

No. Any funds a student received from the ARP HEERF III will not need to be repaid.

**Are ARP HEERF III emergency grants taxable?**

No. The grants are not included in gross taxable income. For that reason, also, students who use some of their grant to pay for course materials required for online learning cannot claim that expense as a qualifying tax deduction or credit.