

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, (ARP) (HEERFIII) Funds for Students (April 2022)

About ARP HEERFIII Funding

Funds provided through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) were authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. This represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF, which was initially established by the CARES Act, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

Was Warren Wilson College included in this Funding Allocation Under the ARP HEERFIII Funding?

Yes. In May 2021, Warren Wilson College was notified that it would receive ARP HEERF III funds specifically to be made available for emergency financial aid grants to students (the student aid portion) with the remainder to be used for institutional purposes (the institutional portion). The student aid portion of funds received is \$1,077,636. The student aid portion of funding is to be made available directly to students as emergency financial aid grants for any component of students' cost of attendance or emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, health care, and others not specifically identified here.

What Kinds of Expenses are these ARP HEERF III Grants to cover?

The student aid portion of funding is to be made available directly to students as emergency financial aid grants for any component of students' cost of attendance or emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health), childcare and others not specifically identified here.

What are the Eligibility Criteria?

Much like with HEERF II, authorized by the CRRSA Act, for HEERF III students do not need to have a FAFSA completed or been determined to qualify for federal financial aid in order to receive HEERF III funds. However, the ARP Act further

expands eligibility to now include all students who are or were enrolled during the COVID-19 national emergency. This includes:

- U.S. Citizens;
- Permanent Residents;
- Refugees;
- Asylum seekers;
- DACA recipients;
- DREAMers; and
- Other undocumented students.

Additional requirements that will be reviewed to determine priority awarding are:

- Current enrollment for the term in which funding is being offered; and
- Demonstration of exceptional need, such as being eligible for the Federal Pell Grant
- Working toward an undergraduate degree at Warren Wilson College

How Much Will I Receive?

ARP HEERFIII requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional needs, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. Students do not need to be Pell recipients in order to receive a financial aid grant. Full-time students with Pell Grants will receive \$1900 and those who are not Pell recipients and full-time will receive \$1600. Part time students will receive a prorated share based on credit hours attending and whether Pell or non-Pell recipient.

Are there any actions required of those eligible?

Students do not need to take any action to receive these grant funds.

When will I receive these funds if I am eligible?

Our goal is to process these grants and prep checks by April 8, 2022 for delivery.

How will I receive these funds if I am eligible?

Residential student checks will be delivered to the Campus Post Office boxes and those off campus will be mailed to the address on file.

What if I currently owe tuition or other expenses to Warren Wilson College?

The full amount of the ARP HEERFIII student grants will be given directly to eligible students and will not pay any outstanding balances due to Warren Wilson College. Any outstanding student account balances remain the responsibility of the student. You may review your student account balance via MyWWC.

If I am eligible for the ARP HEERFIII student grant, is it taxable?

No. These financial aid grants under this program are deemed not taxable.

If I am eligible, will I need to repay this ARP HEERFIII student grant?

No, this one-time grant received under the ARP HEERFIII funding does not need to be repaid.

Will these funds affect any current or future financial aid eligibility?

No, your ARP grant is specifically intended to help with expenses related to your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus. The funds will not have any impact on current or future financial aid.

What if my family is experiencing an unexpected loss of income due to the Coronavirus for the 2021-2022 academic year?

Contact the WWC Financial Aid Office at finaid@warren-wilson.edu. Students must have completed the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) using 2019 income (as required). If there are circumstances beyond your control due to the pandemic there may be options for a special circumstances appeal and review of your FAFSA information.