

**Report to the Department of Education  
HEERF Student Emergency Financial Aid Grants College of the Atlantic: Award P425E202183**

Report date: January 3, 2022

Report period: October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

**CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT**

College of the Atlantic (COA) signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement. COA intends to use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED**

2020: In calendar year 2020, COA received \$151,693 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CARES Act (HEERF I).

2021: In calendar year 2021, COA received \$151,693 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSA Act (HEERF II).

Also in calendar year 2021, COA received \$417,916 from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP (HEERF III).

**Total amount received from HEERF through Q4 of 2021: \$721,302**

**TOTAL AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS**

2020: In calendar year 2020, COA distributed \$151,693 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF.

2021: In calendar year 2021, COA has distributed \$355,951 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF.

**Total amount distributed to students through Q4 of 2021: \$507,644**

**NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**

2020: An estimated 206 COA students were eligible for the spring 2020 term and an estimated 234 students were eligible for the fall 2020 term to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act.

2021: An estimated 231 COA students were eligible for the spring 2021 term to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CRRSA Act. For the fall 2021 term, international students were included, so in order to prioritize students with the most need, eligibility was based on Institutional Expected Family Contribution (IEFC) to determine which students would receive aid and how much they would receive (see chart on page 2). Using these criteria, we determined that 266 students would be eligible to receive funding.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED GRANTS**

2020:

On May 20, 2020, COA distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 142 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF.

On October 27, 2020 and December 3, 2020, COA distributed the remainder of the Emergency Financial Aid Grant funds to 139 students.

2021:

On March 25, 2021, COA distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 106 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF.

On September 27, 2021, COA distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 191 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF.

On November 15, 2021, COA distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 266 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF (see chart below).

### **METHODS TO DETERMINE GRANT RECIPIENTS AND AMOUNTS**

COA convened a committee to determine which students will receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF. The committee included the Controller, Dean of Admission, Director of Financial Aid, and Annual Fund & Grants Manager. The committee developed a formula to distribute funding based on need and enrollment. COA developed the following criteria to determine the recipients and amounts, and determined a disbursement schedule.

#### Eligible students

Students were required to be enrolled at least ½ time at the time of distribution and have demonstrated need per their Institutional Expected Family Contribution (IEFC).

#### Disbursement

On November 15, 2021, COA distributed \$199,600 in emergency grants via checks to 266 students whose fall term 2021 education was disrupted by the pandemic.

#### 2021 Quarter 4 grant amount calculations

COA calculated grant amounts based on each eligible student's Institutional Expected Family Contribution (IEFC). See chart below:

<b>Fall 2021 IEFC</b>	<b>HEERF Amount per student</b>	<b># students receiving grants</b>	<b>Grant total by IEFC category</b>
0-2499	\$1,000	110	\$110,000
2500-5846	\$750	48	\$36,000
5847-12999	\$600	52	\$31,200
13000-25000	\$400	56	\$22,400
		<b>266</b>	<b>\$199,600</b>

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS**

The COA controller emailed student grant recipients to advise them that they would be receiving a check. The email is as follows:

Good morning,

*As part of the federal government's American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, COA has been granted funding to help support our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are to be disbursed directly to qualifying students and must be used to cover expenses "related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care)." Funds can also be used to pay for student accounts here at COA with explicit permission.*

*Eligible students will not be required to report to COA on how they use these funds. Additionally, the IRS has stated that this will not be considered taxable income. COA has prioritized the funds for students with the highest financial need who are enrolled at least 2/3 time in the fall. If you are eligible to receive a direct payment, your check will be put in your COA mailbox, unless you are not in the Bar Harbor area, then it will be mailed to your home address. The checks have been distributed today, November 17, 2021.*

*If you would like to have your funds directly credited to your student account, please bring your check to the business office, we'll have you sign a simple form and we'll apply the check to your account.*

*If you are not receiving a check, but continue to struggle financially due to the effects of COVID-19, please know there are other options. You and your family may be eligible for a Professional Judgement appeal through the financial aid office if your financial situation is drastically different from your 2019 information. Please reach out to Linda Black, Director of Financial Aid, at lblack@coa.edu for more information on this process. Or if you or your family's financial situation has not been drastically impacted, but you find yourself with additional or unexpected expenses due directly to COVID-19 impacts, please reach out to hardship@coa.edu with the subject line COVID-19 Emergency Fund.*

*If you have any questions about the ARP funding, please let me know. I hope you are doing well and staying healthy!*

Missy  
Controller  
College of the Atlantic  
105 Eden Street  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609  
(207) 801-5610

COA also enclosed a letter with each check. The template of the letter is as follows:

*Greetings,*

*As you may know, the College has received special grant funding known as Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to assist in supporting institutions through the ongoing pandemic. Part of these funds also include direct payments to students. As part of the most recent HEERF, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, you have been granted a disbursement from this program to help support you during the COVID-19 pandemic. Enclosed with this letter you will find a check.*

*The federal Department of Education has stipulated that these ARP funds are to be distributed directly to students or applied to student accounts with permission and must be used to cover expenses "related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost*

January 3, 2022—College of the Atlantic: Award P425E202183

*of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care)."*

*For example, if you find yourself in need of a new laptop to participate in remote courses, or find yourself in need of increased mental health services, please consider this disbursement as potential help cover those costs. A check for (\$ amount) is enclosed for you to use for these purposes. I encourage you to cash this disbursement at your earliest convenience.*

*COA does not require you to report to us on your use of the funding. The IRS has stated that this will not be considered taxable income.*

*The federal government has given us guidance and placed certain restrictions on which students are eligible to receive these funds. As such, the funding is prioritized for students with the highest financial need. Unfortunately, there are many COA students who are ineligible to receive these ARP Act grants.*

*If you have questions about this ARP Act grant, please contact Missy Cook, [mcook@coa.edu](mailto:mcook@coa.edu), 207-801-5610.*

*Sincerely,  
Darron Collins '92  
President, College of the Atlantic*