

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

Report date: April 5, 2022

Report period: January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022

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 Q1 of 2022: \$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.

2022: In calendar year 2022, COA has distributed \$210,713 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF.

Total amount distributed to students through Q1 of 2022: \$718,357

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.

2022: For the spring 2022 term, we continued to prioritize students with exceptional need, including international students, and therefore 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 3). Using these criteria, we determined that 237 students would be eligible to receive funding. There were also 2 circumstances in which funds were awarded to students regardless of their IEFC classification, as they were able to demonstrate need outside of the IEFC criteria.

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).

2022:

On March 4, 2022, COA distributed Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 239 students under Section 18004(a)(1) of HEERF (see chart below).

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO OPTED TO APPLY THEIR CHECKS TO THEIR STUDENT ACCOUNT BALANCE:

In Q1, 4 students provided written consent to have the business office apply their student aid checks to their student account balances. The total amount for these checks was \$5,450.

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 March 4, 2022, COA distributed \$210,713 in emergency grants via checks to 239 students whose spring term 2022 education was disrupted by the pandemic.

2022 Quarter 1 grant amount calculations

COA calculated grant amounts based on each eligible student's Institutional Expected Family Contribution (IEFC) and also awarded checks in response to special student requests demonstrating exceptional need. See chart below:

Spring 2022 IEFC	Check amount per student	# students receiving grants	Grant total by category
\$0 - \$5,846	\$1,000	138	\$138,000
\$5,847 - \$25,000	\$715	98	\$70,070
\$25,000+	\$393	1	\$393
Check based on student special request	\$1,500	1	\$1,500
Check based on student special request	\$750	1	\$750
		239	\$210,713

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,

This week COA has processed checks for students from funds from the special grant funding from the American Rescue Plan, which are funds to assist students through the ongoing pandemic.

You have received a check. *If you are in the MDI community, we have put your check in your COA mailbox. (We will be reaching out to you if we have record that you are not here in the Bar Harbor area.)*

More details about these funds are included in the envelope with the check, however, feel free to ask me if you have any further questions.

Please cash this check as soon as possible. *A very important note:*

As funds have to be received to students by a certain date (and if not, monies sent back to the federal government) we must have the checks cashed by March 31, 2022. If not, your check will be voided on April 1, 2022.

Thank you!

*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 (student),

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 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.

The enclosed check for (\$amount) MUST be cashed by March 31st, 2022 in accordance with guidelines from HEERF. Any uncashed checks on April 1st will be voided.

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, 207-801-5610.

Sincerely,

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