



## **CRRSAA Act – Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds Grants Initial - First Quarterly Report: March 31, 2021**

In December, 2020, the U.S. government passed the Coronavirus Response and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) which provided supplemental grant awards to higher education institutions. This included a supplemental award of \$1,470,055 to Meridian Community College for additional emergency grants for students. The U.S. Department of Education provided guidance in making these awards in March, 2021. These awards are to be distributed to eligible students 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). The CARES Act provides institutions with significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students. Each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds.

This report is provided to meet reporting requirements of the U.S. Department of Education.

### **1 Acknowledgement**

Meridian Community College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the US Department of Education and has used, or intends to use all \$1,470,055 of these funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.

### **2. Total Amount MCC has or will receive from the U.S. Dept. of Education under this CRRSAA Program**

Meridian Community College was awarded \$1,470,055 and will award all funds as higher education emergency grants to students and will drawdown these funds after disbursements have been made.

### **3. Total Amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants Distributed to Students**

As of March 31, 2021, the college had begun the process of determining the method to be used to determine eligibility requirements and allow students time to complete a Higher Education Emergency Relief Grant survey and provide information related to their authorization to apply

any of this grant to their account balance. As of March 31, 2021, the college had not disbursed any HEERF grants to students.

#### **4. Estimated number of students at the college who are eligible to receive an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under CRRSAA program.**

Based on the decision by our HEERF Committee, all students who are U.S. Citizens, have been enrolled during the current spring 2021 semester and have tuition charges during the term will be eligible for a grant. Our initial estimate of the number of students who may be eligible is 2,777. (This includes some students who may or may not be a U.S. Citizen as their status is uncertain.)

In addition, the college offered a HEERF II application to students enrolled in our Adult Education program. There were 146 students enrolled in the Adult Education program.

#### **5. The Total Number of Students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant.**

As guidelines on issuing these grants were recently released, and processes are being developed, student grants were not disbursed before March 31, 2021.

#### **6. Methods used to determine which students receive a Spring 2021 HEERF II Grant under this program and how much they will receive.**

The college must provide priority to the neediest students and decided to use the FASFA expected family contribution (EFC) to make that determination. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II committee decided on a formula for awarding these grants that uses both the EFC from FASFA, if available and the number of hours enrolled. A minimum grant amount will be awarded to students who did not complete the FASFA and have no EFC calculated.

The grant amount is determined by the expected family contribution calculation, if available, and the number of credit hours enrolled. The maximum grant is estimated to be \$1,000 if you are eligible for the maximum Pell grant and were enrolled in a minimum of 9 semester credit hours. The minimum grant is approximately \$38.89. Actual amounts will be determined once the total number of awards and all data have been received. Grants are reduced for those enrolled in less than 9 semester credit hours.

Students who did not have U.S. Citizenship status confirmed, could provide additional documentation to our admissions office. Once this was updated and notification was given to our business office, a grant was awarded to the student and either applied to their account (if directed by the student) or mailed to them.

The grant amount for adult education students will be approximately \$1,000.

## **7. Instructions, Directions, or Guidance provided by MCC to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.**

Information was gathered on all students enrolled in the spring 2021 semester and emails were sent depending on the status of the students. If the student had a citizenship status that was blank, they were asked to update that information. If a student had citizenship information in admissions that did not match their status on their FASFA, they were asked to provide clarification. In addition, we asked students by a 2021 spring HEERF II Survey, to let us know if they wished the grant to be applied to their account and to verify their mailing address for any payment that was mailed to them.

A 2021 Spring HEERF II survey was provided for students to update information or provide us their preference for applying the grant to their account; however, the survey was not required to be eligible.

We provided information about HEERF II on our website and also an FAQ section for related questions that they could have about the grants.

We provided an email address of [HEERF@meridiancc.edu](mailto:HEERF@meridiancc.edu) for any questions related to these grants and/or their status. This was provided in the initial email notification to the students.

Grant funds are 100% federal.  
0.00% has been spent at this time.