HEERF III Report

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Act (ARP), Public Law 117-2, signed into law on March 11, 2021.

The University of Washington acknowledges it signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement, and gives the assurance that UW intends to use no less than 50% of the funds received under the ARP to provide HEERF III emergency relief funds to students.

1. The total amount of funds UW received on May 24, 2021, from the U.S. Department of Education for distribution to students is $53,202,063.
2. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under HEERF III as of July 1, 2021 is $29,389,372.
3. The estimated total number of students at UW eligible for consideration of Emergency Financial Aid Grants under HEERF III is 57,657 in spring and summer 2021.
4. The total number of students who received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under HEERF III as of July 1, 2021 is 16,380.
5. The methods used to determine which and how much students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants are as follows –

All students receiving standard and individual grants must meet these criteria:

- Undergraduate or graduate students enrolled at least half-time spring quarter 2021, for the June 2021 award, and pursuing a degree program
- A 2020-21 FAFSA or WASFA on record with the UW’s Office of Student Financial Aid
- In order to distribute funds quickly, a standard grant was awarded to those students with the greatest financial need. Additional criteria used for the standard grant—
  - Family income in the low- to low-middle income levels based on FAFSA or WASFA information
  - Students were awarded a standard grant of $1800. This amount is approximately one month of the rent/utilities/food category of our students living on or off campus

Students who were not initially selected for the standard HEERF III Emergency Relief Grant or need additional assistance beyond the standard grant are encouraged to apply for Emergency Aid through the UW Emergency Aid Application.

Additional criteria used for the individual grant—

- Awarded based on the student’s statement of need for funds to cover COVID-19 related expenses or expenses no longer covered due to a COVID-19 related loss of income
- Award amounts will vary based on the student’s statement of need. Limited cases of higher awards are provided when extreme circumstances are presented.
- International students were not included in the standard grant process, but can apply through the Emergency Aid application for possible assistance.
- Student can apply more than once. Instructions, directions and guidance were provided to grant recipients via email and published on the Student Financial Aid website.