



Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Report (HEERF): Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students ARP Galveston College Quarterly Report – September 30, 2021

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2 which was signed into law on March 11, 2021. ARP funds are in addition to funds authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. The drawdown of the available funding within G5 was an indication of acceptance of the award.

1. **An acknowledgment that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the ARP (a)(1) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.**

Galveston College signed and returned the Certification and Agreement form and assures that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than the required amount of funds received to provide HEERF grants to students.

2. **The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP (a)(1) programs.**

ARP requires that an institution receiving funding under section 314(a)(1) provide at least 50% of an institution's funds be spent on student grants. The student portion of the ARP funding is \$2,367,500.00.

3. **The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the ARP and (a)(1) programs as of the date of submission.**

As of September 30, 2021, Galveston College has distributed \$1,351,013.93 HEERF III ARP funds.

4. **The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP and (a)(1) programs.**

As of September 30, 2021, Galveston College has 1944 students eligible to apply for HEERF III ARP funds.

5. **The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the ARP (a)(1) programs.**

As of September 30, 2021, Galveston College has distributed HEERF III ARP funds to 888 unduplicated students.

6. **The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the ARP (a)(1) programs.**

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive HEERF grants and how much they would receive. Unlike the CARES Act, the ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. However, students do not need to be only Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants. In addition, the ARP explicitly provides that financial aid grants to students may be provided to students exclusively enrolled in distance education.

The HEERF Emergency Fund Taskforce is comprised of three voting members and one ex-officio. The taskforce met on April 14, 2020, to determine the student application method, method of student notifications, eligibility amounts, and review process.

Emergency Funding Process:

- 1) Students must apply for funds through a formal application process (see Attachment A)
- 2) A public announcement was made on August 16, 2021. (see Attachment B)
- 3) The application review takes 5 days to complete. Once approved by the Taskforce, the student is mailed a check. Checks are processed and mailed twice a week in accordance with the College’s current business processes.
- 4) Maximum Amounts were determined by the Taskforce and the student enrollment status at the time of application.
- 5) The student receives an email with approval or denial of funds. Denial emails vary depending on the reason. (see Attachment C)

Emergency Funding Scale	
Enrollment	Maximum
Full-Time (12+ Hours)	\$2000
Three-Quarter Time (9-11 hours)	\$1500
Half-Time (6-8 hours)	\$1000
Less Than Half Time (1-5 hours)	\$500
Continuing Education Workforce Program	\$1000

7. **Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.**

Instructions, directions, and guidance were provided via a public-facing webpage <https://gc.edu/arp/>. (see attachment D)

An email, cares@gc.edu, was created for students to direct their questions or concerns. The email is closely monitored and responded with 2 days.

Attachment A



ARP Emergency Fund Application

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant is made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). These funds are limited and do not need to be repaid. The funds may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare. The grant funds will give priority to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. However, students do not need to be Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants in order to receive an emergency aid grant.

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and disbursed to students by check to the address on file with Admissions. Please check your address and make any changes on your Whitecaps portal.

All status updates, request for more information, required forms, documents, offer notices, disbursement information, etc. will be sent to your Whitecaps email only. Make sure that you currently have access to your Whitecaps email from this point forward. For questions or concerns about your to the Whitecaps email or Whitecaps portal, contact the IT Service Desk at helpdesk@gc.edu or 409-944-1352.

Eligibility Requirements:

Funding under the HEERF grant is available to ALL enrolled students who have emergency costs incurred due to coronavirus. Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is strongly encouraged [Apply for FAFSA Here](#).

In addition to federal (Title IV) financial aid eligible students, new guidance will now allow federal emergency assistance for DACA students, other similar undocumented students, international students studying under F1 and on other visas. Students enrolled in credit courses, high school dual-credit classes, and continuing education workforce programs at Galveston College are eligible for these funds.

Completing an application does not guarantee funding. Once approved, students are only eligible to receive funding once a semester.

Maximum award amounts are based on enrollment at time of application.

Fall 2021 Enrollment

Full-Time (12 or more hours) \$2000

Three-Quarter Time (9-11 hours) \$1500

Half-Time (6-8 hours) \$1000

Less-Than-Half-Time (1-5 hours) \$500

Questions or concerns directly related to the HEERF ARP Funds or the application can be directed to cares@gc.edu. You must include your full name and Galveston College student ID number.

Application review takes up to 5 business days. Once approved, a check will be mailed within 5 business days. All information is required unless noted.

Section I Demographics

First Name *

Last Name *

GC Student ID *

Date of Birth *

MM /

DD /

YYYY

GC Email Address *

Email Confirm Email

Personal Email address *

Mailing address *

Street Number and Name
Address Line 1


Apt Number or Unit Number
Address Line 2

Alabama
State


City

Zip Code

Phone Number *

 (201) 555-0123

2nd Phone Number (Optional)

 (201) 555-0123

Section II

Program of Study *

- Select a Program of Study -

Expected graduation or transfer date *

Are you currently employed? *

- Yes
- No

If no, are you unemployed due to COVID-19? *

- Yes
- No

Does this current situation put you at risk of withdrawing, failing or not attending classes? *

- Yes
- No

**Are the expenses related to the emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus?
(Please check all that apply.) ***

- Tuition
- Food
- Housing
- Technology
- Health Care, including Mental Health Care
- Child Care Expenses

Please check the related expenses you have or will incur.

How would you like the HEERF ARP funds applied? *

- Direct Payment by Check - May be used for any component of the cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus (tuition, food, housing, health care, [including mental health care] or child care)
- Apply Funds to the Fall 2021 Balance - Funds will be applied to your outstanding Fall 2021 balance, including tuition, fees, books, technology, housing costs, and/or meal plan. If any funds remain after applying to your balance, a check will be issued to you after September 15, 2021. ***

*** By signing the application electronically, you are affirmatively and voluntarily agree to this method of payment.

**Describe the Emergency Costs that have occurred due to Coronavirus, such as:
tuition; food; housing; health care (including mental health); childcare. ***

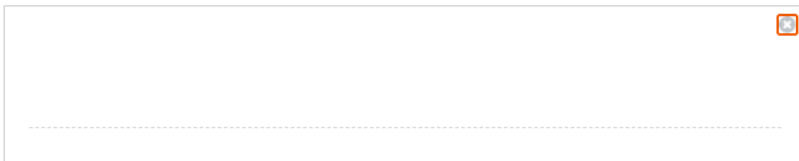
0 of 150 max words.

Amount you are requesting? *

- Choose One -

Section III

Affidavit of Truth Statement and Release of Information: The information provided on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and true. I understand that by applying for the Student Emergency Fund, I authorize program staff to obtain and share data pertinent to my participation from other campus offices and/or Galveston College. I understand that all information will be protected as confidential. I understand that I am NOT eligible to receive services until the application process is complete. By submitting this emergency grant request, I acknowledge and give consent for data to be shared with the Department of Education, or their representatives, as part of the HEERF Act requirements. I understand that my information will not be sold for any purpose and will not be distributed to other parties. Examples of data shared include, but are not limited to: student name and ID, enrollment status, annual income, EFC, emergency request amount, name, etc. I authorize Galveston College to provide all information in regards to the status of this application via Whitecaps email only. Your signed name in the box below serves as your signature.



Attachment B

Galveston College students eligible for up to \$2,000 in emergency funding

08/16/2021

Featured Campus News

President Myles Shelton announced today that Galveston College is offering emergency grants of up to \$2,000 to enrolled students this fall to help ease the financial burden from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The students will be able to use this money toward emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus," he said. "Anything from childcare, food and healthcare to transportation, books and school supplies."

Students will receive a payment if they are enrolled and attend classes for the fall 2021 semester and qualify under the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) authorized by the American Rescue Plan.

Galveston College received \$2.8 million in funds to distribute to enrolled students in the form of emergency financial grants in fall 2021 and spring 2022. Since March 2020, 893 Galveston College students have received \$1.3 million in emergency relief funds.

Students will receive payments ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, depending upon the number of semester credit hours in which they are enrolled.

Students enrolled in 1-5 hours will receive \$500. Students enrolled in 6-9 hours will receive \$1,000. Students enrolled in 9-11 hours will receive \$1,500, and students enrolled in 12 or more hours will receive \$2,000. Students enrolled in eligible Continuing Education workforce programs will receive \$1,000.

"What is best for our students is at the heart of every decision we make at Galveston College," Dr. Shelton said. "During COVID-19, our students have had hardships and even had to put their education on hold. Our hope is that this will help them get back on track to earn their certificates and degrees, and will help our new students get started without the additional financial barriers the pandemic has created."

To receive emergency relief funds, all enrolled students are encouraged to submit an online form that will be available on the college website on Sept. 6.

Under the new funding guidelines, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is not required, and students who were not eligible in 2020 may now be eligible.

Registration is underway for the fall 2021 semester, which begins Monday, Aug. 30.

For more information, please visit <https://gc.edu/arp/> or email cares@gc.edu.

Attachment C

Meghann N Nash

From: cares@gc.edu
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Meghann N Nash
Subject: 2021-2022 HEERF ARP Emergency Fund Approval

Student ID:

Dear Meghann Nash,

Your application has been approved for the HEERF ARP Act Emergency Fund for the Fall 2021 semester. The award amount is based on your enrollment at the time of application or the census date, whichever is the later date. You can verify the fund award amount online on the Whitecaps Portal in your myGC account. (Financial Aid Offer Letter 2021-2022).

The funds you have been awarded are applied to the Fall 2021 account balance or a direct payment to students, depending on which payment method was chosen. Any remaining funds will be sent via check to the address you have on file in the Whitecaps Portal. Checks are mailed within 5 business days from the award date. This is a one-time award for the Fall 2021 semester. If funds are available, students can reapply for the Spring 2022 semester.

Questions or concerns directly related to the HEERF ARP Act Emergency Funds or the application can be sent to cares@gc.edu. You must include your full name and Galveston College student ID number.

2021-2022 Financial Aid

It is almost time to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2022-2023 academic year, beginning October 1st. The application is available online or on your mobile device at StudentAid.gov.

Sincerely, Galveston College

Attachment D

Galveston College HEERF American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Fund



Galveston College HEERF American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Fund

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant is made possible by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). These funds are limited and do not need to be repaid. The funds may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or childcare. The grant funds will give priority to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. However, students do not need to be Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell grants in order to receive an emergency aid grant.

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and disbursed to students by check to the address on file with Admissions. Please check your address and make any changes on your Whitecaps portal.

All status updates, request for more information, required forms, documents, offer notices, disbursement information, etc. will be sent to your Whitecaps email only. Make sure that you currently have access to your Whitecaps email from this point forward. For questions or concerns about your access to the Whitecaps email or Whitecaps portal, contact the IT Service Desk at helpdesk@gc.edu or 409-944-1352.

Eligibility Requirements:

Funding under the HEERF grant is available to ALL enrolled students who have emergency costs incurred due to coronavirus. Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is strongly encouraged. [Apply for Aid Here.](#)

In addition to federal (Title IV) financial aid eligible students, new guidance will now allow federal emergency assistance for DACA students, other similar undocumented students, international students studying under F1 and on other visas. Students enrolled in credit courses, high school dual-credit classes, and continuing education workforce programs at Galveston College are eligible for these funds.


Completing an application does not guarantee funding. Once approved, students are only eligible to receive funds once a semester.

The Galveston College application for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) is now available.

Disbursements and approval status notifications will begin September 15.






For questions, email cares@gc.edu.

Apply

 Full-Time	(12 or more hours) \$2000
 Three-Quarter Time	(9-11 hours) \$1500
 Half-Time	(6-8 hours) \$1000
 Less -than-Half-Time	(1-5 hours) \$500
Continuing Education Workforce Program	\$1000

Federal Emergency Aid

Eligible Expenses

	Purchase Textbooks
	Access Technology Needed to Support Remote Learning
	Buy Groceries
	Pay Rent or Utility Bills
	Pay Healthcare Expenses
	Pay Childcare Expenses
	Tuition and Outstanding Balances

Allocations to each individual college for student emergency aid were determined by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Higher Education Emergency Relief grants under all federal aid programs are based on emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus. The funding is not tied to existing financial aid programs such as Pell Grants and can be used by students for any component of the cost of attendance at the colleges.

Student eligibility requirements for all Federal Emergency Aid are based on guidance and criteria provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

What are the Federal Emergency Aid Funds?

Galveston College has received federal emergency funding for students from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund authorized by the CARES Act, the CRRSAA, and the ARP Act.

All three allocations will help Galveston College's students manage the financial burden caused by the COVID-19 crisis and assist with the costs of attending college.

How do I qualify for Federal Emergency Aid?

Based on the guidance and criteria provided by the US Department of Education, full or part-time students can apply. This includes those enrolled in academic courses, credit or no-credit bearing courses, dual enrollment courses, or continuing education courses.

Please see the eligibility section above for more details.

What are eligible expenses?

Emergency financial aid grants may be used for any component of your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as textbooks, tuition, food, housing, healthcare (including mental healthcare) or childcare.

You determine how to use your emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

How do I apply for the Federal Emergency Aid Funds?

[Apply here!](#)

When will I know the results?

Galveston College will work diligently to award emergency grants as soon as possible after receipt of a student's application, generally within 5 business days.

How will I be notified?

Any amount awarded will be visible on your myGC account upon approval.

To view your myGC account, follow these steps:

To review the Emergency Aid Funds:

- Log into your [Whitecaps Portal](#)
- Click on "myGC"
- Click on "Financial Aid"
- Click on "Review your Financial Aid Offer Letter" under the "Financial Aid Home" Title at the top

PLEASE NOTE:

Please allow up to 1-2 week for your application to be processed and for an email to be sent to your Whitecaps student email with status. The amount awarded may be more or less than the amount requested. Please budget accordingly.

Can I choose how I get my grant funds?

How would you like the HEERF ARP funds applied?

Direct Payment by Check – May be used for any component of the cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus (tuition, food, housing, health care, (including mental health care) or child care.

Apply Funds to the Fall 2021 Balance – Funds will be applied to your outstanding Fall 2021 balance, including tuition, fees, housing cost, and/or meal plan. If any funds remain after applying to your balance, a check will be issued to your after September 15, 2021***

*** By signing the application electronically, you are affirmatively and voluntarily agree to this method of payment.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please allow up to 1-2 week for your application to be processed and for an email to be sent to your Whitecaps student email with status. The amount awarded may be more or less than the amount requested. Please budget accordingly.

What are the grant amounts?

1-5hrs. \$500

6-9hrs. \$1,000

9-11hrs. \$1,500

12+ hrs. \$2,000

Continuing Education Workforce Programs \$1,000

Galveston College cannot guarantee that all applicants will be selected for funding or that they will receive the full amount of their request.

Will a Federal Emergency Aid grant negatively affect my financial aid for this year or next year?

No. This grant will not be used in calculating your current or future financial aid awards.

May I apply for funds for a future semester?

Award amounts depend upon the availability of funds.

Due to this, we are not currently processing applications for a future semester. If funds remain once a future semester begins, we encourage you to apply at that time.

Remember, you can only apply and receive emergency funds one time during the Fall 2021 semester.