

ARP ACT / HEERF III FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARP Act), signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, provides broad-based economic relief in response to the COVID-19 national pandemic. As part of the ARP Act, institutions of higher education have been provided funds to assist them and their students. Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions.

What is the ARP Act?

The [ARP Act](#) is federal legislation which provides a variety of financial support to individuals and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP Act established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) to provide emergency financial aid grants. One part of this federal program allocates money to Joliet Junior College, and a portion of that allocation will be awarded to students.

Who is eligible for a HEERF II Grant?

Spring 2021: Students who are 1) enrolled in Spring 2021 undergraduate course(s).

Who is not eligible for HEERF II funds?

Student enrolled in continuing education courses only.

How do I apply for the HEERF II Grant?

Students do NOT need to apply for HEERF III. If you meet all eligibility requirements, you will automatically be considered for the award.

I am not enrolled at IVCC during the Spring 2021 semester. Am I eligible?

No. You must be enrolled for Spring 2021 to be eligible for this round of HEERF III awards.

I was enrolled in Spring 2021, but I have now withdrawn from all of my courses. Am I eligible?

Yes. You must have been enrolled for Spring 2021 semester past the add drop period to qualify for HEERF III funds.

What constitutes eligible expenses to qualify for HEERF III emergency funding?

Unlike HEERF I funds, HEERF III awards do not have to relate to the disruption of campus operations due to Coronavirus.

Eligible expenses include:

- Any component of the student's cost of attendance (COA); or
- Emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as but not limited to tuition, food, housing, health care, mental health care, or child care.

How do I find out if I received a HEERF III grant?

Spring 2021: Notifications of awards will be mailed.

Do I have to repay a HEERF III Grant?

The Federal Emergency Aid Grant funds are designed to be a grant, not a loan. Therefore, repayment is not required.

How will IVCC disburse the HEERF III funds?

Enrolled students will automatically be considered for the grant. Enrollment, eligibility, and need will be evaluated at the time of awarding. Awards will be viewable through the Financial Aid Web Advisor account. Funds will be issued by the Student Accounts & Cashiers Office.

Would HEERF III funding reduce my financial aid?

No, this fund does not negate nor replace financial aid.

How much money is available for each applicant?

The amount of HEERF III funding that institutions received varied based on the Department of Education's allocation formula. That means the amount of the emergency grants at Illinois Valley Community College will not be the same as at other colleges. Each institution is required to prioritize grants to students demonstrating exceptional financial need and must develop its own strategy for disbursing the funds to eligible students enrolled at their campus. Please be aware that these funds are limited and are not guaranteed.

At IVCC, HEERF III eligible students will be categorized into four Need Priority Groups.

- Need Priority Group #1: Students who have a \$0 EFC, a Pell award, and enrolled in 12 credits or more. Students in this group will receive the highest HEERF II award.
- Need Priority Group #2: Students who have a \$0 EFC, a Pell award, and enrolled in 11 credits or less. Students in this group will receive the second highest HEERF II award
- Need Priority Group #3: Students who have greater than \$0 EFC and a Pell award. Students in this group will receive a lower HEERF II award.
- Need Priority Group #4: Students who do not have a Pell award. Students in this group will receive the lowest HEERF II award.
 - A student may not have a Pell award for a variety of reasons, such as they never completed the verification process, they have too high of an EFC to qualify for Pell, or they've exhausted their Pell lifetime eligibility.

Final HEERF III award amounts for each Need Priority Group will be determined based on the number of students in each group and the total allocation of HEERF III funds for the semester.

I already received the HEERF I grant or HEERF II grant in a previous semester. Am I still eligible?

Yes, students who were already awarded a HEERF I grant or HEERF II grant in a previous semester may be eligible to receive additional HEERF III funds. Eligibility and enrollment for the current semester will be reviewed at the time of awarding.

How can I use the money?

The HEERF III grant should be used for:

- Any component of the student's cost of attendance (COA); or
- Emergency costs that arise due to Coronavirus, such as but not limited to tuition, food, housing, health care, mental health care, or child care.

When will I receive my HEERF II grant?

Spring 2021: Eligibility will be evaluated after September 1. Disbursements will begin in early September.

Will I receive the HEERF III grant even if I owe IVCC money?

Yes. If you are eligible for these emergency grants, you will receive the money even if you have current financial holds or owe IVCC money.

I completed my 2020-2021 FAFSA, but was not eligible to receive the Pell grant. Am I still eligible for HEERF III grant funds in Spring 2021?

Yes, assuming you meet all other eligibility criteria as well. Just because you were not eligible for the Pell grant does not mean that you will not be eligible for HEERF III funds.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

For general questions about the emergency grants, email

Financialaid@ivcc.edu

For questions about your eligibility for HEERF II Grants, email

Financialaid@ivcc.edu

For questions about the disbursement itself email Financialaid@ivcc.edu