

Student Share Report as of 3/31/2022

Message from President Wacker

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) are federal laws that provide money to students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

CRRSAA and ARP require that the money distributed to eligible students is 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 child care. We know that these have been challenging times, and we hope that these funds will assist you in your ability to continue and finish your degree and graduate.

Dr. Robbyn Wacker

President
St. Cloud State University

Overview

St. Cloud State University (SCSU) was approved to receive \$7,821,764 through the Federal CARES Act, \$7,821,764 through the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and \$24,017,850 through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). These three programs comprise the basis of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF). SCSU has completed a Certification and Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education which, among other requirements, assures that no less than 50 percent of these funds will be used to provide direct Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students impacted by the coronavirus and subsequent declaration of a National Emergency.

Distribution

In the quarter ending on March 31, 2022, St. Cloud State University distributed \$3,187,736 of American Rescue Plan (ARP) student share funding to 6,453 students through direct Emergency Financial Aid grants to students.

Since the original distribution of relief funding through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), St. Cloud State University has awarded Emergency Financial Aid Grants totaling \$19,895,533 to 8,004 students.

Eligibility

The ARP funding requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances, in awarding emergency financial aid grants to students. While all students enrolled after March 13, 2020 are eligible, priority will be given to students based on current guidance from the U.S. Department of Education who have emergency financial needs related to the pandemic.

Process

In February 2022, St. Cloud State University made a base distribution to all degree seeking students enrolled on a half time or greater basis (with the exception of those individuals employed by the Minnesota State System and receiving employee tuition waivers). Incremental increases to the base award were made according to an index using characteristics of demonstrated financial need, first generation status, state of residence, undeclared major, freshman or sophomore status, and having dependent(s).

During this quarter, St. Cloud State University continued to make ARP Emergency Grants to students through a brief, online application that was widely publicized. Eligible students who had expenses including items like tuition, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care were able to complete the application. These emergency funds could be applied directly to institutional charges on a student's account or disbursed directly to the student, based on the student's preference. Awards were made based on the order applications were received throughout the quarter.

Instructions and Guidance

Recipients of the February 2022 base distribution received an email message from President Wacker outlining the distribution process, indicating the specific amount the student would receive, advising students of the purpose of the funds, and providing information on additional resources available to assist students during the pandemic.