

## **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Quarterly Report – January 10, 2022**

Each HEERF participating institution is required to make public the following information:

### **Certification and Agreement**

Glen Oaks Community College has signed and returned the HEERF Certification and Agreement forms to the Department of Education. The College intends to use the student portion of HEER funds to make emergency financial aid grants available to students.

### **Total Amount of Funds**

GOCC received \$288,341 for the student portion of CARES/HEERF I and an additional \$288,341 from CRRSAA/HEERF II. Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), GOCC received an allocation of \$1,115,620 for a total of \$1,692,302 to be used for student emergency grant aid.

### **Amount of Emergency Aid Distributed**

The total amount of awarded grant funds for this quarterly reporting period was \$628,693.72.

### **Estimated Total Number of Students Eligible**

During this quarterly reporting period, 1067 students were eligible to receive emergency grant funds.

### **Number of Students Awarded Emergency Grants**

During this quarterly reporting period, 1067 students received emergency grants.

### **Methods for Determining Eligibility and Distribution of Funds**

The college followed the U.S. Department of Education (ED) guidelines to determine student eligibility for HEER funds. According to the ED, colleges and universities were required to prioritize grant funding to students with exceptional financial need, such as students who receive Pell grants. Students who did not receive Pell were still eligible for funding through an application process.

Based on the ED guidance, the committee elected to automatically block award grants for all Pell recipients. Pell students who did not apply for a grant received a block award amount (\$100-500) based upon their Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) level and enrollment intensity (number of contact hours enrolled). Pell recipients who completed the application process had

the opportunity to receive funds (\$150-1000) in addition to the block award. The combined award was based upon three categories: financial need on the FAFSA (EFC), financial need as described on the student's application, and enrollment intensity. Applicants who did not file a FAFSA and/or who did not qualify for Pell were awarded grants (\$150-1000) based upon application information and enrollment intensity.

All currently enrolled, post-secondary eligible students received a grant award in the amount of three contact hours of in-district tuition (\$378), which is equivalent to one three-contact hour course. Pell recipients who were block awarded as stated above, received this additional funding. All dual enrolled high school students received checks in the amount of \$150-350 to help defray costs of educational expenses not covered by school districts through the Michigan Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act. Award amounts for dual enrolled students were determined by number of credit hours enrolled.

Students had the option on the emergency grant application to elect whether they wanted the grants to be directly applied to their student account balance or whether they wanted a grant check mailed to the address on file with the college's Registrar's Office. Awards were transmitted to student account balances on October 20, 2021, and grant checks were mailed to post-secondary students on October 25, 2021. Dual enrolled high school students were transmitted funds on November 5, 2021, and checks were mailed on November 9, 2021.

### **Guidance Provided to Students**

On September 13, 2021, the Vice President of Student Services notified all students via their college email of the availability of, and eligibility requirements of, HEERF. Included in this email was a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to address the application process, award amounts, eligibility requirements, prioritization of funds, etc. Students were also notified that the HEER funds could be used toward any expenses associated with their cost of attendance, including tuition, textbooks, course materials, food, technology, housing, healthcare, transportation, childcare, etc. This communication was also posted on the [glenoaks.edu/coronavirus](http://glenoaks.edu/coronavirus) web page created specifically for COVID-19 related updates. Information was provided to local media outlets and was also posted on the college's social media accounts.

The VP of Student Services informed students via email that, after applications were reviewed and awards were posted, students could view the award amounts in MyGOCC, the student portal.

A letter accompanied the mailed grant checks with an overview of the HEER funds and a list of eligible expenditures for the funds. In this letter, the college's Business Office encouraged students to contact their local tax advisor for information on any tax implications regarding emergency funding.

Each grant applicant's and recipient's situation was evaluated individually based on the information provided in the student's application, on the FAFSA, and by enrollment intensity. GOCC maintained flexibility to determine the amount awarded to each student on a case-by-case basis.