

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Quarterly Report – October 10, 2021

On March 11, 2021, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III), authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, was signed into law. ARP/HEERF III provides \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 HEERF 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 \$1,083,500 for a total of \$1,660,182 to be used for student emergency grant aid since March 2020.

Amount of Emergency Aid Distributed

The total amount of awarded grant funds for this quarterly reporting period was \$58,314.52.

Estimated Total Number of Students Eligible

On August 20, 2021, the Textbook Assistance Grant Application was opened to assist currently enrolled, post high school students with the costs of textbooks and required supplies. Six hundred twenty-six (626) students were eligible to receive textbook assistance grants.

Number of Students Awarded Emergency Grants

During this quarterly reporting period, 215 students received emergency grants in the form of textbook assistance vouchers, and 120 students received reimbursements for textbooks and required supplies that had already been purchased for the Fall semester. Thirteen of the 335 students awarded received a combination of emergency grant funds in the form of a textbook voucher and reimbursement for textbooks and supplies already purchased.

Methods for Determining Eligibility and Distribution of Funds

To defray the costs of textbooks and required materials, the college allowed any post-secondary student currently enrolled in the Fall 2021 semester to apply for a textbook voucher or textbook reimbursement up to \$250. Because the need for textbook assistance is evident among our students, the Emergency Grant Committee opened textbook assistance grants to students prior to the start of Fall classes. Applications for textbook assistance opened on August 20, 2021. The deadline to apply was September 10, 2021, by 4:00 p.m.

Guidance Provided to Students

On August 20, 2021, the Vice President of Student Services notified all students via their college email of the availability of, and eligibility requirements of, the textbook assistance grants. Included in this email was a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to address the application process, award amounts, eligibility requirements, reimbursement process, etc. Students were also notified that any amount over \$250 dollars would be covered by the student. This communication was also posted on the glenoaks.edu/coronavirus web page created specifically for COVID-19 related updates.

The Oaks Store, owned by Follett, worked with the college's financial aid office to track textbook vouchers. The financial aid office evaluated receipts and approved requests for textbook reimbursements for the Fall 21 semester.