

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Quarterly Report – April 10, 2022

On March 11, 2021, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III), authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), 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 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 \$1,083,500 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 \$468,691.23.

Estimated Total Number of Students Eligible

During this quarterly reporting period, 1196 students were eligible to receive emergency grants.

Number of Students Awarded Emergency Grants

During this quarterly reporting period, 530 post-secondary students received HEERF dollars in the form of emergency grant checks and textbook assistance. Of the 530 students who were awarded grants, 357 students received additional funds for textbook assistance. Two hundred and eighty (280) of these students received textbook vouchers, 66 students received reimbursements for textbook costs, and 11 students received a combination of a voucher and reimbursement for required supplies and textbooks already purchased.

Methods for Determining Eligibility and Distribution of Funds

HEERF regulations require colleges to prioritize emergency grant funding to students with extreme financial need. Awards were determined by the student's expected family contribution (EFC) on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the number of contact hours enrolled. Students had the option to receive a grant in the form of a check or have the amount of the grant applied to their student account balance. Twenty-four (24) students elected to apply the grant to their account balances while 506 elected to receive grant checks.

To defray the costs of textbooks and required materials, the college allowed any post-secondary student currently enrolled in the Winter 2022 semester to utilize a textbook voucher or textbook reimbursement up to \$250. This amount was in addition to any emergency grant awards. The deadline to use the textbook assistance was January 30, 2022, by 4:00 p.m.

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 after the January 30, 2022, deadline.

Guidance Provided to Students

On December 6, 2022, the Vice President of Student Services notified all students via their college email of the availability of, and eligibility requirements of, textbook assistance grants for the Winter 2022 semester. Included in this email was a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to address the process, amount, eligibility requirements, and reimbursement process, etc. Students were also notified that they would be responsible for any amount charged over \$250 and any unspent amount under \$250 would not be refunded to the student. This communication was also posted on the glenoaks.edu/coronavirus web page created specifically for COVID-19 related updates.

On February 24, 2022, the Vice President of Student Services notified all students via their college email of the availability of, and eligibility requirements of, HEERF III. Included in this email was a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to address the award process, award amounts, eligibility requirements, and prioritization of funds, etc. Students were also notified that the emergency grants 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 posted on the glenoaks.edu/coronavirus web page created specifically for COVID-19 related updates.

The VP of Student Services also informed students via email that there would be no application process for grant funds during the Winter 2022 semester. Award amounts would be based upon a student's number of contact hours enrolled and the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Further, the message stated that students were not required to be Title IV financial aid eligible to receive emergency grant funds; those who did not submit a FAFSA would receive grant funding based upon enrollment intensity only. The message also stated that students who wished for the emergency grants to be applied to their outstanding balance were to contact the Financial Aid Office by Friday, March 4. All other awards would be issued by check to the address on file with the College's Registrar's Office.

Students were notified by email that they could view the award amounts in MyGOCC, the student portal. Awards were posted to student accounts on March 14, and grant checks were mailed to students on March 16, 2022. A letter accompanied the 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.

GOCC maintained flexibility to determine the amount awarded to each student on a case-by-case basis.