

## CARES Act, CRRSAA and American Rescue Plan

### **Catawba Valley Community College's Report on Funds Received under Section 18004(a)(1) and Section 18004(a)(2) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) to Provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students and Institutional Costs Related to the Pandemic**

(updated as of June 30, 2021)

The CARES Act, passed by the United States Congress March 27, 2020, set up the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) to benefit students and colleges all of whom have been hit with expenses related to the coronavirus pandemic. Allocations were made to colleges based on the size of the student body. Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) was allocated a total of \$2,684,824 for HEERF I. In addition The Higher Education Relief Fund II (HEERF II), CRRSAA, signed into law on December 27, 2020 allocated another \$5,420,817, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) authorized by the American Rescue Plan signed into law on March 11, 2021 allocated another \$8,833,850 for a total of \$16,939,491.

Under the federal legislation, a minimum of \$7,109,637 must be used to provide students emergency financial aid to help with expenses related to the disruption of pursuing an education due to the coronavirus. The remaining funds can be used to respond to the coronavirus threat and keeping staff and students safe while preserving the learning environment.

In order to be transparent to the public, CVCC will be making quarterly reports here about expenditures of these funds. Check back for up to date information.

CVCC is required to provide regular reporting to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on the use of funds authorized by the CARES, CRRSAA and American Rescue Plan Act. The information noted below is intended to not only meet the reporting requirements but also provide information to our community regarding CVCC's use of these funds.

#### **The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.**

CVCC has received \$7,109,637 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students and \$9,829,854 for Institutional Costs related to the response to the pandemic.

#### **The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students and utilized for Institutional costs.**

Emergency Student Financial Aid distributed for the quarter ending June 30, 2021: \$1,275,788

Institutional Costs Related to the Pandemic for the quarter ending June 30, 2021: \$1,230,168 has been spent to purchase personal protective equipment, remote healthcare training software, screen recording software, video creation software, Ethernet cables and switches, laptops, tablets, servers, headsets, batteries, dental hygiene suction system, temperature screening staff, supplies and equipment to continue the transition to virtual classrooms, and to replace lost revenue due to reduced enrollment.

**The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA (a)(4) Program.**

Catawba Valley Community College determined the students who are eligible for the HEERF II second amount of funding (CRRSAA). Requirements to distribute the money were not as stringent as the requirements for the first HEERF I amount of funding (CARES) that have now been fully distributed. CVCC has been allotted \$1,278,979 for CRRSAA funding.

One requirement of the CRRSAA funding was to prioritize those students with the most need. CVCC has chosen to classify those students receiving Pell grants as those with the most need. There are 1044 Pell recipients.

This leaves 2979 students who are non-Pell recipients. After removing the ineligible students, CVCC has 1524 students eligible for CRRSAA funds.

The methodology for distribution follows below:

As of April 5, 2021, CVCC has 4023 enrolled students. Of these 4023, Pell recipients are 1044. Of these 1044 Pell recipients, 519 are enrolled part time with fewer than 12 credit hours. The other 525 Pell recipients are enrolled full time with 12 or more credit hours. CVCC will distribute funds to each part time student in the amount of \$500 and to each full-time student in the amount of \$1000.

Of the 4023 enrolled students, there are 1524 students who did not receive Pell awards and who are ineligible students. We propose that these students receive CRRSSA funds totaling \$491,288 in as equal amounts as possible. These students have been numbered according to their student ID (smallest to largest) and 560 will receive \$323 and 964 will receive \$322.

This will expend \$1,275,788 of \$1,278,979 with \$3,191 remaining in contingency funding.

Exhibit 1 is the letter sent to eligible students included in the May 2021 disbursement.

The table below shows the itemized grant awards for the CRRSAA Program.

<b>Student Enrollment, Pell Status</b>	<b>Amount</b>
519 part time Pell @ \$500	259,500.00
525 full time Pell @ \$1000	525,000.00
560 non-Pell @ \$323	180,880.00
964 non-Pell @ \$322	310,408.00
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	1,275,788.00
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**CARES, CRRSAA Grant, and the American Rescue Plan (HEERF I & HEERF II & HEERF III) - Institutional and Strengthening Institutions Portion**

Federal Allocation: \$9,829,854

Institutional Costs Related to the Pandemic: \$1,230,168 has been spent for the quarter ending 06/30/21. [Click here](#) for the detailed report of expenditures as required by the U.S. Department of Education.



Dear CVCC Red Hawk,

You are eligible to receive a one-time student aid grant from Catawba Valley Community College through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II).

CVCC will begin distributing the student aid portion of the HEERF II in its entirety (\$1,278,979.00 in aggregate) to all 2568 eligible students on or before May 7, 2021. These grant funds will be direct payments to you for financial hardship expenses (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care) related to the disruption of on-campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds do not impact your current financial aid awards or any financial aid awarded to you in the future.

**You are not required to take any action to receive these grants.** You will receive this grant through the option that you chose previously to receive any financial aid awards.

CVCC is grateful to our partners at the U.S. Department of Education for making these grants available to you. HEERF II, which was authorized by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act), was signed by the President into law on December 27, 2020. The CRRSA Act created two separate formula-based grants for colleges and universities: one portion for the direct aid to students and the other focused on supporting institutional costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student eligibility for the CRRSA Act HEERF II student aid funding was determined by Catawba Valley Community College based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's CRSSA Act Certification and Agreement Section 314 (a)(1), HEERF II Student FAQs, and Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HES) of 1965, as amended. The maximum grant amount is based on the average dollar amount of expenses (such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and childcare) associated with the disruption of on-campus operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Student eligibility for the CRRSA Act student aid funding at CVCC was determined by the following:

- Students who submitted the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and were deemed eligible for Pell awarding and received Pell financial aid funding in Spring 2021 were prioritized as those in greatest need and were awarded \$500 for part time enrollment (fewer than 12 credit hours) or \$1000 for full time enrollment (12 or more credit hours) based on credit hours enrolled on April 5, 2021
- The remaining funding portion was awarded in either \$323 or \$322 amounts to students (excluding CCP, undocumented, DACA, or International classifications) who did not receive Pell financial aid

In addition to the financial support provided by the CARES Act, CVCC has taken several steps to help students during the pandemic.

- Students were provided updates on the CVCC web site in a section titled "Coronavirus Preparations & Updates" and students could call the CVCC-COVID 19 Hotline or email the CVCC-COVID 19 Virtual Hotline with questions and requests.
- Technology in the form of laptops, tablets, hot spots, and software was provided to many students upon request.
- Some funding was provided by the CVCC Foundation, Inc. to assist students with exceptional needs.
- All Spring curriculum students (except CCP students who had other communication) were called beginning on March 9 to check on how they were doing. For those we could not contact by phone, we sent emails to check on them.

Catawba Valley Community College is committed to assisting you now and in the future. More information will be provided as additional funding becomes available in the future.

Please let us know if you have additional questions by contacting the CVCC COVID-19 Hotline available on the CVCC website.

Carolyn D. Brandon  
Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid