

1. Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) acknowledges that the institution signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the U.S. Department of Education with the assurance that the institution has used, or intends to use, its full allocation of funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, including supplemental Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) II funds provided under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) under Section 314 (a)(1) and HEERF III (ARP(a)(1)) funds.
2. EWC received \$210,262 in HEERF II funds from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. EWC will also receive \$857,845 in HEERF III funds. This brings the total allocation of HEERF II and HEERF III funds for EWC for student aid to \$1,068,107.
3. EWC distributed \$206,450 of HEERF II Grants to students under Section 314(a)(1) of CRRSAA by June 30, 2021. Grants were distributed directly to students via paper check. The disbursements of the emergency grants were unencumbered by the institution; i.e., no amounts due to the institution were deducted from the grants, although students were informed of the option of authorizing application of part or all of the grant to outstanding institutional charges.

No funds from HEERF III have been distributed to students as of September 30, 2021 as a result of a cyber-attack in late June 2021. EWC is working closely with the Department of Education (DOE) to make these distributions feasible as soon as possible.

4. Approximately 415 degree- or certificate-seeking students were enrolled during the Spring and/or Summer 2021 semesters for HEERF II fund eligibility at EWC. Approximately 375 of those completed a FAFSA and demonstrated eligibility to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 by June 30, 2021. FAFSA information was used to determine "exceptional need," but after the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 Section (a)(1) removed non-citizen eligibility restrictions, additional students became eligible for HEERF funding. EWC required students to be enrolled in credit-bearing courses during the Summer 2021 semester in an EWC degree or certificate program to be considered for the latest round of HEERF II funds.

EWC has approximately 504 degree- or certificate seeking students enrolled during the fall semester 2021. As of September 30, 2021, no students have received HEERF III funds.

5. Two-hundred-ninety-nine (299) students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under Section 314(a)(1) of CRRSAA as of June 30, 2021.

No students received HEERF III (ARP) funds as of September 30, 2021.

6. EWC did not require students to complete an initial application to be considered for HEERF II grant funds. EWC prioritized students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) in the Pell-eligible range as determined by the 2020-2021 FAFSA for the majority of available funding. This allowed for simplicity and consistency in awarding, as well as to ensure the most students possible receive an appropriate amount of funds while prioritizing those with “exceptional need.” Five tiers of awards were established for awarding following the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 Section (a)(1) removed non-citizen eligibility restrictions. Grants for Summer 2021 were awarded by the following criteria:

**Tier 1:** \$1400 for full-time Pell-eligible students prorated for less-than-full time status.

**Tier 2:** \$1000 for full-time non-Pell-eligible students with an EFC of 5712 to 10000; prorated for less-than-full-time status.

**Tier 3:** \$800 for full-time non-Pell-eligible students with an EFC of 10001 to 15000 prorated for less-than-full-time status.

**Tier 4:** \$600 for full-time non-Pell-eligible students with an EFC of 15001 to 18000 prorated for less-than-full-time status.

**Tier 5:** \$400 for full-time non-Pell-eligible students with an EFC over 18000, non-FAFSA filers, and/or students not eligible for TIV funding prorated for less-than-fulltime status.

During the quarter ending 9/30/2021, EWC did not distribute HEERF III funds to students.

7. Information about the availability of funds and EWC’s awarding process was posted to EWC’s COVID-19 alerts page online. It was also emailed to currently enrolled students and a follow-up text was sent to the same students encouraging them to check their email or EWC’s website for information. An insert was included with grant checks explaining what the funds were, how it could be used, and provided instructions for how to apply for more funds if individual need exceeded the amount received. The insert also provided the option for students to authorize the use of all or a portion of the funds to offset an outstanding balance by returning the refund check with a signed and dated authorization slip, thus allowing them to opt in to using the funds to pay for account charges. A separate awarding code and process was used to apply the designated amount of funds to a student’s balance and ensure appropriate tracking for tax and accounting purposes.

Please note that EWC student email is the official method of communication for EWC students.