

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Distribution Information Report

Posted: January 10th, 2022

Section 314(e) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), Pub. L. No. 116-260, directs institutions receiving funds under Section 314 to submit (in a time and manner required by the Secretary) a report to the Secretary describing the use of funds distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEERF”). While ARP does not explicitly identify procedures by which institutions submit a report to the Secretary, the Department exercises this reporting authority under 2 CFR200.328 and 2 CFR 200.329. The Department encourages institutions to report as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the publication of this notice or 30 days after the date the Department first obligated funds under HEERF I, II, or III to the institution for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students, whichever comes later. The following information must appear in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public. This information must also be updated no later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter (September 30, December 31, March 31, June 30) thereafter, unless the Secretary specified an alternative method of reporting:

1. An acknowledgment that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Ocean County College signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement establishing its intent to participate in this program. The College intends to use the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

2. 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 under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

Ocean County College received \$8,227,874 in funding to be distributed among its applicants.

3. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

Ocean County College distributed \$8,227, 874.00 as of December 10th, 2021.

4. The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

Ocean County College estimates the number of students eligible to participate in the emergency grant program is 7,480.

5. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

As of December 10th, 2021, 4,703 students have been awarded Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

6. 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 and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.
 - **Ocean County College** formed a committee consisting of Ocean employees from various areas of the college.
 - All registered students who completed a FAFSA and met the definition of 'Financial Aid eligible' were reviewed. Those with an EFC of 0 were considered to have 'exceptional need' and were invited to apply first for the emergency funds. After the review and awarding of all the 0 EFC students, those with an EFC of 1-5500 were then invited to apply. Lastly, those with an EFC of 5500 or greater were provided with an online application. The application explains the process and encourages students to enroll in direct deposit.
 - For the Fall terms, the amount of eligible expenses that an eligible student requests for funding was funded up to maximum amounts of \$2,000 to full time students (12 credit hours or more) or \$1,000 to part time students (11 credits or less).
7. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
 - Instructions regarding the application process and funding were posted on the Ocean County College website at: <https://www.ocean.edu/federal-emergency-grants-for-students/>. Students were also informed of the availability of the application via Ocean Connect.
 - Students can also submit questions to caresact@students.ocean.edu. The email address is monitored daily and questions and/or concerns are promptly responded to.