

December 31, 2021

## HEERF I, II, and III Student Aid (P425E200115)

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2). The ARP appropriated approximately \$39.6 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Taken together, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub. L. 116-136), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), and the ARP represent HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III respectively.

Pierce College acknowledges it signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement, and gives the assurance that Pierce College has used no less than 50% of the funds received under the ARP to provide HEERF emergency relief funds to students.

1. Pierce College has been awarded \$12,059,163 for Emergency Financial Aid Grants from Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding HEERF I, II, and II, respectively.
2. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under HEERF I, II, and III as of December 31, 2021 is \$14,183,083.80, fully expending the College's HEERF Student Aid and disbursing an additional \$2,123,921 from the College's HEERF I, II, and III Institutional Portion.
3. The College had estimated that 7,000 students were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants from HEERF I, HEERF II, and HEERF III, respectively.
4. The methods used to determine which and how much students received Emergency Financial Aid Grants were as follows –

Students who are or were enrolled on or after March 13, 2020 were eligible for Emergency Financial Aid Grants from the HEERF, regardless of whether they completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) or were eligible for Title IV. Pierce College prioritized students with exception need.

In order to distribute funds quickly, a standard grant of \$2,000 was awarded to those students with the greatest financial need, who met Pell eligibility.

Students were encouraged to apply for Emergency Aid through the Pierce College Emergency Aid Application. These awards were based on the student's statement of need for funds to cover COVID-19 related expenses or expenses no longer covered due to a COVID-19 related loss of income. Award amounts varied based on the student's statement of need.

Pierce College also partnered with Edquity to help bring emergency grants and resources to students experiencing a financial crisis. With Edquity students were able to access funds via direct deposit or prepaid card.

As of December 31, 2021 Pierce College has awarded all HEERF I, II, and II Student Aid (P425E200115)