

# American Rescue Plan (ARP)

## Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Sec. 2003(a)(1) included additional COVID-19 relief for institutions of higher education was signed into law March 11, 2021. This new COVID stimulus bill included for higher education institutions and students, using the same Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) model established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Lakeland University has received funding as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) via the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). As required by law, a portion of these funds have been designated to be emergency financial aid grants to students with financial needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the ARP (a)(1) programs, student portion funds must be used to provide emergency financial aid grants to students which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

The ARP HEERF III funds require that 50% of an institution's funds be spent on student grants. In addition, the allowable uses of funds are nearly identical to the CRRSA HEERF II.

Lakeland University signed and agreed to the Certification and Agreement with the Department of Education on April 10, 2020. Lakeland University will use not less than \$2,468,861 (designated student portion of the grants) of the funds received under Section 2003(s) (1) of the Act CFDA 84.425E Allocation to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants that has been distributed to students under section 2003(a) (1) of the ARP Act as of the 30 days after the date of submissions is \$0 as of June 30, 2021. Verified as accurate on June 30, 2021.

Lakeland University has an estimated number of 2500 students at the institution eligible to participate in the program under section 484 in the Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 2003(a)(1) Lakeland University will identified students of exceptional need.

A final formula to define exceptional need and enrolled has not be determined as of June 30, 2021.

The FAFSA is the tool used to determine exceptional need. All students enrolled and/or eligible to enroll have been communication with via email and letter.

1. For summer eligibility, students must have FAFSA completed for the 2020-2021 Academic year by June 30, 2021. Eligible students will be reviewed in early July and funding will be available by the end of July for summer enrollees.
2. For fall eligibility, student will be given priority consideration for FAFSA's completed for the 2021-2022 academic year by June 30, 2021. Eligible students will be reviewed in August and finalized after the commence enrollment process is completed in September. Funding will be available in late September.
3. A pool of funds will be reserved for unique COVID related situations that occur. If there is funding left remaining after the fall term, it will be distributed to exceptional need students in January.

Lakeland University sent email communication and a letter sharing how a student can be considered for the ARP emergency grant funding. Lakeland will guide student through this process.