

12/31/2020

**Emergency Financial Aid Grants to ORU Students
CARES Act, CRRSA Act, ARP**

CARES Act: ORU signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement on April 10, 2020 and distributed all available funding to eligible students by October 9, 2020 and were reported as final in that quarter.

CRRSA Act: The US Congress signed the CRRSA Act December 21, 2020 and no distributions of funding have been made to universities at this time. In total, the CRRSAA authorities \$81.88 billion in support for education, in addition to the funds already made available through the CARES Act.

03/31/2021

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CRRSA Act: Created on December 21, 2020, the CRRSA act allocates additional funds through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) previously established by the CARES Act. Out of the \$22.7 billion allocated to the HEERF Fund previously established in the CARES Act, ORU's full allocation of these HEERF II funds is \$4,896,140 with a minimum of \$1,466,619 required to be distributed directly to students. As of March 24, 2021, ORU has released \$1,477,775 in direct grants to students attending spring 2021 on campus and online through HEERF II.

Grant funds were distributed to domestic, Title IV eligible students who experienced educational disruption due to COVID-19, enrolled during or after the Spring 2020 semester. The total number of students who met the criteria for CRRSA funding in Spring 2021 is 2,267 and funds were awarded to all eligible students. Funds were awarded in proportion to the educational impact of the cessation of on-campus instruction in Spring 2020 and prioritized by federal need as determined by the 2020-2021 FAFSA federal methodology. Awarded amounts range from \$150 to \$1,250 per student based on FAFSA EFC, campus residency, mode of instruction, and enrollment status (part time/full time). Eligible students were notified of fund processes via electronic mail on March 16, 2021 and given instructions to sign up for ACH distribution or to opt to receive funds as a physical check; grant funds may be used for any component of the 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. All available funds have now been disbursed.

ARP: American Rescue Plan: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021. At this time no distributions or notifications of available funding have been made to universities.

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CRRSA Act: All funds from the CRRSA Act (HEERF II) were distributed to eligible students by March 24, 2021 and are reported as final in the previous quarter.

ARP: ORU was allocated \$8,616,679 in total funding from the ARP HEERF III fund, with at least half (\$4,308,339.50) required to be directly distributed to students and the other half classified as institutional portion. The ORU HEERF Task Force determined that a minimum of \$4,405,844 in student funds from HEERF III would be distributed through 4 application phases, concluding in April 2022, representing 51.1% of ORU's total allocation. ORU will prioritize students in distribution of HEERF III funds by making the first distributions of these HEERF III funds to students before the draw down and allocation of ORU's Institutional Portion.

In accordance with the terms of ARP, a student who can receive an emergency aid grant is “any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in [34 CFR § 668.2](#)) at an eligible institution (as defined in [34 CFR § 600.2](#)) on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus ([85 FR 15337](#)),” and Title IV Aid eligibility is not a requirement. Applicants are not evaluated based on academic performance, continued enrollment, or balance owed to the University. Consistent with guidance issued by the USDE, ORU will prioritize domestic students, especially undergraduates, in allocating HEERF III funding. In compliance with ARP and USDE guidance, ORU has developed an application requiring students to demonstrate and document exceptional need. Students must certify that if awarded, the emergency grant will be used for any component of their 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 application includes a statement of need and requires supporting documentation for all funding requests. In evaluation, exceptional need includes: Student receives Pell grant, student receives state need-based aid, student qualifies for TANF, SNAP, or WIC, Student has faced significant unexpected expenses such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, medical emergency, food/housing insecurity; Devaluation of currency causing cost of living and/or attendance to become cost-prohibitive for non-domestic students, Undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances; students eligible for other federal or state need-based aid. Application phases are June 1- June 30th, July 15- August 31st, September 15th through December 15th, and January 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022.

The first application phase opened June 1, 2021 to students enrolled at ORU prior to July 1, 2021. Priority is given to students with demonstrated exceptional need based on federal methodology for the 2020-2021 FAFSA year, which concludes June 30, 2021. The estimated number of eligible students to apply in this application phase is 4,438. In this application period, 47 students have applied and received distribution totaling \$254,655.40

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CRRSA Act: All funds from the CRRSA Act (HEERF II) were distributed to eligible students by March 24, 2021 and are reported as final in that quarter.

ARP: American Rescue Plan: ORU was allocated \$8,616,679 in total funding from the ARP HEERF III fund, with at least half (\$4,308,339.50) required to be directly distributed to students and the other half classified as institutional portion. The ORU HEERF Task Force determined that a minimum of \$4,405,844 in student funds from HEERF III would be distributed through 4 application phases, concluding in April 2022, representing 51.1% of ORU's total allocation. ORU will prioritize students in distribution of HEERF III funds by making the first distributions of these HEERF III funds to students before the draw down and allocation of ORU's Institutional Portion.

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As of September 30, 2021 the first two application phases have awarded \$2,867,939 in funding directly to 736 enrolled ORU students in need out of 851 total applications.

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CRRSA Act: Funds from the CRRSA Act (HEERF II) were distributed to eligible students by March 24, 2021 and are reported as final in that quarter.

ARP: American Rescue Plan: ORU was allocated \$8,616,679 in total funding from the ARP HEERF III fund, with at least half (\$4,308,339.50) required to be directly distributed to students and the other half classified as institutional portion. The ORU HEERF Task Force determined that a minimum of \$4,405,844 in student funds from HEERF III would be distributed through 4 application phases, concluding in April 2022, representing 51.1% of ORU's total allocation. ORU will prioritize students in distribution of HEERF III funds by making the first distributions of these HEERF III funds to students before the draw down and allocation of ORU's Institutional Portion.

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As of December 31, 2021 the three open application phases have awarded \$3,486,803 in funding directly to 885 enrolled students in need out of 1,114 total applications.

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CRRSA Act: Funds from the CRRSA Act (HEERF II) were distributed to eligible students by March 24, 2021 and are reported as final in that quarter.

ARP: American Rescue Plan: ORU was allocated \$8,616,679 in total funding from the ARP HEERF III fund, with at least half (\$4,308,339.50) required to be directly distributed to students and the other half classified as institutional portion. The ORU HEERF Task Force determined that a minimum of \$4,405,844 in student funds from HEERF III would be distributed through 4 application phases, concluding in April 2022, representing 51.1% of ORU's total allocation. ORU will prioritize students in distribution of HEERF III funds by making the first distributions of these HEERF III funds to students before the draw down and allocation of ORU's Institutional Portion.

In accordance with the terms of ARP, a student who can receive an emergency aid grant is “any individual who is or was enrolled (as defined in [34 CFR § 668.2](#)) at an eligible institution (as defined in [34 CFR § 600.2](#)) on or after March 13, 2020, the date of declaration of the national emergency due to the coronavirus ([85 FR 15337](#)),” and Title IV Aid eligibility is not a requirement. Applicants are not evaluated based on academic performance, continued enrollment, or balance owed to the University. Consistent with guidance issued by the USDE, ORU will prioritize domestic students, especially undergraduates, in allocating HEERF III funding. In compliance with ARP and USDE guidance, ORU has developed an application requiring students to demonstrate and document exceptional need. Students must certify that if awarded, the emergency grant will be used for any component of their 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 application includes a statement of need and requires supporting documentation for all funding requests. In evaluation, exceptional need includes: Student receives Pell grant, student receives state need-based aid, student qualifies for TANF, SNAP, or WIC, Student has faced significant unexpected expenses such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, medical emergency, food/housing insecurity; Devaluation of currency causing cost of living and/or attendance to become cost-prohibitive for non-domestic students, Undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances; students eligible for other federal or state need-based aid. Application phases are June 1- June 30th, July 15- August 31st, September 15th through December 15th, and January 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022. Total estimated students eligible to apply is the total fall 2021 census enrollment for the University of 4,753.

As of March 31, 2022 the four open application phases have awarded \$4,405,844 in funding directly to 937 enrolled students in need out of 1,445 total applications. All available HEERF III funds have now been distributed to eligible applicants.