

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

## **Overview**

The American Rescue Plan (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. Bradley University received \$5,542,391 in funding for the ARP - HEERF III-student share.

HEERF III-student share is structured like the HEERF II program under the CRRSAA, in that institutions must prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, in awarding financial aid grants to students. Beyond Pell eligibility, other types of exceptional need could include students who may be eligible for other federal or state need-based aid or have faced significant unexpected expenses. Emergency financial aid grants may be used by students 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. Students determine how they may use their emergency financial aid grant within the allowable uses.

## **Details**

Bradley University has chosen a sliding scale based upon enrollment, the expected family contribution (EFC), and guidelines noted in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III Frequently Asked Questions provided by the U.S. Department of Education to prioritize students with exceptional need.

## **How will those students identified with exceptional need receive an emergency financial aid grant through HEERF III?**

Each Bradley University student receiving a HEERF III financial aid grant will be notified in an email from [cares@fsmail.bradley.edu](mailto:cares@fsmail.bradley.edu). The eligible student must acknowledge the need for a financial aid grant and opt in to receive it. To opt in, the student will click (<https://forms.gle/9qNfix8769dU57aCA>) and provide the requested information and electronic consent. Students must opt in by Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm. Once the student's electronic acceptance and consent is received, Bradley University will complete the HEERF III financial aid grant distribution process.

Students who select to have the HEERF III financial aid grant applied to their student account will see the grant amount added directly to their student account. Students who consent to receive a check will have the discretion to determine what costs should be covered with his or her financial aid grant funds. Checks will be mailed directly to the student at their home address of record.

## **What if a student does not receive an emergency financial aid grant through HEERF III but has an emergent need that may impact the successful completion of their Bradley University courses?**

If circumstances are impacting a student's success, Lydia's Promise provides limited emergency financial assistance to current Bradley students who are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses. Designated to off-set a short-term financial need, it is not intended to replace or supplement financial aid. Funds may be subject to federal and/or state taxes. Awards range up to \$600. Please visit <https://www.bradley.edu/offices/student/assets/documents/LydiaPromise.pdf> for more information.

**Does an emergency financial aid grant through HEERF III need to be repaid?**

No, funds received through ARP – HEERF III do not need to be repaid. The funds are designed to be a grant, not a loan.

**Would an emergency financial aid grant through HEERF III reduce a student’s financial aid?**

No, this fund does not negate nor replace financial aid and is a grant.

**Does a student need to report HEERF grant funding on their federal tax return?**

No. Emergency financial aid grants under the HEERF for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are not included in your gross income. Visit the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/higher-education-emergency-grants-frequently-asked-questions>.

For additional questions regarding the HEERF funds, please reach out to [cares@bradley.edu](mailto:cares@bradley.edu).