



## Report by University of Nebraska at Kearney Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Jan. 10, 2022

In order to comply with the reporting requirements for CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, the University of Nebraska at Kearney is providing the following information:

The University of Nebraska at Kearney has received \$5,695,342 in student grants through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). This report describes the status of those grants.

UNK identified students who were enrolled in summer semester of 2021 who were having difficulty paying their tuition and fees based on outstanding balances. The Director of Financial Aid in collaboration with the Student Accounts Manager awarded funds from the allocation received through the American Rescue Plan to assist these students with outstanding balances. Thirty-six students were awarded a total of \$44,709.20. Students were given the option of receiving the funds through a direct refund or authorizing application of the funds to their student accounts. This was done via email communication sent to the students through the student information system.

In the fall semester of 2021 the Associate Director of Financial Aid ran queries in the student information to identify eligible students enrolled in a degree program. The estimated number of eligible students is 5,952. Per guidance from the Federal Department of Education, priority recipients for these grants are those students who demonstrate significant need by receiving the Federal Pell Grant. The Office of Financial Aid identified 1,500 Federal Pell Grant recipients as of Sept. 24, 2021. Block grants were awarded, based on the number of eligible students and the amount of funds provided. Awards were based on the student's enrollment as follows:

- 1,344 Full-time Pell Grant recipients received \$1500 grants
- 72 Part-time Pell Grant recipients received \$1125 grants
- 60 Half-time Pell Grant recipients received \$750 grants
- 24 Less-than-half-time Pell Grant recipients received \$375 grants

Students who were not eligible for the Federal Pell Grant or those who did not apply for Federal financial aid or who were not eligible to apply for Federal financial aid were awarded grants based on enrollment status.

- 2666 Full Time recipients received \$950
- 672 Part-time recipients received \$750
- 317 Half-time recipients received \$550
- 797 Less-than-half-time recipients received \$300

Students were notified via email to their preferred email account of the grant and were given the opportunity to accept the grant in the student portal, MyBlue, to authorize release to their student account. The deadline for acceptance was October 5. Any students who did not accept their grants on MyBlue were then automatically refunded the award via the University's standard refund process.

Additionally, students can submit special circumstance requests directly to the Office of Financial Aid per the professional judgment policy:

[https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial\\_aid/special-circumstances.php](https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/special-circumstances.php).

ARP grants are provided to students in these cases when recommended by the Office of Financial Aid staff and approved by the Director.

As of Dec. 31, 2021, a total of 5,966 students have received student grants totaling \$5,634,257.45 through the ARP at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

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