



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

July 1, 2021

The University of Nebraska at Kearney has received \$1,962,983 for student grants through the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) act. Additionally, the University has received \$5,695,342 in student grants through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). This report describes the status of these grants.

On Feb. 17, 2021, the Office of Financial Aid notified 1,417 students of a \$500 grant disbursement from the CRRSA. These students were 2020-2021 FAFSA filers with an expected family contribution (EFC) of 5711 or less. These students had no outstanding balance due for spring semester to the University. The grant was refunded to students as direct payments.

Additionally, 470 students who are FAFSA filers with EFC's less than 5711 who currently held an outstanding balance with the University were notified of a grant award from CRRSA funds in the amount of \$500. Those students were given the choice of either receiving the \$500 grant in the form of a refund or applying it to the outstanding balance due on their student account. This was provided through a survey to which the students responded. Responses were processed accordingly by the Office of Financial Aid staff. This survey was available through Feb. 28. Students who did not respond to the survey received the grant as a refund. Total funds disbursed to students through this Phase I process is \$947,044.

In the University's second phase of distribution for these grants, all students who indicated on the application for admission U.S. citizenship and were enrolled for spring semester at least half-time were identified. The total was 4,507 students. These students were sent a survey to their preferred email address. The survey asked if the student incurred costs related to the pandemic. If the student responded yes, the survey asked the student if the grant should be applied to the student account or directly refunded. The survey was distributed on March 22, 2021 and was open through March 29, 2021.

2,089 responded with an indicator of financial impact related to COVID-19. 1,739 of the respondents are enrolled as full-time students and received a \$500 grant. 253 were enrolled part-time and received a \$375 grant. 97 students responding to the survey were enrolled half-time and received a \$250 grant. Total grant disbursements from this second phase are \$994,125.25.

To date, \$1,941,169.25 of CRRSA student grants have been distributed. \$21,813.75 remains.

Student grants allocated to the University of Nebraska at Kearney from the American Rescue Plan will be allocated beginning Aug. 23, 2021. University officials are in the process of determining a disbursement plan.

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

https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/special-circumstances.php

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

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Posted July 6, 2021 at unk.edu/coronavirus