



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

Oct. 10, 2021

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

As previously reported regarding the University's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund for July 1, 2021, \$21,813.75 remained from the CRRSA allocation. The University identified students who were enrolled in summer semester who were having difficulty paying their tuition and fees based upon outstanding balances. The Director of Financial Aid, in collaboration with the Student Accounts Manager, awarded the remaining funds from the CRRSA allocation, as well as additional funds from the allocation received through the American Rescue Plan, to assist these students with outstanding balances. 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 to the students through the student information system. As of this report, all \$1,962,983 for student grants from the CRRSA have been disbursed to students.

As of September 1, 2021, UNK had remaining \$5,647,103 in student grant aid available from the ARP. The Associate Director of Financial Aid queried the student information system to identify eligible students enrolled in a degree program. The estimated number of eligible students is 5,952. Per guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, priority recipients for these grants are those with demonstrated 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 upon the number of eligible students and the amount of funds provided.

Awards were calculated on the basis of the student's enrollment as follows:

- 1,344 Full Time Pell Grant recipients received \$1,500 grants
- 72 Part-time Pell Grant recipients received \$1,125 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 as well, based upon enrollment status:

2,666 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 of the grant via email to their preferred email account 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 provided in the email was Oct. 5. Any students who did not accept their grants on MyBlue were then automatically refunded the award via the University's standard refund process.

Total Funds disbursed from the ARP: \$5,631,114.20

Additionally, students may 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

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 Oct. 10, 2021 at unk.edu/coronavirus