

The American Rescue Plan (APR) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

Shasta College's Reporting for Student Portion of the APR/HEERF III Emergency Relief Fund (January 10, 2022)

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) was authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, and was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Shasta College received \$8,241,582 in emergency student aid funds (CFDA 84.425E Allocation) and \$7,469,413 in institutional funds (CFDA 84.425F Allocation). Allocation tables for all institutions in the United States receiving APR/HEERF III funds can be found [here](#).

Emergency financial aid grants to students are to be directly disbursed to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student's cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).

The Department of Education will provide instructions for providing the required information to the Secretary in the near future. In the meantime, each APR/HEERF III participating institution must post quarterly reports on how funds have been used on the institution's primary website.

- 1. The total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement [for] the Student Portion to be disbursed as Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.**

Section 2003(a)(1) of the American Rescue Plan allocated \$8,241,582 to Shasta College for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students in August 2021.

- 2. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students from APR/HEERF III funds as of the date of submission.**

As of January 10, 2022, \$2,981,854 has been distributed.

- 3. The estimated total number of students at the institution eligible receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students from the Student Portion of Shasta College's allocation of APR/HEERF III funds:**

Shasta College has decided to disburse funds to two separate student populations: students who are identified as "exceptional need" students using existing financial aid application data, and students who submit an Emergency Financial Aid Application citing an emergency financial need.

Shasta College elected to use data already available from submitted 2021-22 financial aid applications (Free Application for Federal Student Aid – FAFSA, and California DREAM Act Application – CADAA) to look for students with exceptional need and who were enrolled in at least three units. Additionally, students had to have "exceptional need" as identified by their eligibility for specific federal and state aid programs (see #5). The estimated number of potential eligible students was 2,772.

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Students not identified in this initial group may submit an [Emergency Financial Aid Application](#) to the Financial Aid Office; applications are reviewed weekly by the Interim Associate Dean for Student Services. Estimated number of students who may receive HEERF III/APR Student Emergency Funds are students registered in at least 3 units who were not initially awarded HEERF III/APR funds for Fall 2021. *Modified October 19, 2021: based on significant need communicated from students who were originally awarded funds, campus leadership allowed students who were in the initially identified group to also apply for additional funding using the Emergency Financial Aid Application.*

4. The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students from the Student Portion of the APR/HEERF III allocation.

As of January 10, 2022, a total of 2,875 unduplicated students have received funding, for an average award of \$1,037.17 each. 2,772 students were initially identified as eligible and received \$743.25 each in September 2021. Through the Emergency Financial Aid Application, an additional 103 students received \$745 each, and 1,134 of the original students received an additional \$745 each.

5. The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive from the Student Portion of the APR/HEERF III allocation.

Eligibility: Students who are enrolled in three (3) units or more as of the Census date for the term regardless of whether they completed a FAFSA or are eligible for Title IV. The college will prioritize students with exceptional need.

Using the list of students enrolled in three units, students are screened for exceptional need via the following criteria:

- Using FAFSA data to identify Pell-eligible students (highest need students per Federal guidelines, regardless of Satisfactory Academic Progress status),
- Using FAFSA and CADAA data to identify Cal Grant B students (highest need students per State of CA guidelines),
- Using FAFSA and CADAA data to identify Cal Grant students who also received Student With Dependents grant (student-parents have particularly struggled during the pandemic), or
- Using California College Promise Grant (CCPG) application data to identify CCPG-eligible students who were awarded CCPG based on Part A, B, or D eligibility descriptions:

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Part	Eligibility Description
Part A	Part A eligibility is for students receiving TANF/CalWORKs, SSI/SSP or General Assistance, as well as those identified under the Special Classifications categories. Eligibility for Part A is confirmed for independent students if the benefits are received by the student in his or her name and for dependent students if the parent(s) receive benefits as a primary source of income.
Part B	Part B eligibility is for students who meet low-income criteria. The income levels are adjusted annually and can be found here on the Chancellor’s Office website. In determining Part B eligibility, if an applicant for the CCPG is an independent student, only the applicant’s income and the income of his/her spouse or registered domestic partner is counted. If the student is a dependent student, only the student’s parent(s)’ income and the income of the parent’s registered domestic partner is counted.
Part D	Part D eligibility is for students who, at the time of enrollment, is a homeless youth as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and are under 25 years of age.

Students who are not identified through this process, but are enrolled in at least 3 units and have an emergency financial situation are able to submit an Emergency Financial Aid Application and request up to \$745. *Modified October 19, 2021: based on significant need communicated from students who were originally awarded funds, campus leadership allowed students who were in the initially identified group to also apply for additional funding using the Emergency Financial Aid Application.*

Shasta College leadership allocated APR/HEERF III funds as follows for the period covering Fall 2021 – Fall 2022 (unused funds each term would rollover to the following term, with a final expenditure date of December 31, 2022):

- Fall 2021:
 - Financial Aid application data identified student awards: \$2,060,396
 - Emergency Financial Aid Application student awards: up to \$921,565
- Spring 2022:
 - Financial Aid application data identified student awards: \$3,199,333
 - Emergency Financial Aid Application student awards: up to \$412,079
- Summer/Fall 2022 (*assuming that we are allowed a no-cost extension in Spring 2022; otherwise, all funds will be expended by May 22, 2022*)
 - Financial Aid application data identified student awards: \$1,236,237
 - Emergency Financial Aid Application student awards: up to \$412,079

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6. Any instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

In addition to the communications reported in the October 10, 2021 report, students also received the following communications:

On November 29, 2021, the following email was sent to the 2,772 original recipients:

Subject: Apply by 12/1/21 for Available Financial Aid Emergency Aid Funds

Dear (student name),

If you still need emergency funds, we would like to encourage you to apply for up to \$745 through the Shasta College Financial Aid Emergency Student Aid Request Form:

<https://www.shastacollege.edu/covid-19/federal-covid-stimulus-funds/emergency-aid-application/>

Forms submitted by 5:00 pm Wednesday, December 1st will ensure that you receive funds by mid-December. You can still submit a request form after December 1st, but requests received after 12/1 may not be paid out til January, so please apply ASAP.

Earlier in the fall, you were informed that if you had already received COVID Emergency Student Aid for Fall 2021, you could not submit an additional request. Our campus has since modified that policy, and we would like to encourage you to apply for additional funds.

If you have questions, please reach out to us at financialaid@shastacollege.edu or 530-242-7719.

Sincerely,

Financial Aid Office

Shasta College

PO Box 496006

Redding, CA 96049-6006

www.shastacollege.edu/fa

PCEX: F21EMAID

On December 3, 2021, the following email was sent to students who submitted an Emergency Student Aid Request Form and who were approved for additional funding:

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Subject: Additional \$745 in Emergency Funds Coming to You on 12/10/21

Dear (Student First Name Last Name),

Thank you for submitting a Financial Aid Emergency Student Aid Request Form earlier this week. You have been approved for \$745 of emergency aid funds. Your MyShasta - My Award Package will reflect these additional emergency funds as a revised amount for your "COVID APR Student Emergency Aid" award for Fall 2021.

If you need assistance with any of the following, there are additional resources for:

**Rental assistance: look into the California COVID Rent Relief program:*

https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/

**Food: apply for CalFresh. The Shasta County Office of Education office has a staff member who can help you with the application. Apply now by calling Jilmarie Bentley at 530-225-0182 or <https://bit.ly/getcalfreshscoe>*

**Childcare: if your income has reduced, reach out to Shasta County Early Childhood Services to see if you qualify for subsidized child care: <https://www.shastacoe.org/instructional-services-division/early-childhood-services-department>*

**Financial Aid Appeal: if your income has significantly reduced in 2021, you can submit an appeal for Professional Judgement for EFC/Income Adjustment based on your current financial situation. This process is outlined on the Shasta College Financial Aid Website under "Forms for Students" and the "Appeals" section: www.shastacollege.edu/fa*

Notes about these emergency funds:

Per federal legislation, the college cannot use these funds to pay any outstanding balance you may owe the college. The funds will disburse directly to you.

We will use BankMobile to disburse the funds (unless you requested on the Emergency Aid Application to receive the funds by check). If you have not set up your BankMobile refund choices before, please go to <https://www.shastacollege.edu/cost-financial-aid/disbursement-schedule/> and select "Refund Choices." If you do not set up your BankMobile Refund Choices, you will be paid via check, and it may take 4-6 weeks for the check to be mailed to you.

More information about these funds are available online at:

<https://www.shastacollege.edu/covid-19/federal-covid-stimulus-funds/>

Additionally, the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) legal counsel indicated that although these funds provide cash assistance to students, they are intended to defray costs related to the current public health emergency and are not "income

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maintenance." Therefore, these funds are not considered a "public benefit" for public charge purposes. If you are concerned about potential public charge consequences, please consult with an immigration attorney.

If you have additional questions, contact the Shasta College Financial Aid Office at financialaid@shastacollege.edu or 530-242-7650.

Sincerely,

Shasta College Financial Aid

11555 Old Oregon Trail

PO Box 496006

Redding, CA 96049-6006

530-242-7650

www.shastacollege.edu/fa

PCEX: COVD3DEC

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Students who submitted an Emergency Financial Aid Application were notified via email that their online application was processed and provided a link to their online application so they could see the decision. An example of the application is included below:



Shasta College Admissions and Records/Financial Aid
PO Box 496006 Redding
CA 96049-6006

Fall 2021 Financial Aid Emergency Student Aid Request Form

Student Information:

Student ID:	<input type="text"/>	Student Email:	<input type="text"/>
Student First Name:	<input type="text"/>	Student Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Street Address:	<input type="text"/>	City:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text"/>	Zip Code:	<input type="text"/>
Best Contact Number:	<input type="text"/>		

Please update my email, phone, or address with this information if Shasta College's records have older information.

* -- Please Select --

Statement of Understanding:

Please read and confirm the list of items outlined below.

- * I understand that if I have already received a COVID Emergency Student Grant in Fall 2021 (coded as COVID2 – CRRSAA, or COVID3 – APR on my 2021-22 financial aid award letter), I am not eligible to receive an additional COVID Emergency Student Grant in Fall 2021.
- * I understand that there will be separate emergency grant possibilities in future terms for which I may be eligible or submit an application.
- * I understand that the process to apply for an emergency grant through the Shasta College Foundation's Survive and Thrive is a separate process, and that may be an option for me. www.shastacollege.edu/Foundation
- * I understand that any communication related to this award will come to the email entered on the form above. Email communications will come from: financialaid@shastacollege.edu
- * The Financial Aid Office will make every effort to review this application within a week of receipt from the student.

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Student Questions:

Question #1.

Have you experienced a loss or reduction of employment or other income since March 13, 2020?

* -- Please Select -- ▾

Question #2:

Have you experienced financial hardship due to a natural disaster since March 13, 2020? (fire, weather damage, pandemic etc.)

* -- Please Select -- ▾

Question #3:

Please describe your housing:

* -- Choose -- ▾

Question #4:

Between March 13, 2020 and August 30, 2021, my household experienced (please check all that apply) due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Lost employment (I or a member of my household)
- Reduced Income
- Food Insecurity
- Housing Insecurity

Please explain your household's situation:

*

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Question #5:

I need help with paying for (please check boxes next to all which apply):

- Groceries
- Utilities (including WiFi)
- Essential Household Items
- Rent
- Class Materials (ex: textbooks, laptop, required uniform, etc.)
- Healthcare
- Clothing
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Other

Question #6:

If I receive an award, I would prefer to receive it by:

* -- Please Select --

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. Emergency financial aid grants are not considered taxable income.

Shasta College may not (1) condition the receipt of emergency financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the institution, (2) use the emergency financial aid grants to satisfy a student's outstanding account balance, unless it has obtained the student's written (or electronic), affirmative consent, or (3) require such consent as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for the emergency financial aid grant. The College has established no minimum GPA, no academic or athletic performance or good standing requirements for these funds.

* (click to sign)

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Financial Aid Office Staff Use Only:

Reviewed: * -- Please Select -- Application Outcome: * -- Please Select --

Amount Approved: * _____

Payment Method: -- Please Select --

Staff Notes:

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An example of the Emergency Financial Aid Application approval information of a processed form is below. The “Staff Notes” always included whether funds would be sent through normal financial aid disbursements methods – BankMobile – or via check, and additional messages would be added as appropriate. The additional messages could include information about submitting a 2021-22 financial aid application, submitting an EFC/Income Adjustment appeal, looking into the California COVID Renters Relief program, or other referrals as appropriate.

Financial Aid Office Staff Use Only:

Reviewed: * Application Outcome: *

Amount Approved: *

Payment Method:

Staff Notes:

You can expect to see these funds disbursed on October 22, 2021 through BankMobile.

I would like to encourage you to submit an appeal for Professional Judgement for EFC/Income Adjustment due to your current financial situation. This process is outlined on the Shasta College Financial Aid Website under "Forms for Students" and the "Appeals" section: www.shastacollege.edu/fa

Financial Aid Staff
Signature

Electronically signed by Buffy Tanner on 10/06/2021 6:11:16 PM