

HEERF Quarter 1, 2022 Report for Student allocations for Meridian Technology Center

Meridian Technology Center has signed and returned a Certification and Agreement with the Department of Education to accept allocated funds from the CARES Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117.2. The agreements assured that Meridian will use no less than 50 percent of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

The CRRSAA and ARP Act's established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide emergency financial aid grants. These critical funds help eligible Meridian students to cover expenses related to unanticipated travel, additional technology requirements, or other needs related to an emergency situation.

As of **March 31, 2022**, Meridian Technology Center has received a total of \$801,838.00 in allocated funds intended for Emergency Grants to Students. \$799,563.39 of these funds have been disbursed to **adult students** enrolled in our full-time programs and certain short-term programs that lead to a certification.

The total number of students eligible to receive these funds has varied during each school year, based on enrollment and other factors that were chosen by Meridian to meet the specific guidelines at that time. Each student that met the requirements were reviewed before awarding. Therefore, each student that became eligible was awarded an emergency grant. Please see the individual numbers, amounts and methodology used for determining these in the sections below.

❖ As of March 31, 2022

Funds received: \$801,838

Funds distributed: \$799,563.39

Estimated Number of unduplicated students eligible: 354

Estimated Number of unduplicated students who've received funds: 354

HEERF 1 CARES Act Student Funding

Funds received: \$151,397

Funds distributed: \$151,397

Number of students eligible: 129

Number of students who've received funds: 129

Meridian created an online application process using a Google Form submission for students to apply for Emergency Grants. We made it available through this page on our website.

<https://meridiantech.edu/cares-act-information/> . We have since taken off the Google Form and are updating the information, as needed.

The following email was sent to our students through mass notification.

"Meridian Technology Center has received an allocation of funding from the Department of Education, to disburse Emergency Student Grants, based on the CARES Act. This funding has been provided to Meridian to make available for our currently enrolled adult students in a full-time program. If you feel that you have been economically impacted or have financial hardship related to COVID-19, or if you are needing assistance with further supplies needed as a result of our blended learning schedule, this grant may be for you. Students must meet all Title IV eligibility criteria. I will review each application and make sure that the student is enrolled in an eligible program, they are registered with Selective Service (if male), that they do not have any previous loans or Pell Grants in default or overpayment and that they meet other criteria required.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have related to this emergency assistance grant. There is also further information available through our application webpage. <https://www.meridiantech.edu/cares-act-information/>. This assistance is to help students with technology, food, housing, childcare, and other expenses they have related to COVID-19 or our blended learning schedule as a result of COVID.

We are required to disburse these funds to eligible students directly. Therefore, none of this funding would be going toward any tuition owed at Meridian."

We determined the amounts to award based on the student's enrollment status. Full-time received \$1,058.00 and Half-time received \$529.00. We had a total of 7 disbursements, based on incoming applications, that totaled the first student portion allocation of HEERF funding, \$151,397.00. We disbursed checks to each student awarded and had them sign a disbursement report. In order to minimize over awarding individual students, we placed a cap on the total award amount each student could receive to equal the full Pell award amount for that year of \$6,195.00.

HEERF 2 American Rescue Plan Student Funding

Funds received: \$151,397

Funds distributed: \$151,397

Number of students eligible: 102

Number of students who've received funds: 102

For the second allocation of HEERF 2 funds, we continued to have students submit the Google Form application. We did prioritize our Pell students by offering \$100.00 more in the award. We determined the award amounts based on need. If students had submitted a FAFSA and were Pell eligible, they received \$1,100.00. All other applicants received \$1,000.00. Students were also eligible to request for a portion of their current semester tuition to be paid using these funds. We required students to complete a request form if they wanted any portion of tuition to be paid.

HEERF 3 American Rescue Plan Student Funding

Funds received: \$499,044

Funds distributed: \$496,769.39

Number of students eligible: 308

Number of students who've received funds: 308

Based on the eligibility requirement changes for students to receive these funds we chose to no longer require an application for our career-major students, but did have short-term students apply through a Google Form application. We have completed 2 disbursements to adults in our full-time career majors and 1 disbursement to adults in certification short-term programs.

Disbursements to students in full-time career major-

Meridian verified an enrollment report for all adult students enrolled in a full-time career major as of September 29, 2021 for fall and March 10, 2022 for spring, to be eligible. Students were sent a mass notification alerting that an amount would be awarded to them. They were given the option to request an amount in tuition to be paid first, with written authorization.

Fall disbursement- Meridian chose to stay with our prior award amounts and prioritized our Pell students by awarding \$100.00 more to Pell eligible students. The Pell students received \$1,100.00 and all other students received \$1,000.00. We were required to advertise the option students have for professional judgement to their FAFSA's. We did so by using the following statement in our mass notification emails to students, posting to social media, as well as posting on our COVID funding information page.

"Professional Judgement Options

Due to the impact that COVID-19 has had on many individuals' incomes over the past two years, the Department of Education is requesting we advertise the option students have for a Professional Judgement to their current or future FAFSA. **If you or your parents have had a decrease or loss of income over the past two years, please inquire about a professional judgment to the income on your FAFSA** with Ashley in Financial Aid. If you meet the criteria, this could allow for **Pell Grant eligibility**, even if you have been told you are not eligible or have not been eligible in the past."

Spring disbursement- Meridian chose to finalize the amount needed for a disbursement to short-term programs and was able to divide the remaining student HEERF amongst our enrolled career-major students as of March 10, 2022. We still prioritized our PELL students by awarding them more than non-PELL students. Pell students received \$1,000 and non-PELL received \$966.07.

We also continued our notifications for the option of professional judgements during the spring disbursement.

Disbursement to students in short-term programs-

For our short-term students, Meridian emailed a notification to students in specific programs that lead to a certification. We recognized that these students had a need for further training or training to start a new career that may have been from employment loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students had a deadline to submit a Google Form application, Meridian's financial aid officer verified they were enrolled in an eligible program. These students were awarded 50% of their program tuition cost. Each being different, depending on the total program cost.

Updated as of 03/31/2022