

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund: CRRSAA and ARP

October 12, 2021

Introduction

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (“A-B Tech”) is required to provide regular reporting to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on the use of funds authorized by the CRRSAA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021) and ARP (American Rescue Plan) Acts. It should be noted that the Department of Education issued clarification in its’ ARP Frequently Asked Questions document published May 11, 2021. The Department stated that, **“Each report is separate for the calendar quarter reporting period and not cumulative.”** The information noted below is intended to not only meet the reporting requirements of these two acts, but also provide information to our community regarding A-B Tech’s use of the student grant portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) during quarter ended September 30, 2021.

Acknowledgment of Funding and Certification

A-B Tech acknowledges that the institution’s authorized representative signed and returned to the Department of Education the Recipient’s Funding Certification and Agreement to Students under the CARES Act. Institutions who received funds under the CARES Act were not required to submit an application to receive funds under the CRRSAA or ARP acts. As part of these programs, the Department of Education calculated the amounts for emergency relief funds for students.

Award Information

Grant Award Number: P425E204686

Title: CRRSAA and ARP Acts: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund A-B Tech (Student Portion)

Budget Period: 06/18/2020 - 06/07/2022

Cumulative Award Amount: \$8,323,935

CFDA: 84.425E

Student Eligibility Determination

Fall Semester 2021

The total number of A-B Tech students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs, was determined by the A-B Tech Financial Aid Office to be 4,200. This is based on the number of **curriculum** students who meet the eligibility requirements, which are as follows:

- Eligible to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Enrolled at A-B Tech for Fall Semester 2021 by October 29th; and
- Complete an application for assistance.

Fall Semester 2021 (continued)

For Continuing Education programs, amounts awarded in the quarter ended September 30, 2021 pertain to any classes commencing since July 1, 2021. The total number of students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is 168. This amount was the number of applications submitted as of September 30, 2021. Eligible students are individuals who have been referred to a case manager for possibly being financially disadvantaged by:

- Continuing Education and Workforce Development registration staff;
- Other departments; and
- Coordinators within the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Division.

After completion of an application requesting assistance, a case manager will conduct an intake session interview and apply professional judgement to provide awards for tuition and fees. Additionally, those that demonstrate the most exceptional need, an additional amount may be awarded to cover the cost of required uniforms.

Distribution Methodology

Fall Semester 2021

The Student Portion of the HEERF funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students has or will be offered through four distinct methods:

- Fixed amounts for curriculum students - Amounts will be distinguished between Pell-eligible vs non-Pell-Eligible students and tiered amounts based on the number of credit-hours of enrollment. Specific amounts have not been determined or awarded as of the reporting date for the Fall 2021 semester.
- Variable amounts for curriculum students – After completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), amounts awarded were and are being based on the cost of tuition and fees that are not being supported by other awards. Amounts awarded have been limited to \$1,500.00 per student.
- Variable amounts for curriculum students – Awards are being provided for two circumstances. One of which is for those that have a past-due balance from Summer semester 2021, due to coronavirus-attributable circumstances, and of which an enrollment hold is preventing the students from enrolling in Fall semester 2021. Also, amounts have been awarded for books and supplies to those that demonstrate a financial need due to the coronavirus.
- Variable amounts for Continuing Education and Workforce Development students – amounts awarded are determined on a case-by-case basis by a case worker utilizing professional judgement. Amounts awarded do not exceed the cost of tuition and fees.

Funds Distributed to Date

The total amount of funds that A-B Tech received from the Department pursuant to A-B Tech's Certification and Agreement for the CRRSAA and ARP programs for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students was \$8,323,935. As of September 30, 2021, \$2,615,130.55 had been successfully received by students. The total amount of funds distributed during the quarter ended September 30, 2021 was \$846,269.55. Also, funds totaling \$69,485 were made available for redistribution from Spring Semester 2021 for awards that were assigned to students of whom sufficient contact information was

not provided to the college, thus checks were returned as undeliverable.

Total Student Awards Made

Awards related to the Summer and Fall Semesters of 2021 were successfully deposited or checks issued to 1,072 students. Prior awards for the Spring Semester of 2021 for 231 students were returned as undeliverable. The amounts determined as undeliverable will be redistributed as emergency financial aid grants to students.

Communication to Students

The following communication is posted on the A-B Tech website:

A-B Tech Trailblazer Promise for Fall 2021 Semester

There has never been a better time to attend A-B Tech! Students who enroll for the Fall Semester are eligible to receive up to \$1,500 to cover tuition and fees for fall classes. Due to popular demand and ample federal COVID-19 emergency relief funding, the Trailblazer Promise will be available for Fall late-start classes and the deadline to apply has been extended until October 29. Late-start classes begin October 20.

YOU MUST complete the following steps before you begin fall classes:

- Complete 2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#))
- Apply for admission and complete residency determination through the [NC Residency Determination Service \(RDS\)](#).
- Register for at least 1 credit hour in any curriculum program. (unclassified and/or visiting students are eligible)
- Accept the [Trailblazer Promise agreement](#)
- You may bring the form to Financial Aid Office or upload it to the [Financial Aid Dropbox](#).

Relevant information:

- Awards will cover tuition and fees up to \$1,500.
- Students enrolled in fall classes may be eligible for additional grants that may be used to cover expenses, such as childcare, technology, and transportation costs.
- DACA/Undocumented and out-of-state students for tuition purposes are eligible.
- [Paper FAFSAs](#) will be available for students who are unable to file electronically due to not having a social security number.
- Continuing education students will be assisted with other federal relief funds.

If you need assistance, email financialaidoffice@abtech.edu