Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund: CRRSAA and ARP

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 March 31, 2022.

(1) 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 apply 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.

(2) 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

(3) Funds Distributed to Date

As of March 31, 2022, Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students total $8,323,935 from the **Student** Portion and $14,178 from the **Institutional** Portion under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs.

The total amount of funds distributed during the quarter ended March 31, 2022, was $3,443,614 from the **Student** Portion and $14,178 from the **Institutional** Portion under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs.

(4) Student Eligibility Determination

Spring Semester 2022

The total number of A-B Tech **Curriculum** students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students was 3,940. 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)
- Registered for at least one credit hour at A-B Tech for Spring Semester 2022 and;

      o   was currently enrolled as of January 31 to receive a block grant

      o   or submitted an application for assistance during the quarter ended March 31, 2022.

For **Continuing Education** programs, amounts distributed in the quarter ended March 31, 2022, pertain to any classes commencing since July 1, 2021. The total number of students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students was 67. This amount was the number of applications submitted during the quarter ended March 31, 2022. Eligible students were individuals who had been referred to a case manager for 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 conducted an intake session interview and applied professional judgement to provide awards for tuition and fees. Additionally, for those that demonstrated the most exceptional need, an additional amount may be awarded to cover the cost of required uniforms and supplies.

(5) Students Received Emergency Financial Aid Grants

For the quarter ended March 31, 2022, a total of 3,864 students received Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) programs.

(6) Distribution Methodology

Spring Semester 2022

HEER funds for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students were offered through **four** distinct methods:

- Fixed block grants for curriculum students - Amounts were distinguished between Pell-eligible vs non-Pell-Eligible students and tiered amounts based on the number of credit-hours of enrollment. The amounts that were distributed were as follows: $950 for Pell-eligible students enrolled in greater than or equal to 12 credit-hours, $700 for Pell-eligible students enrolled in less than 12 credit-hours, $700 for non-Pell-eligible students enrolled in greater than or equal to 12 credit hours, and $550 for non-Pell-eligible students enrolled in less than 12 credit hours.

- Variable amounts for curriculum students – After completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and application for assistance, amounts awarded were based on the cost of tuition and fees that were not being supported by other awards. The amounts awarded were limited to a maximum of $1,500.00 per student.

- Student Emergency Program – variable amounts awarded to students who submitted applications for financial assistance through the Student Emergency Program. Amounts awarded were determined on a case-by-case basis.

- Variable amounts for Continuing Education and Workforce Development students – amounts awarded were determined on a case-by-case basis by a case worker utilizing professional judgement.

(7) Communication to Students

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

A-B Tech Trailblazer Promise for Spring 2022 Semester

There has never been a better time to attend A-B Tech! Students who enroll for the Spring Semester are eligible to receive up to $1,500 to cover tuition and fees for spring classes. The deadline to apply for the Spring semester is March 8 (Fall term Trailblazer applicants are exempt from this step).

YOU MUST complete the following steps before you begin spring 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.

If you modify your course schedule after being awarded, please notify the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible at financialaidoffice@abtech.edu so they can adjust your award if necessary.

Relevant information:

- Awards will cover tuition and fees up to $1,500.
- Students enrolled in spring 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

Communication to Students cont'd

Additionally, the following email communication was issued to all curriculum students:

You are receiving this e-mail because you have been awarded funding from the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the ARP act.
You are receiving this award because you were a curriculum student enrolled in an eligible program on January 31, 2022.

This award may be used for any component of your 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 expenses. A-B Tech will not require you to submit receipts or other documentation of how you spend your funds. The full details of your award are available in your Financial Aid Self-Service account.

If you have not, you can select your refund preference by following these instructions:

1. Go to RefundSelection.com
2. Get Personal Code

    a) In the middle of the page select "Need a Code?"
    b) Enter School Name Exactly As Follows:
        Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
    c) Enter your student ID
    d) Enter you student email address
    e) Continue
    f) The code will be emailed to your student email address

3. Go back to RefundSelection.com
4. Enter Personal Code
5. Create your login information
6. Select how you would like to recieve your money
7. Complete your profile

If you ultimately do not claim your award by May 1, 2022, the money will be returned to A-B Tech for redistribution to other students.
Please contact the A-B Tech Business Office with any questions you may have: BusinessOffice@abtech.edu

Thank you,
AB Tech Business Office