



**BENEDICTINE COLLEGE
HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND III
STUDENT AID REPORT
March 31, 2022**

This notice serves as the public report for the student support grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III through the American Rescue Plan Act. As of March 31, 2022, Benedictine College has distributed \$1,880,020.00 in the form of direct cash grants to eligible students through HEERF III.

Benedictine College signed and returned the Recipient's Funding Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Benedictine College received a total allocation of \$3,760,587.00 from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III. Benedictine College will direct \$1,880,293.00 for institutional support and \$1,880,294.00 for student support in the form of direct cash grants. As of March 31, 2022, Benedictine College has distributed \$1,880,020 in direct cash grants to eligible participants and has \$274 remaining to distribute to eligible students from HEERF III.

Benedictine College has now distributed a total of \$3,300,516.00 to students in direct cash grants from HEERF I, II, and III.

HEERF III STUDENT SUPPORT

As of March 31, 2022, Benedictine College has distributed \$1,880,020.00 in direct cash grants to eligible participants. Benedictine College created three methods to distribute the funds. The first method was a block grant distribution totaling \$861,294.00. Benedictine College identified 540 eligible recipients and distributed HEERF III funds to these students. The second method was an emergency grant application process with a distribution of \$982,426.00 to 501 students. A third method of distribution was created to allow the Office of Financial Aid the ability to provide HEERF III funds directly to students who reported financial hardship. Benedictine College distributed \$36,300 to students through this process.

Method to determine student support awards

Benedictine College estimates that 2,125 students were eligible for consideration of HEERF III emergency student relief funds.

Benedictine College followed the federal guidelines to “prioritize students with *exceptional need*, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances in awarding emergency financial aid grants to students.”

Further, consideration was given to those who “have faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, or food or housing insecurity.”

Benedictine College created three methods to distribute the funds. The first method was a block grant distribution totaling \$861,294.00. The second method was an emergency grant application process with a distribution of \$982,426.00. The final method was a financial hardship appeal through the Office of Financial Aid with a distribution of \$36,300.

The block grant was distributed to 540 students in increments of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$877 based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC). To distribute the funds to those with exceptional need, the funds were directed to those with an \$20,000 EFC or below. The largest portion (\$679,000.00) of the distribution was delivered to those with an EFC of \$5,794 or below. The recipients were notified of the block grant and were required to complete a distribution authorization form.

Amount distributed and number of students who received funds through the block grant process.

HEERF III Student Support Block Grant Recipient Summary			
EFC Range	Number of Recipients	Max Amount	Sum
Pell Grant Eligible	355	\$2,000	\$679,000.00
EFC <20K	185	\$2,000	\$182,294.00

Total	540		\$861,294.00
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The second method of distribution was available for students to apply for direct cash grants. The application is available to preview at https://benedictinecollege.formstack.com/forms/heerf_iii.

Benedictine College distributed \$982,426.00 to 501 eligible students. The largest portion (\$414,926.00) was directed to 187 Pell Grant eligible students through the application process.

Amount distributed and number of students who received funds through the application process.

HEERF III Student Support Application Recipient Summary			
EFC Range	Number of Recipients	Max Amount	Sum
Pell Eligible	187	\$3,000	\$414,926.00
EFC <20K	170	\$2,500	\$326,650.00
EFC 20k-50K	138	\$1,900	\$234,850
No FAFSA	6	\$1,000	\$6,000
Total	501		\$982,426.00

The final method was distributed to students in varying amounts up to \$3,100 based on financial hardship circumstances reported to the Office of Financial Aid.

Description: Notification of emergency financial aid grant application

To: All full and part-time domestic and international undergraduate students enrolled for all 2021

Channel: Email

Dear First,

Benedictine College has secured funds through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds will be distributed to students in the form of direct cash grants to support those with exceptional financial need and those who have experienced unexpected expenses, loss of employment (either yourself or a family member), reduced income (either yourself or a family member) or food or housing insecurity caused by COVID-19.

FIRST, you are eligible to apply ([HYPERLINK APPLY TO FORM](#)) for an emergency financial aid grant. Wi

We will begin accepting applications for emergency financial aid grants ([HYPERLINK EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANT APPLICATION](#)) immediately and will review them on a rolling basis. Please understand this is a selective process as the funds are limited. You must apply {[HYPERLINK TO APPLICATION FORM](#)} now or in the near future to be considered for these funds.

The approved applicants will receive a direct cash grant that will not require repayment. Due to federal regulations, we are unable to apply the funds directly to any outstanding balance on your student billing account. However, you may submit a payment to your account with these funds to resolve an existing balance or as a credit toward the fall 2021 semester.

For further information, we have prepared a FAQ ([HYPERLINK TO FAQ](#)) that may address your questions. I encourage you to review this information.

Once again, you must apply ([HYPERLINK TO FORM](#)) to be considered for these funds.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Helgesen
Dean of Enrollment Management

Description: Notification of emergency financial aid grant application

To: All full and part-time domestic and international undergraduate students enrolled for fall 2021.

Channel: Letter

July 16, 2021

PERSON FIRST PERSON LAST

PERSON ADDRESS LINE 1

PERSON ADDRESS CITY, PERSON ADDRESS STATE PERSON ADDRESS ZIP

Dear PERSON FIRST,

Benedictine College has secured funds through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds will be distributed to students in the form of direct cash grants or as a credit for fall 2021 charges to support those with exceptional financial need and those who have experienced unexpected expenses, loss of employment (either yourself or a family member), reduced income (either yourself or a family member) or food or housing insecurity caused by COVID-19.

PERSON FIRST, you are eligible to apply for an emergency financial aid grant at https://benedictinecollege.formstack.com/forms/heerf_iii. The emergency financial aid grants do not require repayment.

The application for emergency financial aid grants opened on **Thursday, July 15, 2021 and will close on Wednesday, September 1, 2021**. Please understand this is a selective process as the funds are limited.

Approved applicants will have the option to receive the funds as a direct cash grant or as a credit for fall 2021 charges. Those students will be required to notify us of their preferred option as we are unable to automatically apply these funds to a student billing account.

For further information, we have prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document at <https://www.benedictine.edu/coronavirus/cares/heerf-iii/index> that may address your questions. I encourage you to review this information.

Once again, you must apply at https://benedictinecollege.formstack.com/forms/heerf_iii to be considered for these funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter A. Helgesen". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Peter A. Helgesen
Dean of Enrollment Management

Description: Emergency Financial Aid Grant Notice for Student FYI

To: All recipients of the student FYI

Channel: Email

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS

Benedictine College has secured funds through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds will be distributed to students in the form of direct cash grants or as a credit for fall 2021 charges to support those with exceptional financial need and those who have experienced unexpected expenses, loss of employment (either yourself or a family member), reduced income (either yourself or a family member) or food or housing insecurity caused by COVID-19. The emergency financial aid grants do not require repayment.

The [application for emergency financial aid grants](#) is now open **and will close on Wednesday, September 1, 2021**. Please understand this is a selective process as the funds are limited.

Approved applicants will have the option to receive the funds as a direct cash grant or as a credit for fall 2021 charges. Those students will be required to notify us of their preferred option as we are unable to automatically apply these funds to a student billing account.

For further information, we have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that may address your questions.

Once again, you must [apply](#) to be considered for these funds.

Description: Notice of block grant and authorization form

To: Recipients of block grant

Channel: Email

Dear «First»,

This email is being sent to you regarding the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), signed into law on Mar. 11, 2021. Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL's) have been granted funds in support of education, which includes funding for distribution to students. The intent of the CRRSAA was for IHL's to target students with exceptional need, such as (but not limited to) Pell grant recipients for these distributions.

Based upon criteria for determining student financial need, you have been deemed eligible to receive a distribution from the College's HEERF III Block Grant funds in the amount of «**Amount**». Please note these funds are completely separate from the funds being allocated for those students having submitted applications for assistance due to financial hardship due to the pandemic.

To complete the distribution process, you are required to complete the HEERF III Distribution Authorization form, which you can access electronically at https://benedictinecollege.formstack.com/forms/heerf_iii_distribution. Due date for submitting this form to the College is **Friday, September 10, 2021**. This form will instruct the College to disburse the funds to you in the manner of your choosing, based upon one of the following scenarios:

- I request to have my distribution funds applied to the unpaid balance of my student billing account. If the account becomes paid in full, I am directing Benedictine College to apply these funds toward future educational charges I will incur for the upcoming academic term.
- I request to have my distribution funds applied to the unpaid balance of my student billing account. If the account becomes paid in full, I am directing Benedictine College to refund* the remaining funds directly to me.
- I request to have the distribution funds refunded* to me.

* If the student does not have eRefund account information on file with the College, the refund will be issued in the form of a paper check and mailed to the home address on file for the student.

Congratulations on be selected to receive a portion of the HEERF III Block Grant funds provided to Benedictine College. We hope these funds will be helpful to you in this time of uncertainty brought on by the pandemic. God Bless! Go Ravens!

Sincerely,

Tony Tanking
Director of Financial Aid

Description: Notice of application approval and authorization form
To: Approved application recipients
Channel: Email

Dear Raven,

Thank you for submitting your application for the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF III) program. Applications were reviewed in conjunction with the recommended guidelines provided by the federal government within the HEERF III program. Benedictine College students submitted over 600 applications requesting assistance for over \$2.8 million. This amount exceeded the allocation to the College by over \$1 million, meaning that not all application requests will be granted.

In accordance with guidelines established by the federal government and Benedictine College, your application has been approved to receive a distribution from the College's HEERF III funds in the amount of **<Varied Amount>**.

To complete the distribution process, you are required to complete the [HEERF III Distribution Authorization form](#). Due date for submitting this form to the College is **Friday, September 17, 2021**. This form will instruct the College to disburse the funds to you in the manner of your choosing, based upon one of the following scenarios:

- I request to have my distribution funds applied to the unpaid balance of my student billing account. If the account becomes paid in full, I am directing Benedictine College to apply these funds toward future educational charges I will incur for the upcoming academic term.
- I request to have my distribution funds applied to the unpaid balance of my student billing account. If the account becomes paid in full, I am directing Benedictine College to refund* the remaining funds directly to me.
- I request to have the distribution funds refunded* to me.

* If the student does not have eRefund account information on file with the College, the refund will be issued in the form of a paper check and mailed to the home address on file for the student.

Your immediate attention to this matter will allow us to process your request more quickly. Thank you for your assistance. We hope these funds will be helpful to you in this time of uncertainty brought on by the pandemic. God Bless! Go Ravens!

Sincerely,

Tony Tanking – Director of Financial Aid

Description: Notification to applications that were denied

To: All applicants who were denied

Channel: Email

Dear Raven,

Thank you for submitting your application for the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF III) program. Applications were reviewed in conjunction with the recommended guidelines provided by the federal government within the HEERF III program. Benedictine College students submitted over 600 applications requesting assistance for over \$2.8 million. This amount exceeded the allocation to the College by over \$1 million, meaning that not all application requests will be granted.

This notification is to inform you that your application for HEERF III funds has been denied, in accordance with guidelines established by the federal government and Benedictine College.

If you are in need of financial assistance with your current bill, please feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office to discuss possible options that may be available for your specific situation.

God Bless!

Sincerely,

Tony Tanking – Director of Financial Aid

Description: FAQ regarding emergency financial aid grant application

To: All visitors to Benedictine.edu

Channel: <https://www.benedictine.edu/coronavirus/index>

I have heard about the emergency financial aid grants that are included in the American Rescue Plan Act. How do I seek those funds?

Benedictine did secure funds that will go directly to students as direct cash grants. We will begin accepting applications for emergency financial aid grants (HYPERLINK **EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID GRANTS TO APPLICATION**) immediately and will review them on a rolling basis. Please understand this is a selective process as the funds are limited.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any individual who is or was enrolled at Benedictine College on or after March 13, 2020 are eligible regardless of whether they completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or are eligible for Title IV.

When do I apply for the Emergency Relief Grant?

You must apply {HYPERLINK TO APPLICATION FORM} now or in the near future to be considered for these funds.

Am I guaranteed to receive the grant if I apply?

No, this program has limited funding and we cannot assure you that you will be approved.

How much should I request?

We ask that you provide an amount that in good faith will support you in addressing your financial circumstances.

How is Benedictine deciding who is approved?

Per the federal recommendation, Benedictine College will “prioritize students with *exceptional need*, such as students who receive Pell Grants or are undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances in awarding emergency financial aid grants to students.”

Further, consideration will be given to those who “have faced significant unexpected expenses, such as the loss of employment (either for themselves or their families), reduced income, or food or housing insecurity.

How will I know if my application is approved or denied?

We will alert you via your Benedictine email account of the approval or denial. Please allow seven business for processing your application, as we do anticipate a high volume.

If my application is approved when will I receive the grant?

We anticipate issuing the direct cash grant within seven days of approval. Your reimbursement will be issued through an electronic refund if you have a bank account for direct deposit through your RavenZone/View and Pay account. Otherwise, we will send a check to your permanent address.

If my application is approved, how can I use these funds?

Emergency financial aid grants may be used for any component of your costs related to attending Benedictine College (tuition, food, housing, health care or child care) or for costs that arose due to COVID-19.

Do I have to submit receipts to Benedictine after I use these funds?

No, you do not need to submit receipts for these expenses.

If my application is denied, can I appeal this decision?

No, all application decisions will be final.

Is this a loan?

No, this is a direct cash grant that will not require repayment.

Can Benedictine simply apply this as a credit toward my student bill?

No, we are unable to apply the funds directly to you any outstanding balance on your student account. However, you may submit a payment to your account with these funds to resolve an existing balance or as a credit toward fall 2021.

Once again, you must apply ([HYPERLINK TO FORM](#)) to secure these funds.

Are the emergency financial aid grants considered taxable income?

No, emergency financial aid grants are not included in the student's gross income.

Description: Confirmation of submission

To: All Emergency financial aid grant application submission

Channel: Email

Dear FIRST,

Thank you for submitting your application for an emergency financial aid grant. This serves as confirmation that your application is submitted.

We will notify of the outcome of your application within 7-14. If your application is approved, your direct cash grant will be issued approximately seven days after approval.

Please be in touch if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Helgesen
Dean of Enrollment Management