

STUDENT AID QUARTERLY REPORT

Fourth Quarter 2023

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT of 2021 (CRRSAA) & AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP)

The Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act or the “Act”), also referred to as HEERF I, was signed into law by then-President Donald Trump on March 27, 2020. Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (March 27, 2020). This Act authorizes the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to provide funds to institutions of higher education, including Ottawa University, in response to the impact of COVID-19. Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires institutions to use no less than 50 percent of the funds received from Section 18004(a)(1) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. Further, Section 18004(e) of the CARES Act directs institutions receiving funds under Section 18004(c) to submit a report to the Secretary of Education describing the use of funds distributed under this Act. Subsequently, on December 7, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (CRRSAA), Pub. Law 116-260 was signed not law, further allowing colleges to award grants to students in financial need. This is sometimes referred to as HEERF II.

The most recent government grant provided to institutions is the American Rescue Plan (ARP), sometimes referred to as HEERF III, which was signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021.

All three funding programs require reporting information. The information below not only fulfills the reporting requirement, but it is also our intent to inform our university community as to the use of these funds. The Quarterly and Annual Reports for the CARES Act can be found [HERE](#).

This quarterly report states the following:

An acknowledgment that the institution signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

On April 13, 2020, Ottawa University signed and returned to ED the required Certification and Agreement assuring that Ottawa intended to disburse funds provided for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The University will continue to comply with all guidance provided by the Department and has used no less than 50 percent (and will modify such percent if mandated at a later time) of award funds to provide Emergency Financial Aid grants to students. This agreement also applies to CRRSAA and ARP.

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 Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students received and distributed under CRRSAA is \$833,817 and the money received and specifically allotted for students under ARP is \$1,376,297.

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs as of the date of submission (*i.e.*, as of the initial report and every calendar quarter thereafter).

The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students as of December 31, 2023, is \$1,146,325.

The estimated total number of students at the institution that are eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

Under the government guidelines for eligibility, which were expanded under ARP, the number of eligible students was calculated by totaling all degree-seeking students enrolled in at least one credit during Fall 2023. The total number was 3283.

The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

The University awarded 181 students Emergency Financial Aid Grants in the fourth quarter of 2023.

The method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under the CRRSAA and ARP (a)(1) and (a)(4) programs.

Ottawa University determined eligibility for the emergency student grants based on guidance from the ED. ED requires institutions to prioritize grants to students with exceptional financial needs. Although the first grant of emergency funding, issued in April 2020, was limited to students who were residential, Title IV eligible students, those limitations were later removed, and the grants no longer have such limits. As the method of disbursement then allowed more flexibility, the University was able to look at a wider pool, including non-residential students, as long as those students were in a higher education institution during the pandemic and had exceptional financial needs.

Using the ED's guidelines for CRRSAA and ARP, the University looked at two "phases" of emergency grants to students, both aimed at assisting students in continuing their education. In the first phase, the University identified students who showed an exceptional financial need and identified those who would be unlikely to attend future academic terms in any educational setting due to COVID-19-related financial hardships. These students were awarded grants based on an estimated need. In the second phase, the University identified students who showed an exceptional financial need based on their expected family financial contribution using the most recent FAFSA on file.

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

Students were informed that the Emergency Financial Grants were being provided from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. They were informed that costs were applicable to their specific situation and may include room, board, insurance, tuition, books, and fees. Students were offered the option of applying the grant to an outstanding balance, paying for future tuition, a combination of those options, or they could provide other directions. It was further explained that the University would need written confirmation before making the disbursement.