Overview

Minnesota State University Moorhead was approved to receive $1,759,267 through the Federal CARES Act, $1,759,267 through the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and $5,187,282 through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). These three programs comprise the basis of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF). Minnesota State University Moorhead has completed a Certification and Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education which, among other requirements, assures that no less than 50 percent of these funds will be used to provide direct Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students impacted by the coronavirus and subsequent declaration of a National Emergency.

Distribution

In the quarter ending on June 30, 2021, Minnesota State University Moorhead distributed $14,600 of CARES and CRRSAA student share funding to 24 students through direct Emergency Financial Aid grants to students.

Since January 2021, the distribution of relief funding through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), Minnesota State University Moorhead has awarded Emergency Financial Aid Grants totaling $6,779,046 to 3,735 students.

Eligibility

Both CRRSAA and ARP require that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants or undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances, in awarding emergency financial aid grants to students. While all students enrolled after March 13, 2020 are eligible, priority will be given to students based on current guidance from the U.S. Department of Education who have emergency financial needs related to the pandemic.

For fiscal year 2021, Minnesota State University Moorhead enrolled approximately 7,220 students who were eventually determined to be eligible for HEERF funding.

Process

Minnesota State University Moorhead made CRRSAA Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students through two methods. The initial distribution was made to all currently enrolled, Title IV aid eligible
students with an expected family contribution (EFC) below $20,000. Grants ranged from $250 to $900. There were three tier amounts. Pell eligible students received $900. Students with EFC’s above Pell to $11,999 were awarded $600. And students with EFC’s between $12,000 and $20,000 were awarded $250.

A portion of the funding was retained for distribution through the Student Emergency Assistance Fund process. Eligible students who had additional expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care are able to complete a brief application. Most often, these emergency funds are disbursed directly to the student. Applications are reviewed on a weekly basis until funds are expended. *Funds for Second Quarter 2021 came from this portion of funding.*