



WSU Tech HEERF III FAQs

What is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provided by the federal government?

On March 11, 2021, additional funds were made available through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) with Public Law 117-2, the American Rescue Plan (ARP). ARP under HEERF III directs institutions of higher education to use funds received under section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSSA) to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. In conjunction to the funding received under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and CRRSSA. WSU Tech was provided an additional \$5,577,556 under ARP to be made directly available to student emergency grants.

When will HEERF II/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds be available?

Federal funding for the HEERF III has been received from the U.S. Department of Education and we are now able to rapidly start distributing grants to students. WSU Tech will begin distribution of funds the week of October 4th and until funds are expended. Recipients will be notified via email or text message.

Who is eligible for the HEERF II/Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds?

- Must be a degree-seeking student enrolled in at least 1 credit hour during the Fall 2021 term at WSU Tech;
- Have documented, exceptional financial need or hardship due to COVID-19

How did WSU Tech develop the eligibility criteria?

The college followed [guidance from the U.S. Department of Education](#).

How much am I eligible for?

Allocation of funds are awarded based upon financial need. Funds will range from \$500-\$2,000.

- Direct Awards to Auto Zero EFC Pell Grant recipients of \$2,000 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)
- Direct Awards to Pell Grant recipients of \$1,750 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)
- Direct Awards to High-Need recipients of \$1,500 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)
- Direct Awards to student who are enrolled, but may not demonstrate high-need of \$750 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)
- Direct Awards to student who may not have an official 2021-2022 FAFSA on file or are on Financial Aid Suspension of \$500 (Students in this group have been pre-identified for eligibility and do NOT need to apply)

Does the money need to be repaid?

No, money received through this fund does not need to be repaid.

Would this funding reduce my financial aid?

No, this fund does not negate nor replace financial aid.

When will we know the results?

Our goal is to award the initial round of grants the week of October 4th. Eligible students will receive an email or text message.



How do students receive the money?

If you are approved for funding, funds will be distributed in the following manner. Students who have initiated direct deposit with WSU Tech will be paid via direct deposit. Checks will be mailed to the mailing address on file for those who have not initiated direct deposit with WSU Tech. If you would like to update your mailing address or initiate direct deposit, please visit the Student tab in myWSUTech.

What if I owe WSU Tech for tuition or other expenses?

If a student has an outstanding balance from the fall semester, the student will have the opportunity to use the approved funds to pay the remaining debt. Students who wish to apply the funds will need to acknowledge this request. This request may be completed on the student's myWSUTech account, under the Financial Aid tab.

Are the HEERF III Grants taxable?

No. Emergency financial aid grants under the HEERF II for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income.

What additional resources are available if I need access to food or other help?

You can use WSU Tech resources: <https://wsutech.edu/student-support/>

Or other Community Resources:

[United Methodist Open Door](#)

[United Way of the Plains Help Center](#): please call 211

Who can I contact for more information or assistance?

If you need assistance, please contact us at caresact@wsutech.edu.

