

Midwestern State University ARP Act Student Aid Report #3 (Oct. – Dec. 2021)

PR/Award No. P425E200196

Acknowledgement of Funding and Certification

On March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act (H.R. 1319), which provides emergency relief and stimulus funds to organizations and individuals affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Section 2003 of the ARP Act contains the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), which represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. This quarterly report provides details on the award Midwestern State University (MSU Texas) received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

MSU Texas agreed to the terms and conditions of the U.S. Department of Education's [Supplemental Grant Funds for Students Agreement](#) by drawing down funds on June 22, 2021 to reimburse the university for student emergency aid disbursements to students.

Total Award

The amount of funds MSU Texas received on May 16, 2021 for distribution of emergency grants to students was **\$6,934,442**.

Funds Distributed to Date

The total amount of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed to students under Section (a)(1) of the ARP Act as of December 31, 2021, is **\$4,112,125**.

Student Eligibility

The estimated total number of students at MSU Texas enrolled during the terms below were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under Section (a)(1) of the ARP Act.

Summer I 2021:	1,998
Summer II 2021:	1,236
Fall 2021:	5,587

Total Number of Students Who Have Received Funding

The total number of students, as of December 31, 2021, who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under section (a)(1) of the ARP Act by term is below.

Summer I 2021:	1,998
Summer II 2021:	1,236
Fall 2021:	5,587

Methods Used to Determine Which Students Receive Aid and How Much

MSU Texas has been committed to assisting all eligible students that may have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to the greatest extent possible with the HEERF funds available. Students were determined to be eligible to receive an ARP Act grant if currently enrolled in a program of study during the Summer I 2021 term as of June 8, 2021, during the Summer I 2021 term as of July 22, 2021, and during the Fall 2021 term as of September 16, 2021. Per the U.S. Department of Education, all students who are or were enrolled in an institution of higher education during the COVID-19 national emergency are eligible for emergency financial aid grants from the HEERF, regardless of whether they completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or are eligible for Title IV. Grant award amounts ranged from \$125 to \$750 and were determined using a matrix based on enrollment and to prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants.

In addition to the block grants, MSU Texas announced the ARPA Emergency Aid Grant program on October 5, 2021. This program is available to provide relief to those students with exceptional need and who are experiencing extraordinary financial circumstances due to the pandemic. The secure application form can be accessed on the [Student Emergency Financial Aid Grant webpage](#), and a university committee comprised of representatives from Financial Aid, the Business Office, Global Education Office, and Student Affairs have been reviewing those applications and recommending aid disbursements on a first come, first served basis.

Through December 31, 2021, 383 students received an APRA Emergency Aid Grant through the application process during the fall 2021 semester. The total amount of these awards was \$311,000, for an average grant award of just over \$812 per student.

Instructions and Guidance Given to Students

All students receiving an automatic ARP Act grant were notified by email when the disbursement was made. An [ARP Act webpage](#) was also created with background information and answers to frequently asked questions. Additionally, communication regarding the application process for students with exceptional need was disseminated to all students on October 5, 2021.

The communications included the following:

- General instructions on the purpose and allowable uses of funds,
- Disbursement information for the grant awards,
- A link to the ARPA Emergency Financial Aid Grant Program application,
- Contact information for questions, and
- Additional emergency aid resources for students