

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) Reporting for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

January 10, 2022

In May 2021 Zane State College (ZSC) received notification that additional funding was being provided for emergency grants to students for unforeseen expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. The funding is from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) distributed from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III.

1. ZSC signed and returned the original Certification and Agreement acknowledging the HEERF Emergency Grant funds to the U. S. Department of Education through grants.gov in April 2020, a second notification for additional funding was received in January 2021 (HEERF II) and a third notification in May 2021 (HEERF III). ZSC is committed to using no less than 50 percent of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
2. ZSC received \$1,812,473, in HEERF III emergency grant funds for students.
3. ZSC distributed \$903,550 of HEERF III funds to students as of December 31, 2021. This was sent to qualified students enrolled in courses for fall 2021.
4. ZSC estimates the number of students eligible to participate in Title IV programs is 793 students for fall 2021.
5. A total number of 793 students have received HEERF III Emergency Grant funding as of December 31, 2021 for fall 2021.
6. ZSC distributed the funds automatically to qualified students based on eligibility criteria. Student awards range from \$100 to \$2,375 per student. The automatic distribution method was chosen this time as we found that the application process used to distribute the original HEERF funds was identified as a barrier to students in need.
7. All students (excluding high school students) enrolled for spring semester were notified of the emergency funding and instructed on the process by which the funds would be distributed. The College also added information on our webpage regarding the HEERF III distribution which included FAQs on CARES Act Emergency Funding Grants.