

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

April 10, 2023

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. As of March 31, 2022, ZSC distributed a total of \$1,810,412 of HEERF III funds to student enrolled in fall 2021 and spring 2022 courses. This included \$903,550 for fall 2021 and \$906,862 for spring 2022.
4. ZSC estimates the number of students eligible to participate in Title IV programs was 793 students for fall 2021 and 690 students for spring 2022.
5. ZSC distributed 793 students HEERF III Emergency Grant funding for fall 2021 and distributed funding to 689 students for spring 2022.
6. ZSC distributed the funds automatically to qualified students based on eligibility criteria. Student awards range from \$100 to \$2,375 per student in fall 2021 and from \$116 to \$2,840 per student in spring 2022. 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.
8. ZSC has refunded an additional \$15,252 in emergency funding to students who experienced a qualified need for emergency funding as of March 31, 2023. The College has a remaining balance of \$6,505 at this time.