

HEERF Quarter 4, 2021 Report for Student allocations for Meridian Technology Center

Meridian Technology Center has signed and returned a Certification and Agreement with the Department of Education to accept allocated funds from the CARES Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117.2. The agreements assured that Meridian will use no less than 50 percent of the funds received to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

The CRRSAA and ARP Act's established and funded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide emergency financial aid grants. These critical funds help eligible Meridian students to cover expenses related to unanticipated travel, additional technology requirements, or other needs related to an emergency situation.

As of **December 31, 2021**, Meridian Technology Center has received a total of \$801,838.00 in allocated funds intended for Emergency Grants to Students. \$559,294.00 of these funds have been disbursed to **adult students** enrolled in our **Full-Time programs** only.

The total number of students eligible to receive these funds has varied during each school year, based on enrollment and other factors that were chosen by Meridian to meet the specific guidelines at that time. Each student that met the requirements were reviewed before awarding. Therefore, each student that became eligible was awarded an emergency grant. Please see the individual numbers, amounts and methodology used for determining these in the sections below.

❖ As of December 31, 2021

Funds received: \$801,838

Funds distributed: \$559,294

Estimated Number of unduplicated students eligible: 354

Estimated Number of unduplicated students who've received funds: 354

HEERF 1 CARES Act Student Funding

Funds received: \$151,397

Funds distributed: \$151,397

Number of students eligible: 129

Number of students who've received funds: 129

Meridian created an online application process using a Google Form submission for students to apply for Emergency Grants. We made it available through this page on our website.

<https://meridiantech.edu/cares-act-information/> . We have since taken off the Google Form and are updating the information, as needed.

The following email was sent to our students through mass notification.

“Meridian Technology Center has received an allocation of funding from the Department of Education, to disburse Emergency Student Grants, based on the CARES Act. This funding has been provided to Meridian to make available for our currently enrolled adult students in a full-time program. If you feel that you have been economically impacted or have financial hardship related to COVID-19, or if you are needing assistance with further supplies needed as a result of our blended learning schedule, this grant may be for you. Students must meet all Title IV eligibility criteria. I will review each application and make sure that the student is enrolled in an eligible program, they are registered with Selective Service (if male), that they do not have any previous loans or Pell Grants in default or overpayment and that they meet other criteria required.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have related to this emergency assistance grant. There is also further information available through our application webpage. <https://www.meridiantech.edu/cares-act-information/> . This assistance is to help students with technology, food, housing, childcare, and other expenses they have related to COVID-19 or our blended learning schedule as a result of COVID.

We are required to disburse these funds to eligible students directly. Therefore, none of this funding would be going toward any tuition owed at Meridian.”

We determined the amounts to award based on the student’s enrollment status. Full-time received \$1,058.00 and Half-time received \$529.00. We had a total of 7 disbursements, based on incoming applications, that totaled the first student portion allocation of HEERF funding, \$151,397.00. We disbursed checks to each student awarded and had them sign a disbursement report. In order to minimize over awarding individual students, we placed a cap on the total award amount each student could receive to equal the full Pell award amount for that year of \$6,195.00.

HEERF 2 American Rescue Plan Student Funding

Funds received: \$151,397

Funds distributed: \$151,397

Number of students eligible: 102

Number of students who’ve received funds: 102

For the second allocation of HEERF 2 funds, we continued to have students submit the Google Form application. We did prioritize our Pell students by offering \$100.00 more in the award. We determined the award amounts based on need. If students had submitted a FAFSA and were Pell eligible, they received \$1,100.00. All other applicants received \$1,000.00. Students were also eligible to request for a portion of their current semester tuition to be paid using these funds. We required students to complete a request form if they wanted any portion of tuition to be paid.

HEERF 3 American Rescue Plan Student Funding

Funds received: \$499,044

Funds distributed: \$256,500

Number of students eligible: 251

Number of students who’ve received funds: 251

Based on the eligibility requirement changes for students to receive these funds, as of October 6, 2021 when we made our first disbursement with the final allocation, we no longer required an application. Meridian verified an enrollment report for all adult students currently enrolled in a full-time career major to be eligible. Students were sent a mass notification alerting that an amount would be awarded to them. They were given the option to request any tuition to be paid first. Meridian prioritized our Pell students by awarding \$100.00 more. The Pell students received \$1,100.00 and all other students received \$1,000.00.

Updated 12/31/2021