

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY- OF THE COMMONWEALTH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION- **2021 Report (Quarter 3)- October 8, 2021**

The American Rescue Plan Act (“ARP”) included additional COVID-19 relief funding. The ARP was signed into law on March 11, 2021. It includes funding for higher education institutions and students using Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III), like the model established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act.

1. Temple University – Of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education (“Temple”) has not yet signed and returned the required certification and agreement to the Department of Education to provide assurance that the institution has used the applicable amount of funds designated under the ARP (a)(1) program to provide emergency financial aid grants to students. Per the Supplemental Agreement, Temple agreed to these terms when it made its first draw of ARP funds on August 5, 2021, which was within the requisite 90-day period from the date of award.
2. Temple was awarded \$39,204,052 from the Department of Education pursuant to Temple’s certification and agreement pertaining to emergency financial aid grants to students under the ARP (a)(1) program. Temple received its award on May 20, 2021.
3. As of the date of this report, Temple has distributed \$27,935,000 in HEERF III emergency financial aid grants to students.
4. As of September 29, 2021, the estimated total number of Temple students eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and thus eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under the ARP(a)(1) program is 25,585.
5. As of the date of this report, 7,875 students received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under the ARP (a)(1) program.
6. Temple made two distributions under the ARP (a)(1) program to Title IV and non-Title IV students with prior balances to the university. The first phase disbursed \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$3,000 to students that had balances up to \$3,000. The second phase disbursed \$4,000 or \$5,000 for those students with balances up to \$10,000. Students provided affirmative consent to pay balances owed to the university. Students that did not consent to pay prior balances received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant under the ARP(a)(1) program. After paying the balance, any excess monies from the disbursement were either refunded directly to the student, or upon the student’s consent, used to pay future balances owed to the university.

In addition, Temple identified two methods for Title IV students to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the ARP (a)(1) program. First, Temple directly disbursed to eligible Pell grant recipients amounts of \$3,500. Second, by September 27, 2021, students completed an application to identify their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus. The university is assessing the amount to be distributed to eligible student survey respondents in the next quarter.

7. Temple has provided the attached instructions, directions, and guidance to students regarding the availability of Emergency Financial Aid Grants, including information about how to set up direct deposit to receive funds, and information on ways to submit grant applications through Temple's online portal.

EXAMPLE COMMUNICATIONS:

- Prior Balance Groups (209 students in 1st group July 12, 2021, and 335 students in 2nd group August 3, 2021):
 - *Temple HEERF III Survey Email to students with active TUportal accounts*

Dear (student full name),

We are writing to provide you with important information about the federal government's additional COVID-19 relief funds and the steps you need to take to receive funding. You have likely heard about these funds called the **Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds III (HEERF III)** and created under the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

The first step you need to take to receive the funds is to complete the **online survey** now to request the HEERF III funding, <https://tuportal.temple.edu/web/home-community/heerf-iii>. Since you have an outstanding balance to Temple, you will have the option to request that the funding be applied to your Temple outstanding balance first.

If the HEERF funding exceeds your balance you will be refunded the difference. Please note that you need to sign up for **direct deposit** to receive refunds. Click [TUportal](#) and access TUpay in the Costs & Aid tab to sign-up for **direct deposit**. Once in TUpay, select Manage My Refunds and then Edit Refund Method. Direct deposit is the most secure and efficient way to receive the funding.

Please note, any funding applied to your Temple outstanding balance may also be reported on the annual 1098-T. See [here](#) for more information. If you have any questions about your status to receive these grants, please contact Student Financial Services at sfs@temple.edu.

We understand that this has been a difficult time, and we are grateful for the strength and dedication of everyone in the Temple community.

Sincerely,

Shawn L. Abbott
Vice Provost for Admissions, Financial Aid & Enrollment Management
Temple University

Student Financial Services
FINAID@temple.edu

- *TUportal Survey:*

Temple HEERF III Emergency Grants

By completing this form you are requesting HEERF III emergency funding to help cover educational expenses and/or emergency costs related to the ongoing coronavirus disruption that began on March 13, 2020. HEERF III emergency funding will be prioritized for students with exceptional financial need.

What educational expense(s), emergency cost(s) and/or extraordinary financial circumstance(s) have you experienced because of the coronavirus disruption?

Check all that apply.

- Tuition
- Food
- Housing
- Health care (including mental health care)
- Childcare
- Books / Supplies
- Transportation
- Loan Fees
- Loss of employment/income for student or family
- Food and/or housing insecurity

Please check **yes**, if you want your HEERF III emergency grant to help pay your current educational costs on your Temple student account balance. If there are any funds remaining after paying your account balance, they will be sent to you as a refund. If you select **no**, your HEERF III emergency grant will not help pay your current Temple student account balance and will be sent to you as a refund.

- Yes, I want the HEERF funding to pay my educational costs on my outstanding Temple student account balance first.
- No, I do not want the HEERF funding to pay my educational costs on my outstanding Temple student account balance.

- *Temple HEERF III Survey Email to students with inactive TUportal accounts:*

Dear (student full name),

We are writing to provide you with important information about the federal government's additional COVID-19 relief funds and the steps you need to take to receive funding. You have likely heard about these funds called the **Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds III (HEERF III)** and created under the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

The first step you need to take to receive the funds is to complete the **online survey** now to request the HEERF III funding, <https://tuportal.temple.edu/web/home-community/heerf-iii>. Since you have an outstanding balance to Temple, you will have the option to request that the funding be applied to your Temple outstanding balance first.

An active TUportal account is required to complete the survey. Your TUportal account is currently inactive. Please go to <https://tuportal.temple.edu/apps/sdev/request/> to renew your account upon verifying your identity.

For Public Posting

If the HEERF funding exceeds your balance you will be refunded the difference. Please note that you need to sign up for **direct deposit** to receive refunds. Click [TUportal](#) and access TUpay in the Costs & Aid tab to sign-up for direct deposit. Once in TUpay, select Manage My Refunds and then Edit Refund Method. Direct deposit is the most secure and efficient way to receive the funding.

Please note, any funding applied to your Temple outstanding balance may also be reported on the annual 1098-T. See [here](#) for more information. If you have any questions about your status to receive these grants, please contact Student Financial Services at sfs@temple.edu.

We understand that this has been a difficult time, and we are grateful for the strength and dedication of everyone in the Temple community.

Sincerely,

Shawn L. Abbott
Vice Provost for Admissions, Financial Aid & Enrollment Management
Temple University

Student Financial Services
FINAID@temple.edu

- Reminder Email to 1st group to complete the TUportal survey by 8/1/21:

Dear (student full name),

Complete Temple's **online survey** now to request HEERF III funding to help with your outstanding balance, <https://tuportal.temple.edu/web/home-community/heerf-iii>.

The online survey will no longer be available to you to complete after **Sunday August 1, 2021**.

Sincerely,

Temple University Office of Student Financial Services

- Text Message:

You're eligible for a grant to help reduce your outstanding Temple balance. Check your Temple & personal email ASAP for details and instructions.

For Public Posting

- Temple HEERF III Survey Disbursement Confirmation Email (1st group sent August 2, 2021 to 141 students and 2nd group August 24, 2021 to 228 students) :

Dear (student full name),

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to let you know that the Temple HEERF III funding has been applied to your student account. This was provided by the U.S. Department of Education because of the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

HEERF III is intended and should be used only to cover expenses related to a student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know by emailing sfs@temple.edu.

Sincerely,
Emilie Van Trieste, M.Ed.
Director, Student Financial Services
Temple University

Student Financial Services
FINAID@temple.edu

- Federal Pell Grant Group:
 - Temple HEERF III Grant Funding for Federal Pell Grant Recipients - Direct Deposit Email in late August 2021:

Dear Temple Student:

You may be eligible to receive an emergency financial aid grant through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III).

In anticipation of possibly receiving an emergency financial aid grant from HEERF, the next step is to sign-up for direct deposit to receive your potential funding.

Click [TUpay Manage Refunds](#) and you will be taken directly into the direct deposit system.

Follow the steps below to complete the process.

- Select 'Manage My Refunds Account'
- Under 'Refund Method' select 'Edit Refund Method'
- You will receive an 'Authentication Code' in your Temple email account
- Enter the Authentication code number and click submit
- Select 'Bank Account (Direct Deposit)' and enter the required information

The sign-up process is quick and easy.

Thank you,

Office of the Bursar

- Text Message:

Please check your Temple email account for important direct deposit instructions regarding potential federal stimulus funds.

For Public Posting

- Temple HEERF III Grant Funding for Federal Pell Grant Recipients – General Announcement Email (7000+ students September 1, 2021)

Dear (student full name),

I am writing with good news. Temple will be distributing additional grants to students like yourself later this month but before October 1. These grants will be made possible through the U.S. government's [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III \(HEERF III\)](#).

HEERF III grants may help with your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that have resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic, such as food, housing, health care, mental health care, or childcare.

Students who are currently enrolled and receive the Federal Pell Grant for the fall 2021 semester will be automatically awarded a HEERF III grant. There are no additional steps and we will be reaching out to confirm the disbursement with you after you have been awarded.

The fastest way to get your HEERF III grant is to be signed up for direct deposit with Temple. Any student not currently signed up for direct deposit is urged to [sign up now](#).

A list of frequently asked questions about HEERF III grant eligibility and the request for funds process is available on Temple's SFS website, <https://sfs.temple.edu/faqs>, and will be available on the COVID-19 information page shortly.

If you have any questions about your status to receive the grant, please contact Student Financial Services at sfs@temple.edu.

Sincerely,

Shawn L. Abbott
Vice Provost for Admissions, Financial Aid & Enrollment Management
Temple University

Student Financial Services
FINAID@temple.edu

- Temple HEERF III Grant Funding for Federal Pell Grant Recipients – Disbursement Email (7,592 students September 8, 2021)

Dear (student full name),

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to let you know that the \$3500 Temple HEERF III grant has been applied to your student account. This COVID-relief funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Education because of the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

HEERF III funding is intended and should be used only to cover expenses related to a student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare.

For Public Posting

The Temple HEERF III grant has applied to your fall semester student account and will now process as a refund within 2-3 business days directly to you. You can track the status of your refund in the next 24 hours by accessing your TUpay account (TUportal > select the Costs and Aid tab > select TUpay > select Manage My Refunds).

If you still owe the university a balance for fall, you can use some or all of this refund to make a payment via your TUpay account.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know by emailing sfs@temple.edu.

Sincerely,

Emilie Van Trieste

Director, Student Financial Services

Student Financial Services
FINAID@temple.edu

- Temple HEERF III Grant Funding Survey Notification Email to 17,855 Title IV Eligible students September 13, 2021

Dear (student full name),

Good news, I am writing to let you know how to request a COVID-relief Temple HEERF III student grant. You can now make the request by completing the survey in your TUportal, <https://tuportal.temple.edu/web/home-community/heerf-iii>

Per federal requirements, the HEERF III grant funding must be prioritized to provide grants to students with exceptional financial need. HEERF III financial aid grants may be used for any component of your cost of attendance or for emergency costs that have arisen due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare.

Once the survey closes on September 27, 2021, we will review all responses and then provide Temple HEERF III grant disbursements, to those that qualify, as soon as possible.

The fastest way to get a refund is to be signed up for direct deposit with the university. Check your refund status now in TUpay, <https://tuportal.temple.edu/web/home-community/tupay?m=scr>

If you have questions, please contact my office by emailing sfs@temple.edu

Sincerely,

Emilie Van Trieste, M.Ed.
Director, Student Financial Services
Temple University

For Public Posting

- TUportal Survey:

Temple HEERF III Emergency Grants

By completing this form you are requesting HEERF III emergency funding to help cover educational expenses and/or emergency costs related to the ongoing coronavirus disruption that began on March 13, 2020. HEERF III emergency funding will be prioritized for students with exceptional financial need.

What educational expense(s), emergency cost(s) and/or extraordinary financial circumstance(s) have you experienced because of the coronavirus disruption?

Check all that apply.

- Tuition
- Food
- Housing
- Health care (including mental health care)
- Childcare
- Books / Supplies
- Transportation
- Loan Fees
- Loss of employment/income for student or family
- Food and/or housing insecurity

Please check **yes**, if you want your HEERF III emergency grant to help pay your current educational costs on your Temple student account balance. If there are any funds remaining after paying your account balance, they will be sent to you as a refund. If you select **no**, your HEERF III emergency grant will not help pay your current Temple student account balance and will be sent to you as a refund.

- Yes, I want the HEERF funding to pay my educational costs on my outstanding Temple student account balance first.
- No, I do not want the HEERF funding to pay my educational costs on my outstanding Temple student account balance.

- Temple HEERF III Grant Funding Reminder Email to Complete the Survey:

Dear (student full name),

Complete Temple's online COVID-relief survey now to request HEERF III funding,
<https://tuportal.temple.edu/web/home-community/heerf-iii>

The online survey will no longer be available to you to complete after **Monday, September 27, 2021**.

Sincerely,

Temple University Office of Student Financial Services

Student Financial Services
FINAID@temple.edu