**SOUTHWESTERN MICHGAN COLLEGE**

**Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)**

**Student Portion Quarterly Report**

**March 31, 2022**

**Acknowledgement of Signed Certification and Agreement**

On April 27th, 2020 SMC signed and submitted to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement with the assurance that we intend to use no less than 50% of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

**Total Amount of Funds SMC Will Receive**

In the initial CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) allocation, SMC received a total of $761,058 from the Department for emergency grants to students who have had expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

In the subsequent Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II), SMC received an additional $761,058 to award as emergency grants to students.

In the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III), SMC received $2,601,083 to award as emergency grants to students.

**Total Amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants Distributed**

For the period of January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022, SMC distributed $1,240,650 in Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students from HEERF III funds.

**Estimated Number of Students Eligible to Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants**

Approximately 1482 students enrolled in the Spring 2022 semester were eligible to receive emergency grants.

**Total Number of Students Who Have Received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant**

During the period of January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022, SMC distributed emergency grants to 1469 students.

**Methods Used to Determine Which SMC Students Receive a Grant Award and The Amount of That Award**

SMC distributed emergency grants to all students enrolled in the Spring 2022 semester, with the exception of students in consortium agreements with SMC’s university partners. In order to prioritize students with exceptional need, students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 0 on their 2021/2022 FAFSA received a grant in the amount of $1300. Students with an EFC between 1 and 6000 received a grant in the amount of $1100, students with an EFC between 6001 and 20,000 received $800, and students with no FAFSA or an EFC greater than 20,000 received $525.

**Communication to Students Regarding Emergency Grants**

**Email Sent to Spring 2022 Eligible Students**

*The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provided schools with funds to serve students and ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. SMC will be processing final COVID relief grants to nearly all enrolled students at the beginning of February. Individual amounts will be between $500 and $1300 per student, based on financial need as calculated from the 2021-2022 FAFSA. SMC must ensure that students receive these funds prior to the grant end date, therefore* ***checks must be cashed by April 8th, 2022. Uncashed checks will be voided and not replaced after that date.***

*Ferris State and Michigan State Consortium students are not eligible for grants at SMC, but may be eligible for funds through those schools. Consortium students should contact their home schools (FSU or MSU) for more information. Students enrolled exclusively in late-start classes beginning in March will receive their grant once those classes have begun.*

*COVID relief funds can be used for any costs that arise due to the coronavirus, or for any educational expenses including tuition, food, housing, books and supplies, technology, transportation or childcare. The grants will not be applied to student accounts, but will be disbursed directly to students via check or direct deposit. Please note that receipt of a grant does not mean that you do not owe SMC an outstanding balance for a current or past semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

*The fastest way to receive your grant is through direct deposit. If you have not set up your direct deposit bank account information through the Bill and Payment Center in SMC Wired, please do so by clicking on “Bill and Payment Center” from the Student Resources tab in Wired and selecting “Refunds” from the menu at the top. Please note that direct deposit set-up may take several days depending on your banking institution, so it is important to do so as soon as possible. Also, please be sure we have your correct mailing address on file in case a paper check is issued. You can review your address information on the Student Dashboard in SMC Wired.*

*If you have any questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office at* *finaid@swmich.edu**.*

**Email Sent to Spring 2022 Grant Recipients**

*The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has provided Southwestern Michigan College with grant funding to be distributed to students for costs that arise due to the coronavirus including food, housing, technology, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, or transportation.*

*A grant in the amount of $(AMOUNT) will be automatically disbursed to you. Grant processing will begin this week, and checks will be mailed on Friday, February 11th. These funds will****not****be applied directly to outstanding charges at SMC but rather will come to you as a direct deposit or a check in the mail.* ***Checks must be cashed by April 8th, 2022. Uncashed checks will be voided after that date and will not be reissued.  The student grant will be considered rescinded if the check is not cashed by April 8, 2022.***

*Please note that receipt of a grant does not mean that you do not owe SMC an outstanding balance for a past, current or future semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

*If you have any questions regarding this grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office at**finaid@swmich.edu**.*

**Letter Mailed with Checks**

*Dear Student,*

*The enclosed check is the final Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant made possible by the American Rescue Plan (ARP). These funds are being distributed to SMC students (including Dual-Enrolled High School students) and can be used toward any COVID 19 related costs including food, housing, health care, and childcare, or for other educational expenses such as tuition, fees, course materials, technology, or transportation.*

*SMC must ensure that students receive these funds prior to the grant end date, therefore* ***checks must be cashed by April 8th, 2022. Uncashed checks will be voided after that date and will not be reissued.  The student grant will be considered rescinded if this check is not cashed by April 8, 2022.***

*Please note that receipt of this grant does not mean that you do not owe SMC an outstanding balance for a past, current or future semester bill. If you have an unpaid bill at SMC, you are responsible for using these funds, or other funds, to satisfy any outstanding balances.*

*If you have any questions regarding this grant, please contact the Financial Aid Office at**finaid@swmich.edu**.*

**Revised 7/8/2022**