



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

May 11, 2021

Notice of Proposed Eligibility Requirements for American Rescue Plan (ARP) (a)(3) funding, section 2003 Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)

Action: Notice of Proposed Application Eligibility Requirements

Summary: This notice makes available for public comment proposed application eligibility requirements for ARP (a)(3) funding, as authorized under ARP section 2003 (Public Law 117-2), which was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. This ARP (a)(3) funding is referred to herein as Supplemental Support under American Rescue Plan (SSARP). Public comment will inform the development of the notice inviting applications (NIA) for SSARP funds, which will be published at a later date. Specifically, we are seeking comments about the eligibility for SSARP, the information to be collected, and use of funds under each eligible category.

Dates: Comments must be received no later than **May 25, 2021** to ensure full consideration of all comments prior to publication of the notice inviting applications (NIA) for SSARP funds.

Invitation to Comment: To better ensure that SSARP funding is allocated to those institutions with the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus, the Department is soliciting public input into these proposed categories and the proposed information that must accompany each application. **Comments may be sent to HEERF@ed.gov with the subject “SSARP Program Criteria” and must be received by Tuesday, May 25, 2021 to be considered.**

For Further Information Contact: Karen Epps, U.S. Department of Education (Department), 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 250-64, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: The Department of Education HEERF Call Center at (202) 377-3711. Email: HEERF@ed.gov. Please also visit our HEERF website at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/arp.html>.

Background: Section 2003 of ARP requires the Secretary of Education to allocate 0.5 percent of HEERF III funding (\$198 million) for discretionary grants under part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), for public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education (institutions) that the Secretary determines have, after allocating other funds available under HEERF III, the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus, including institutions with

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large populations of graduate students and institutions that did not otherwise receive an allocation under ARP. Proprietary institutions are not eligible for ARP (a)(3) funding.

The information provided below outlines the proposed categories of institutions that the Department currently deems most likely to have the “greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus,” and details the information the Department intends to collect to determine eligibility and award amounts. Eligible institutions may only apply for one category of SSARP funds.

As noted above, the Department intends to publish an NIA in the future, with final application requirements and submission instructions. Therefore, the public’s feedback will help inform the published NIA. This notice does not solicit applications.

Proposed Application Criteria: The Department is proposing the following categories of eligible institutions as most likely to demonstrate the greatest unmet needs related to the coronavirus following the allocation of other HEERF program funds:

- a)** Is an institution that did not receive a grant award under ARP (a)(1) student aid portion or (a)(1) institutional portion programs (assistance listings 84.425E and 84.425F), but the institution is otherwise eligible. Institutions funded under this category would be required to expend their SSARP funds in the same manner as required under the ARP (a)(1) programs.
- b)** Is an institution that received an (a)(1) allocation that did not reflect the institution’s need because of an institutional merger or Title IV Program Participation Agreement (PPA) effective date that did not allow for inclusion of Pell recipients in the formula.
- c)** Is an institutional branch campus that is designated as a Minority Serving Institution¹ or meets the Strengthening Institutions Program² criteria, but neither it nor its parent institution received ARP (a)(2) funding.
- d)** Is an institution with a large graduate student population. For the purposes of the SSARP program, large graduate student population means more than 90 percent of the total student enrollment is made up of graduate students.

¹ Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are institutions designated as eligible in FY 2020 to participate in the following title III and V programs: Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNH), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPSI), Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI), Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program (DHSI), and Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA).

² Strengthening Institutions Programs (SIPs), in the context of HEERF, refers to institutions designated as eligible in FY 2020 for title III and V programs and that did not receive 314(a)(2) grant awards as a result of not meeting the requirements for the Strengthening HBCUs, HBGIs, HBCU Master’s, TCCUs, PBIs, ANNH, AANAPISI, NASNTI, DHSI, and/or PPOHA programs.

- e) Is an institution that applied under the [Supplemental Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education \(SAIHE\) program](#) authorized by section 314(a)(3) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), Public Law 116-260, but was not funded, or was not fully funded, because all CRRSAA (a)(3) funds were exhausted.

Proposed Application Information: To determine eligibility requirements for the categories outlined above, the Department also intends to collect necessary institutional information, like total enrollment, Pell Recipient data, graduate student population. The Department intends to collect the minimum required information from applicants needed and rely on existing administrative data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, (IPEDS), where possible. If available funding is insufficient to fully support all eligible applicants under all categories, awards may be ratably reduced.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) upon request to the program contact person listed under [For Further Information Contact](#).

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