Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) III: Emergency Funding

Dear Bay Path students,

The COVID pandemic has certainly presented challenges during the past 18 months, but Bay Path students have demonstrated resilience and tenacity and we are proud of your commitment to your education.

One of the challenges, for many, has been the pandemic’s impact on individual and family finances. We are pleased to confirm that Bay Path has been allocated funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), to help meet students' emergency needs.

Undergraduate and graduate students who meet the criteria detailed below will receive a grant up to $2,000 which can be used to help pay for tuition or for any emergency costs that have arisen due to the pandemic. Please note these awards are considered grants, and do not need to be repaid. Students who have an outstanding tuition balance may request (through the “HEERF III Grant Authorization Form”) to have the grant applied to their outstanding balance. Bay Path must have the student’s consent to apply grant funds to a current outstanding tuition balance.

This document provides an overview of the funding, details regarding qualified recipients, and the process for distribution of the grant funds. A FAQ’s section is also included, if you still have questions, do not hesitate to email the Office of Student Financial Services at sfs@baypath.edu.

Overview:
Signed into law on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) includes aid to assist higher education institutions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds III (HEERF III) includes aid to students and institutions. Bay Path was allocated $2,708,621 in ARP funding through the U.S. Department of Education for student grants. This allocation was determined by the federal government using a formula based on the total student enrollment weighted for the number of Pell eligible students.

In accordance with the ARP, Bay Path University will prioritize grants to students with exceptional financial need as defined by the completion of the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA). Eligible students with exceptional need will receive a HEERF III grant of up to $2,000 if enrolled as a full-time student. Students with exceptional need enrolled less than full-time status will receive a HEERF III grant ranging from $250 to $1,000. Students who do not demonstrate exceptional financial aid need as demonstrated by their FAFSA application will receive a HEERF III grant ranging from $250 to $1,500.

- Institutions must make financial aid grants to students, which can be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.
The ARP requires that institutions prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants, and authorizes grants to students exclusively enrolled in online education as well as on ground programs.
Who Will Receive Funds:
As a result of this guidance, Bay Path will be awarding the grant to the following groups of students, and under the following conditions:

- Students who completed a 2021-2022 FAFSA application with a calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) who were enrolled and matriculated into classes as of June 28, 2021 to September 15, 2021.

- Students enrolled full-time will receive a HEERF III grant ranging from $500 to $2,000. Part-time students will receive a HEERF III grant ranging from $250 to $1,000. Students enrolled less than half-time will receive a HEERF III grant of $250 to $300.

Timeframe and Process for Awarding:

- The Bursar’s Office will post the grant for students through their tuition account. Once the award is applied to their tuition account, the student will be notified through their Bay Path e-mail account directing them to the “View / Path Bill” section on the My Bay Path University Portal.

- No action is needed by the student who meets the criteria outlined in the Award Notice. The grant will automatically disburse without the need for the student to do anything else. We recommend all students to enroll in direct deposit to ensure that funds are received efficiently and quickly. Students may enroll in direct deposit by logging into their tuition account and selecting the View / Pay Bill link which will take them into CASHNet. For students who do not enroll into direct deposit, Bay Path will send a check via U.S. mail to the student for their eligible amount of the grant.

- Students who have an outstanding tuition balance may request (through the “HEERF III Grant Authorization Form”) to have the grant applied to their outstanding balance. Bay Path must have the student’s consent to apply grant funds to a current outstanding tuition balance.

- If a student determines they do not meet the criteria outlined in the Award Notice, they should e-mail sfs@baypath.edu and request the grant be canceled.

- Students have the option to e-mail sfs@baypath.edu if they would like to reduce the amount of the grant, which would make funds available for another eligible student.

By accepting the grant, students are acknowledging they have a need for these funds to help with educational costs, or that they have incurred emergency costs due to pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.
HEERF III Emergency Aid FAQ’s

What is HEERF III Emergency Aid?

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law. This new law expanded the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III) and provided Bay Path University with additional funds designated for student grants. The HEERF III grants may be used for any component of the cost of attendance (tuition, fees, housing, health care or child care) or for emergency costs associated with COVID-19.

Who is eligible for funds?

The University has developed a process to distribute the $2,708,621 available in HEERF III grants to students. Students who completed a 2021-2022 FAFSA application with a calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) who were enrolled and matriculated into classes as of June 28, 2021 to September 15, 2021 are eligible to receive HEERF III grant funding. Students enrolled full-time will receive a HEERF III grant ranging from $500 to $2,000. Part-time students will receive a HEERF III grant ranging from $250 to $1,000. Students enrolled less than half-time will receive a HEERF III grant of $250 to $300.

Do I need to complete a FAFSA to receive a HEERF III Grant?

Yes, students need to complete a 2021-2022 FAFSA application by September 15, 2021 for the University to assess the student’s eligibility for HEERF III grant funding.

What are the types of expenses covered by a HEERF III Grant?

The grant can be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to pandemic, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

I have not incurred expenses due to pandemic, but have experienced a reduction in income in my household. Can my current financial aid package be reviewed based on this reduction in income?
It’s important to note the following:

- HEERF III funds CANNOT be awarded to replace lost income, so please do not submit an appeal based on this reason.

For example, if a COVID related job loss created challenges in paying for your rent, then you may explain this. In this situation, the focus is on paying for rent, and the lost job is creating challenges in doing so. However, if you submit an appeal that only states you lost a job, it will not be approved as we cannot approve appeals to replace lost income. An appeal of this nature does not outline any specific expense you are challenged in meeting as a result of the job loss.

If the income reduction leads to challenges in paying expenses, then it can be included as part of the appeal for HEERF III Grant funds (as outlined above). If it does not, then you submit to the Financial Aid Appeal process to see if an income reduction will change your financial aid eligibility. Contact Student Financial Services at sfs@baypath.edu to discuss your specific circumstances.

I am not enrolled in classes prior to September 15, 2021. Can I still receive a HEERF III Grant?

No, students must be enrolled from June 28, 2021 to September 15, 2021 to be considered for assistance.

Am I guaranteed to receive a HEERF III Grant if I submit an individual appeal or file a FAFSA late?

No, funding is limited. Awards will be made as long as funds are available.

I already received a HEERF III award, but I have additional expenses. Can I submit an appeal to receive more funding?

No. Due to the limited funding Bay Path received and the goal to assist as many students as possible, the maximum amount any student can receive is $2,000.

How long before I receive funds after I am awarded?

We cannot be specific on the timeframe but, we can say that the refund to you will be generated as quickly as possible.

How will I receive funds?

We recommend all students to enroll in direct deposit to ensure that funds are received efficiently and quickly. Students may enroll in direct deposit by logging into their tuition account and selecting the View / Pay Bill link which will take them into CASHNet. For students who do not enroll in direct deposit, Bay Path will send a check via U.S. mail to the student for their eligible amount of the grant.

I have an outstanding tuition/housing balance for spring semester, can these funds be applied to that balance?

Yes, however, students must complete the “HEERF III Grant Authorization Form” to request Bay Path to apply the funds to the outstanding tuition balance.

Will a HEERF III Grant affect other aid I have already received?

No, HEERF III Grant awards will not reduce your financial aid package.

Can undocumented students and international students receive a HEERF III grant?
No, international and undocumented students are not eligible for HEERF III grant as a FAFSA application is required.

**Is money I receive from CRRSAA in the form of a HEERF III Grant taxable?**

It is our understanding based on information from the U.S. Department of Education that the grant awarded to students under the CRRSAA are not treated as taxable income. The same is true for HEERF I and HEERF II funds awarded under the CARES Act. According to the IRS website, "Emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act for unexpected expenses, unmet financial need, or expenses related to the disruption of campus operations on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as unexpected expenses for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, or childcare, are qualified disaster relief payments under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code. This grant is not includible in your gross income."