

**West Virginia University at Parkersburg**  
**American Recovery Plan Act**

**ARPA Emergency Financial Aid to Students (as of March 30, 2022)**

Statutory Authority: American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA), Pub. L. No 116-260, (January 14, 2021) provided \$876,544 to West Virginia University at Parkersburg that was restricted for distribution of emergency grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.

Section 1004(a)(1) requires the following information to be made available in a format and location that is easily accessible to the public within 30 days after the date when the institution received its allocation of funds (April 20, 2021) from the Department of Education. The following information includes all required disclosures:

1. West Virginia University at Parkersburg also received \$3,180,139 in ARPA funds to distribute to students in the form of student emergency payments.
2. Upon receipt of our ARPA Student Emergency Funds Grant in May 2021, WVUP determined the following regarding timing of payments and eligibility for students. In order to ensure consistent support of qualifying students, WVUP determined that we would divide the funds into three equal payments to be paid at intervals during the fiscal year as outlined in the table below:

Distribution	Total to be Distributed	Eligibility Determination Date	Estimated Distribution Date to Students	FAFSA Required Filing Deadline	Required FAFSA Submission Date
<b>1</b>	\$1,060,047	9/10/2021	9/22/2021	2021-2022	8/1/2021
<b>2</b>	\$1,060,046	11/8/2021	11/18/2021	2021-2022	9/30/2021
<b>3</b>	\$1,060,046	2/7/2022	2/23/2022	2022-2023	12/31/2021

3. Students were eligible if they met the following criteria:
  - a. Must be a student who **on the date of eligibility determination** is currently enrolled in at least one course in a degree seeking program. (This requirement excludes early college students and all students who are not enrolled in a degree program from eligibility for ARPA emergency funds.)
  - b. Student must be in paid status defined as paid in full, have financial aid available to cover any balance, or adhere to a previously agreed to payment plan, including on-time payment as outlined in the payment schedule.
  - c. Because ARPA requires that the most “needy” students receive a priority consideration, WVUP required that all students who wish to participate in the

additional priority funding pool complete a FAFSA. WVUP used eligibility for the PELL grant (without regard to SAP or other Title IV requirements) to identify “needy students”.

- d. Every student who met the criteria above received a base ARPA distribution of \$500. The remaining pool of funds available was equally divided between the PELL eligible “needy” students and added to the \$500 base amount. Each PELL eligible student received \$912 in the September disbursement. In the November disbursement, PELL eligible students received \$952, and in the February disbursement, they received \$1,136. Students received increased amounts in the November and February disbursements due to incremental decreases in enrollment.
  - e. Students who had initiated a request for complete withdrawal, even if the withdrawal had not been completed, prior to the date of eligibility determination were excluded from eligibility to receive an emergency fund distribution.
  - f. Students could elect, but were not required, to use ARPA funds to pay their tuition and fee balances. If the student chose this option, we asked them to complete a consent form authorizing WVUP to directly apply the payment to their student account.
4. The total unduplicated number of students at the institution eligible to receive ARPA disbursements to date is **1,781 students**. The 1<sup>st</sup> disbursement of ARPA emergency grants was distributed on September 24, 2021 to **1,471 students** (38 students used their emergency fund disbursement to pay tuition & fees). The 2<sup>nd</sup> disbursement of ARPA funds on November 15, 2021 was distributed to **1,429 students**. The 3<sup>rd</sup> disbursement of ARPA funds was distributed to **1,284 students** on February 21, 2022 (16 students used their emergency fund disbursement to pay tuition and fees). To date, ARPA fund disbursements to students total **\$3,328,178.60**.
- a. Nearly all students who are attending campus-based courses utilize computer hardware, WIFI, photocopiers, software, and printers provided at the campuses, When the Coronavirus forced the closing of our campuses, these resources were no longer available to students. Moving to a 100% online format meant that students had no choice but to obtain these resources on their own. The University believes that this factor alone qualifies any student who meets the eligibility requirements under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and who were not previously enrolled in 100% online majors to receive a baseline allocation to cover the cost of acquiring hardware (computers, printers, or other required electronic devices) and to help pay for WIFI access through DSL internet or “hot spot” technology. These students were eligible to receive a base CRRSAA Emergency Financial Aid Award of \$500.
  - b. The remaining funds available were distributed to eligible students who exhibited a greater financial need (PELL Eligible). Proof of PELL eligibility was based on the 21-22 FAFSA.
  - c. Before any Emergency Financial Aid Grants were distributed, each student’s eligibility was confirmed by a financial aid counselor’s review of FAFSA status.

- d. The University established a separate refund code to track all CRRSAA Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to ensure that funds were not diverted to pay any balances due to the University for unpaid tuition or fees. Once the disbursements were processed, a file was sent to Bank Mobile who disbursed the funds based on the individual student's choice. Students were permitted to chose to have the funds deposited into a bank account, posted to a prepaid debit card that is valid in all locations that accept Mastercard or Visa, or by a check sent to them through US mail.
5. Communications to Students – Eligible students were notified by email.