

JANUARY 2022-UPDATE FOR SPRING 22 AWARDS

Based on actual funds spent during Fall 21, additional funds for Spring 22 were increased as follows:

EFC	Spring
0-5,846	\$1,375
5,847-9,999	\$1,050
10,000+	\$500
No FAFSA	\$200

American Rescue Plan/HEERF III Recommendations

Background

Spending level: \$10,668,504

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) or HEERFIII Act was signed into federal law on March 11, 2021. Federal guidance provides significant discretion on how to award the emergency financial aid grants to students; however, it clearly articulates that institutions are expected to prioritize students with exceptional need. These grants may be used for any component of a student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care or child care.

Decision/Position

Award Block Grants based on student EFCs (21-22 FAFSA)

EFC	Fall	Spring	Students	Total
0-5,846	\$1,250	\$1,250	2,169	\$5,422,500
5,847-9,999	\$750	\$750	581	\$871,500
10,000+	\$500	\$500	2,848	\$2,848,000
No FAFSA	\$200	\$200	2,120	\$848,000
Total:				\$9,990,000
Remaining				\$678,504

Total Spent: \$9,990,000

Please note that these estimates are as of 8/3/2021 and based on current FAFSAs on file. There will be fluctuation as students continue to file FAFSAs and also make decisions to withdraw or not attend Bloomsburg University.

Awarding/disbursement procedures: Students will be identified via a query that will separate them by Estimated Family EFC. We expect to upload each list of students and assign the appropriate award amount via the external awards process in MyHusky. Each student will receive an e-mail communication that explains the award. (Attachment A) This query will be run during the first week of the fall semester. Only fall awards will be offered at this time to allow for review of funding and enrollment figures for Spring 2022. In order to apply funds to a student’s balance, we must obtain affirmative confirmation.

Students will have until September 7, 2021 to email the Student Billing Office with their confirmation. Disbursement of ARP funds is scheduled for September 9, 2021.

As part of the ARP Act regulations, institutions are required to spend a portion of their institutional share to conduct direct outreach to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment by requesting professional judgment (PJ). Keeping that in mind, the remaining funds (\$678,504) will be held for special conditions, emergencies situations and other COVID-related issues that arise throughout the 21-22 academic year.

Special Conditions Process: Awards would increase to new EFC block grant level. Can also suggest students do emergency application for additional funding for extenuating circumstances.

Attachment A

Dear Student:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law giving Bloomsburg University the ability to award emergency grants directly to students. You have been awarded \$XXXX.

Your award may be applied directly to your fall 2021 semester bill. If you would like the Student Billing Office to apply the award to your fall 2021 semester bill, please send an e-mail from your BU e-mail account to studentbilling@bloomu.edu affirming such no later than **September 7, 2021**.

Any amount that is not applied to your MyHusky account will be refunded to you via direct deposit or a check mailed to your home address of record. Your payment will be made to the account indicated in your direct deposit information in MyHusky on approximately September 9, 2021. If you have not signed up for direct deposit and wish to do so, please log into MyHusky and designate the appropriate account information as soon as possible. A tutorial can be found here: <https://www.bloomu.edu/myhusky-student-information-system> .

If you and your family encounter any unexpected COVID-19 related financial hardships, including but not limited to lost wages, termination or disability, we encourage you to complete our special condition form (PJ appeal) at <https://bloomu.verifymyfafsa.com>. In addition, if you have an emergency situation related to COVID such as difficulty paying expenses related to paying your education, please complete the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) application at <https://scholarships.bloomu.edu/> .

Stay safe Husky!