

HEERF III Student Grant Distribution

In March 2021, congressional leaders introduced and passed the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Public Law 117-2, providing \$39.6 billion in support to institutions of higher education to serve students.

Who is eligible to receive funds at SOWELA?

Any individual who is or was enrolled at SOWELA for the Summer 2021, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 terms.

In accordance with federal guidelines, SOWELA will prioritize awarding students with exceptional financial need. All Pell grant recipients, who were disbursed Pell funds by October 12, 2021 for the Summer 2021 and/or Fall 2021 will automatically receive an award of \$1400.

In addition, SOWELA will open an application process for all other students including non-Pell Grant recipients to have the opportunity to apply and demonstrate an exceptional need. This may include students who have faced significant expenses or circumstances that would affect their financial situation, such as the loss of employment, reduction of income, or food or housing insecurity, etc. Funds will be awarded first-come, first-served to applicants who demonstrated an exceptional need.

The college will disburse another round of funding in the Spring 2022 semester, award amounts will be determined based on the remaining allocation after Summer/Fall 2021 awards are made.

Update: Students who received a Spring semester Pell grant disbursement by February 10, 2022 were automatically determined to have an exceptional need and were disbursed \$1750 each. An application process was opened so that all other eligible students could apply and have the opportunity to demonstrate an exceptional need. In this round of disbursements, students will receive funding in the amount of \$1750 until the funding is depleted.

Distribution of Funds

Funds will be refunded directly to the students unless the student designates that they wish for the funds to be applied to a SOWELA account balance.

After affirming eligibility, SOWELA will refund directly to BankMobile based on the student refund preference or will with student designation, apply funding as a credit against any balance owed.

**Final updates made on 2/15/22 to include information on a second round of disbursements made during the Spring 2022 semester.