

May 26-27, 2021

ITEM 194-107-R0521

Request for Approval of Spending Authority for Additional COVID Relief Funding

THAT

The Board of Regents approves spending authority for additional COVID relief funding in the Montana University System. On March 11, 2021, Congress approved additional funding to support COVID relief that will be appropriated directly to campuses within the MUS.

EXPLANATION

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides the following allocations to the campuses of the Montana University System:

- **Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III) \$74M**
 - Formula based disbursement to institutions based on FTE and headcount measures.
 - A minimum of 50% of the funds need to be provided to students for emergency financial aid to prevent hunger, homelessness, and other hardships that students are facing as a result of the pandemic.
 - Prioritize students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell grants.
 - Implement evidence-based practices to mitigate COVID-19 and conduct outreach to students regarding the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unemployment of a family member or other changes in financial circumstances.
 - Defray expenses associated with the coronavirus, including lost revenue if directly attributable to COVID-19 and methodology documented, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, and faculty and staff trainings.
 - All uses of HEERF III funds must meet federal guidelines.

MUS Allocation of ARPA - HEERF III			
	HEERF Allocation	Minimum Amount for Student Emergency Grants	Maximum Amount for Institutional Portion
UM	21,774,106	10,954,849	10,819,257
MT Tech	4,895,739	2,453,306	2,442,433
UM Western	3,315,363	1,705,928	1,609,435
Helena College	2,467,574	1,243,261	1,224,313
MSU	29,110,295	14,567,454	14,542,841
MSU Billings	7,222,311	3,772,125	3,450,186
MSU Northern	2,738,622	1,422,634	1,315,988
Great Falls College	2,846,452	1,516,311	1,330,141
Total	74,370,462	37,635,868	36,734,594

- **Minority Serving Institutions and Colleges & Universities Serving Low-Income Students \$1.9M**
 - A segment of dedicated HEERF.
 - Uses of funds are same as HEERF.

MUS Estimates of ARPA - Minority & Low-Income Serving Institutions		
	NASNTI	SIP
UM		883,080
MT Tech		194,340
UM Western		138,544
Helena College		99,037
MSU Billings		300,309
MSU Northern	277,352	
Total	277,352	1,615,310

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: MUS COVID Relief Funding Summary