

**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021  
Certification and Agreement (ALN 84.425E) ((a)(1) Student Aid Portion)**

**PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT INSTITUTION GRANT FUNDS FOR STUDENTS**

The terms, conditions, and requirements governing your institution's (Recipient's) use of these grant funds awarded pursuant to section 2003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2) (award or grant) by the U.S. Department of Education (Department) are governed by section 2003 of the ARP and section 314 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260) and the following terms and conditions of this Certification and Agreement (C&A):

**Use of Grant Funds:**

1. Section 2003(7) of the ARP requires Recipient, an institution of higher education as defined in section 101 or 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), 20 USC § 1001 or 1002(c), to provide emergency financial aid grants to students in an amount equivalent to the sum of two amounts: 50 percent of the portion of its allocation that is based on formula factors from CRRSAA section 314(a)(1)(A)-(D) and 100 percent of the portion of its allocation that is based on formula factors from CRRSAA section 314(a)(1)(E)-(F). The amount of funds made available by this award under Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.425E represents the minimum amount that Recipient must use for making emergency financial aid grants to students.
2. Under section 2003(7) of the ARP and section 314(c)(3) of the CRRSAA, Recipient must make emergency financial aid grants to students (which may include students exclusively enrolled in distance education), which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.
3. Recipient acknowledges that it retains discretion to determine the amount and availability of each individual emergency financial aid grant consistent with all applicable laws, including non-discrimination laws. Recipient acknowledges it must not distribute emergency financial aid grants in a manner that discriminates against individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or sex. See, e.g., 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., (Title VI), 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq., (Rehabilitation Act), 20 U.S.C. § 1681 (Title IX).
4. Recipient further acknowledges that under CRRSAA section 314(c)(3), it must prioritize grants to students with exceptional need, such as students who receive Pell Grants. However, students do not need to be Pell recipients or students who are eligible for Pell Grants in order to receive an emergency financial aid grant.
5. Recipient acknowledges that it may not condition the receipt of an emergency financial aid grant on continued or future enrollment with the Recipient. Recipient also acknowledges that it may not require a student to consent to the application of the emergency financial aid grant to the student's outstanding account balance with Recipient

as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for an emergency financial aid grant. Recipient also acknowledges that adding preconditions to receiving a financial aid grant that thwart this requirement may be subjected to oversight and corrective action.

6. In consideration for this award, Recipient agrees that Recipient holds these grant funds in trust for students and acts in the nature of a fiduciary for students.
7. Recipient acknowledges that the Secretary recommends (a) the maximum Federal Pell Grant for the applicable award year as an appropriate maximum amount for a student's emergency financial aid grant in most cases, and (b) that the Recipient should consider each student's particular socioeconomic circumstances in the administration of these grants.
8. The Secretary strongly encourages Recipient's financial aid administrator to exercise the use of professional judgment available under HEA section 479A, 20 USC § 1087tt, to make adjustments on a case-by-case basis to exclude individual emergency financial aid grants from the calculation of a student's expected family contribution. The Secretary has determined that these individual emergency financial aid grants do not constitute Federal financial aid under Title IV of the HEA.
9. Recipient acknowledges that it may voluntarily decline all or a portion of its ARP (a)(1) student funds. The recipient may indicate this by submitting the Voluntary Decline of HEERF form (OMB Control Number 1840-0856) to the Department by August 11, 2021. Recipient further acknowledges if it submits this form, it will be ineligible for the future redistribution of ARP HEERF grant funds to other institutions with greater needs due to the coronavirus.

**Grant Administration:**

10. Recipient acknowledges that consistent with 2 CFR § 200.305, it must minimize the time between drawing down funds from G5 and paying incurred obligations (liquidation). Recipient further acknowledges that if it draws down funds and does not pay the incurred obligations (liquidates) within 15 calendar days it may be subject to heightened scrutiny by the Department, Recipient's auditors, and/or the Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Recipient further acknowledges that returning funds pursuant to mistakes in drawing down excessive grant funds in advance of need may also be subject to heightened scrutiny by the Department, Recipient's auditors, and/or the Department's OIG. Finally, Recipient acknowledges that it must maintain drawn down grant funds in an interest-bearing account, and any interest earned on all Federal grant funds above \$500 (all Federal grants together) during an institution's fiscal year must be returned (remitted) to the Federal government via a process described here:  
<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/funding-101/g5-returning-interest.pdf>.
11. Recipient may not charge any indirect or administrative costs to funds made available under this award because the allocation in this grant award represents the minimum amount of funds that must be distributed to students.

12. Recipient acknowledges that any obligation under this grant (pre-award costs pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.458) must have been incurred on or after March 13, 2020, the date of the declaration of a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak ([85 FR 15337](#)).
13. Recipient must promptly and to the greatest extent practicable distribute all grant funds from this award in the form of emergency financial aid grants to students within the one-year period of performance (2 CFR § 200.77) specified in Box 6 of this Grant Award Notification (GAN).
14. Recipient must, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus pursuant to section 315 of the CRRSAA.

**Reporting and Accountability:**

15. Recipient must promptly and timely provide a detailed accounting of the use and expenditure of the funds provided by this award in such manner and with such frequency as the Secretary may require.
16. Recipient must comply with all requirements of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, 31 USC § 7501, et seq. (Single Audit Act) and all applicable auditing standards. Considering that the HEERF grant program is a new program not previously audited or subjected to Department oversight, and the inherent risk that comes with a new program, the Department strongly suggests that the HEERF grant program be audited as a major program in the first fiscal year(s) that the institution received a HEERF grant.
17. Recipient acknowledges it is under a continuing affirmative duty to inform the Department if Recipient is to close or terminate operations as an institution or merge with another institution. In such cases, Recipient must promptly notify in writing the assigned education program officer contact in Box 3 of the GAN. Additionally, Recipient must promptly notify the assigned education program officer if the Recipient's Authorized Representative changes.
18. Recipient must cooperate with any examination of records with respect to the advanced funds by making records and authorized individuals available when requested, whether by (a) the Department and/or its OIG; or (b) any other Federal agency, commission, or department in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction and authority. Recipient must retain all financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to a Federal award for a period of three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.334.
19. Recipient acknowledges that failure to comply with this Certification and Agreement, its terms and conditions, and/or all relevant provisions and requirements of the CRRSAA or ARP or any other applicable law may result in Recipient's liability under the False

Claims Act, 31 USC § 3729, et seq.; OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; 18 USC § 1001, as appropriate; and all of the laws and regulations referenced in the “Applicable Law” section of this Certification and Agreement, below.

**Applicable Law:**

20. Recipient must comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms (SF) SF-424B and SF-424D (Assurances for Non-Construction and Assurances for Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders, and regulations.
21. Recipient certifies that with respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or supplementing of Federal grants under this program; Recipient must complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” when required (34 CFR part 82, Appendix B).
22. Recipient must comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances; the following provisions of *Education Department General Administrative Regulations* (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99; the *OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)* in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

<p><b>Institution Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Authorized Representative (typed name):</b> _____</p> <p><b>Authorized Representative Title:</b> _____</p> <p><b>DUNS Number:</b> _____</p> <p><b>OPE ID:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____</p>
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**Paperwork Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1801-0005. Public reporting burden for

this collection of information is estimated to average 5 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain a benefit (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2)). If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this individual collection, or if you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form, application or survey, please contact Karen Epps, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW. Washington, D.C. 20202 directly.

OMB Number: 1801-0005  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023