The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) appropriated funds for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and represents the third stream of funding appropriated to support students and Higher Education with expenses and financial needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This new Congressional COVID stimulus bill included $39.6 billion for higher education institutions and students, using the same model established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. An additional $3,133,590 of funding was allocated to the University of Richmond to be distributed directly to students impacted by the disruption of campus due to COVID-19. Institutions were instructed to prioritize students with exceptional need.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FUNDING AND CERTIFICATION
Institutions that received an allocation from HEERF II did not need to apply for the new funds. Instead, the institution’s project director on its most recent Grant Award Notification notified each school of when funds were available. Funds were automatically awarded based on the allocation formula in the new law. When the University drew down the funds, it constituted acceptance of the new terms and conditions that apply to these funds.

FUNDS AWARDED
The University was allocated $3,133,590 from the Department of Education through the ARP Act.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS
$3,133,590 have been distributed to students as of December 31, 2021.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY
The University estimated that 3,814 students were potentially eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the ARP Act.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FUNDS TO DATE
Emergency grant funding through the ARP Act was distributed to 1,717 students as of December 31, 2021.

METHODOLOGY USED TO DETERMINE GRANTS TO STUDENTS

Summer 2021

For Domestic Students enrolled in Summer School during the Summer 2021 term, students (both undergraduate and graduate) who received a summer Federal Pell Grant will receive a
grant of $2,500, students who did not receive a summer Federal Pell Grant, but have a Federal EFC of less than $10,000, will receive a grant of $2,000, and students who did not receive a summer Federal Pell Grant, have an EFC of $10,000 or greater, and borrowed a summer Federal Loan, will receive a grant of $1,500.

For International Students enrolled in Summer School during the Summer 2021 term, students who applied for aid and whose IM EFC was less than $10,000 will receive grants of $2,000, and students who applied for aid and whose IM EFC was $10,000 or more will receive grants of $1,500.

Fall 2021

For Domestic Students enrolled during the Fall 2021 term as of September 22, 2021, undergraduate students who had a Federal Pell Grant eligible EFC as of September 22, 2021 will receive a grant of $2,400. Students (both undergraduate and graduate) who did not receive a Federal Pell Grant during the 202110 term as of September 22, 2021, but have an EFC of less than $10,000 as of September 22, 2021, will receive a grant of $1,800. All other students who applied and received Federal Aid as of September 22, 2021 will receive a grant of $1,095.

For International Students enrolled during the Fall 2021 term as of September 22, 2021, students who received aid and whose IM EFC was less than $10,000 as of September 22, 2021, will receive grants of $1,800. All other international students received need-based aid as of September 22, 2021 will receive $1,095.

INSTRUCTIONS OR DIRECTIONS PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

Eligible students received emails notifying them of their eligibility and the award amount that they were going to receive. These students were told that they were not required to submit any verification of expenses as a condition of receiving these funds, and that their receipt of the award was based on the assumption that they have incurred or will incur expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the pandemic that equal or exceed the award amount. The email also explained that by accepting these funds, the student confirmed that they have incurred or will incur “expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care expenses.” Students who did not incur such expenses were asked to contact the Office of Financial Aid by October 3, 2021 to decline or modify the award.