



**HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (REFERRED TO AS HEERF III FUNDS)**

Converse University received \$1,882,428 in emergency grant funds for students from the American Rescue Plan. The American Rescue Plan was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The U.S. Department of Education then notified institutions of their eligibility and allocations. The HEERFIII emergency grants were administered, and grant check processing began on October 14, 2021.

As of March 31, 2022, Converse University has awarded HEERFIII Emergency Grants in the amount of \$1,869,513 to students. Converse University identified 547 students who were potentially eligible based on the guidance that HEERF III grants should be prioritized based on financial need (based on an Expected Family Contribution, as calculated by the FAFSA). An EFC range of 0 – 15,000 was used to determine eligibility. All other Converse students had the opportunity to apply for HEERF II funds by completing a ["Student Benevolence Fund, American Rescue Plan Application."](#)

As of March 31, 2022, Converse University has provided 555 HEERFIII Emergency Grants to students.

As of March 31, 2022 there is \$12,915 in HEERFIII Emergency Grant funds remaining to be awarded.

The HEERFIII emergency grants were expended in the following manner:

- Emergency grants were calculated based on need as defined by the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) formula, residential status, and student type (Traditional Undergraduate, Converse II, and Graduate).
- A grant of \$4,117 was given to all students who are Federal Pell Grant eligible and have been determined to have significant need based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) formula and enrolled full-time for the Fall 2021 semester.
- A grant of \$3,000 was given to all students who are Federal Pell Grant eligible and have been determined to have significant need based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) formula and enrolled part-time for the Fall 2021 semester.
- A grant of \$2,500 was given to all students who are NOT Federal Pell Grant eligible and have been determined to have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) ranging from 5,847 to 15,000 as calculated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) formula and enrolled full-time for the Fall 2021 semester.
- A grant of \$1,500 was given to all graduate students with a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) formula and enrolled for the Fall 2021 semester.
- A [Student Benevolence Fund, American Rescue Plan Emergency](#) Application was created for the Financial Planning Office to use for emergency appeals for students who were enrolled for Fall 2021 and were having difficulty paying for their basic needs of food, housing, and technology as calculated in the Cost of Attendance (COA) calculation beyond the initial grant awarded. These applications were reviewed as professional judgment requests by the Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services.

HEERFIII Act FAQ's

[Why did I receive a check from the HEERFIII Emergency Grant?](#)

In accordance with the American Rescue Plan, Converse University was given an appropriation of funds to help students who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Converse is grateful to the federal government for providing these funds to aid our students during this difficult time. The HEERFIII Emergency Grant provides funds for things such as housing, meals, technology needs, moving expenses, child care, healthcare expenses, and other basic needs to help students through the financial hardship(s) created by the disruption of the delivery of education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

How did Converse determine the amount of the HEERFIII Emergency Grant awarded?

The U.S. Department of Education provided guidance based upon the American Rescue Plan legislation that Converse was required to follow when distributing the funds. The disbursements to institutions of higher education from the federal government were calculated based on enrollment and the enrollment of students eligible for Pell grant funds. In accordance with those guidelines, Converse distributed the funds by need as determined by the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) established on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Grants were determined based on EFC, Pell Grant eligibility, and enrollment status at the University.

If the American Rescue Plan was signed into law on March 11, 2021 why was there a delay in receiving HEERF III Emergency Grants?

Once the American Rescue Plan was signed into law, guidance was issued on what schools could expect and how the University could apply for those funds. Converse developed a plan after careful and thoughtful consideration. The funds became available to the University on May 13, 2021.

Do I have to report to the University how I spent the HEERFIII Emergency Grant?

No. The HEERFIII Emergency Grant was issued to provide for your basic needs during this pandemic. You do not have to report to the school how the funds were spent. Converse encourages you to be cautious with the expenditure of the grant funds.

Do I need to provide any additional information to verify I am eligible for the HEERFIII Emergency Grant?

No. Eligibility was established based on information contained in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). By signing and endorsing your HEERFIII Emergency Grant check, you are verifying that you have had unanticipated expenses directly related to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have not incurred any unanticipated expenses, you should return the check to Converse University.

I have a balance due to the University. Why did Converse issue the funds to me?

The American Rescue Plan requires Converse to provide the emergency grant funds directly to students. The institution may not use any portion of that to satisfy any outstanding balances or other

expenses incurred by the student and owed to the University without the student's express written permission. The Department of Education does note that the student may use his/her HEERFIII Emergency Grant for any expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Students may use the funds to pay an outstanding balance due to Converse University.

If you do owe a balance to the University, please contact the Student Accounts at studentaccounts@converse.edu about settling that any balance due. Our Student Accounts staff will evaluate requests for payment arrangements on a case by case basis, subject to approval by the Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services.

What if I need additional assistance such as food, shelter and other basic needs? Will I receive additional funds?

If you have additional needs not addressed by the initial HEERFIII Emergency Grants, you must complete the [Student Benevolence Fund HEERFIII Emergency Grant Application](#) and return the application and any appropriate materials and supporting documentation to the Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services at james.kellam@converse.edu. Priority consideration will be given to students who were not awarded any funds in the initial round of grant awards.

All emergency requests will be evaluated carefully. Funding is limited and Converse may not be able to approve or fully fund all requests.

Will there be additional Emergency Grants for the 2022-2023 academic year?

There is no indication that there will be another round of relief funding. Converse will notify students should additional funding be available in the future.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the HEERFIII Emergency Grant?

Questions can be directed to our Associate Vice President for Student Financial Services, J.W. Kellam, by email at james.kellam@converse.edu or by calling 864-596-9019.

Last updated January 31, 2022.