



Updated April 10, 2022

Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Award Number: P425E202915

Recipient: Polk State College

Report # 10

1. Polk State College signed and submitted the *CARES Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Certification and Agreement* April 21, 2020 and received the \$3,058,025 CARES student allocation April 25, 2020 (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) funding).
2. Polk State College received an additional award of \$3,058,025 under the HEERF II funding, the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)*, on January 17, 2021. The Certification and Agreement was acknowledged by drawing down grant funds on January 21, 2021.
3. A further award of \$11,835,444 was received on May 20, 2021 under the HEERF III funding, the *American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)*. Grant funds were initially drawn down on July 1, 2021.
4. Pursuant to guidance provided on May 6, 2020, by the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, on May 21, 2020 Polk State College posted required information about the *CARES Emergency Financial Aid Grants* in a publicly accessible place on the College website. The information can be found at www.polk.edu/admission-aid/financial-aid/covid-relief-funds-for-students. This guidance was further revised on August 31, 2020, requiring the information to be updated on a quarterly basis.
5. Polk State College distributed *CARES Emergency Financial Aid Grants (CARES grants)* through an online application process. The College's *CARES Act* Committee, comprised of representatives of the Student Government Association, Academic Affairs, Student

Services, and Business Services, established a simple application process that minimizes hurdles to eligible students receiving *CARES* aid and ensures that College staff are able to distribute the aid without undue delays.

6. *CARES/HEERF* I funding was completely allocated as of January 7, 2021. Polk State College distributed \$3,058,025 to 4,247 students during the spring, summer and fall 2020 terms and spring term of 2021. (See previous reports for detailed information on allocation methods.)
7. *CRRSAA/HEERF* II funding was awarded beginning January 21, 2021. From January 2021 through December 2021, Polk State College distributed \$3,058,025 to 5,116 students eligible to receive *CRRSAA* Emergency Financial Aid Grants. The funding was directly applied to the students' tuition and book balance after other aid was applied to the summer and fall terms.
8. *ARP/HEERF* III funding was awarded beginning July 1, 2021. In Quarter 4 of 2021 (October-December) and Quarter 1 of 2022 (January-March), Polk State College applied funds directly to students' tuition and book balance after other aid was applied to the summer and fall terms. A total of \$954,243 was distributed to 2,878 students. (The total funds distributed in Quarter 4 of 2021 was incorrectly stated in our previous report.) Approximately 3,000 students at Polk State College are eligible to receive *ARP* Emergency Financial Aid Grants.
9. Students received information about *CARES*, *CRRSAA* and *ARP* Emergency Grants through email, phone contacts, postings on the college website, and notification in Canvas, the College's learning management system.