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**American Rescue Plan (ARP):**

**ARP** **Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students**

**September 11, 2021**

**Updated: November 18, 2021**

*SUMMARY: Proposal for Distribution of Funds*

Kean is being awarded $20,002,020 in Financial Aid Grant funding for direct student aid from the Department of Education as a result of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Kean also has an unexpended balance (student portion) of CRRSA Act funds of $325,240. Under the new law, institutions with unexpended Student Aid Portion CRRSA Act funds may use those funds to provide financial aid grants in the same way they are allowed to use their Student Aid Portion funds under ARP, including by providing such grants to international, undocumented, non-degree seeking, Dual enrollment, SAP unsatisfactory and exclusively enrolled in distance education students. Therefore, the total student aid portion that can be awarded under ARP at Kean is $20,327,260. The emergency financial aid grants 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. Kean 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 a financial aid grant. Kean plans to award and disburse the funds in three separate processes. All funds must be distributed by May 14, 2022.

1. *Batch Process for Summer 2021:*

Kean will select students to be awarded ARP grants for Summer 2021. The following are the selection criteria:

* + Enrolled Students for Summer I and Summer II in 2021
  + Completed 2020-2021 FAFSA
  + Family annual gross income (AGI) is $45,000 or less
  + Each student will be awarded $500

*On 8/12/2021, 770 summer students were awarded and disbursed ARP as a direct student award. The total disbursed amount is $385,000.*

1. *Batch Process for Fall 2021:*

Kean will select students to be awarded ARP grants for 2021-2022. The following are the selection criteria:

* + Enrolled Students in Fall 2021
  + Completed 2021-2022 FAFSA
  + Family annual gross income (AGI) is $85,000 or less
  + Each student will be awarded $1000

*As of 8/31/2021, the total number of students eligible for batch ARP awarding for Fall 2021 is 6,968. The total estimated awards for the Batch Process for Fall 2021 is $6,968,000. We will continue the batch awarding process throughout Fall 2021.*

*As of 11/12/2021, 7,669 students were awarded and disbursed ARP as a direct student award. The total disbursed amount is $7,669,000.*

1. *Batch Process for Spring 2022:*

Students who were awarded American Rescue Plan award in Fall 2021 and are also enrolled in Spring 2022 will be awarded a one-time $1000 American Rescue Plan award in Spring 2022.

Students who were not awarded American Rescue Plan award in Fall 2021 can apply for ARP grant by filling out an application. Application priority deadline for Spring 2022: February 1, 2022, or until the funds are exhausted.

1. *Application Process for 2021-2022:*

Students who weren’t selected under the *Batch Process for Fall 2021* *or Spring 2022* can apply for ARP grant by filling out an application. The application will be posted in KeanWise.

*As of 8/31/2021, the estimated number of students for the application process is 2829 The total estimated awards for the application process is $2,829,000. Each eligible student will be awarded $1000 for Fall 2021.*

*Application Process:*

Each student will answer a series of questions designed to assess their need for the grant. Creation of an electronic application to capture the following:

* + - Name
    - Kean ID#
    - Phone/Email
    - Have you been awarded American Rescue Plan (ARP)?
    - Adjusted Family Income (If this number is less than or equal to $85,000, the rest of questions can be skipped)
    - Students would select from the following categories to advise how they’ve been affected by COVID-19:
      * Loss of Employment (job loss or decrease in work hours)
      * Childcare costs (for independent students)
      * Food Insecurity
      * Healthcare (including mental health care)
      * Housing Security
      * Course Material and Technology
* Student Authorization
  + - Students can only receive one award per semester – either through the initial disbursement or application. Subsequent applications will not be considered.
    - Application priority deadline: September 17, 2021 (for Fall 2021), February 1, 2022 (for Spring 2022), or until the funds are exhausted. Applications will be reviewed and processed in the order in which they are received by staff from the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Services (OFA), under the supervision of the director.

*Student Authorization to Apply ARP to Student Accounts*

ED guidance allows institutions to apply ARP grants to student accounts, with student authorization. To streamline this process, we plan to administer the awarding the following way:

1. Students under Application Process will be awarded award code ARP (direct student awards). This award code will bypass AR balances.
2. An email award notification with the link of *Student Authorization to Apply ARPT to Student Accounts* will be sent to the students. A report showing students who checked Yes on the authorization page will be generated and sent to the OFA.
3. For students who checked Yes on the authorization, the OFA will cancel their ARP award and re-award them the same amount under award code ARPT, which will be applied against AR balances.