Mercyhurst University was allocated up to $4,333,931 in federal relief funds authorized under the American Rescue Plan (HEERF III). As a recipient of the funding, the university is required to provide a series of disclosures regarding the use of the funds.

1) An acknowledgement that you have signed and returned the Certification, and your assurance that you have used or intend to use no less than 50% of the funds for student grants.

The university has signed and returned the Certification and Agreement to the Department of Education. At least 50 percent of the funds received under Section 314(a)(1) of the American Rescue Plan have been or will be used for student relief grants.

2) The total amount of American Rescue Plan Act funding that you will receive or have received pursuant to your Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

The university has been allocated a total of $4,333,931.

3) The total amount of grants distributed to students under Section 314(a)(1) of ARP as of December 31, 2021.

As of December 31, 2021, the university has distributed $2,121,750. The university intends to distribute the remaining approximately 50%, or $2.16 million of student relief funds in February 2022.

4) Estimated total number of students at your institution eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid grants under Section 314(a)(1) of ARP.

As of the 2021 Fall semester, 3,022 students at the University were eligible to receive an ARP emergency grant.

5) Total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant Section 314(a)(1) of ARP.

The number of relief grants distributed to students under ARP was 3,019 as of December 31, 2021.

6) The method(s) your institution used to determine which students receive grants, and how much they would receive.

In order to grant students aid expeditiously, Mercyhurst University will automatically release relief funds to eligible students; students will not need to apply for relief. Based on the available guidance from the Department of Education at the time, Mercyhurst will issue relief funds to students. Any student with a valid FAFSA on file with the institution, who was Title IV eligible, and who was enrolled for in-person coursework was eligible for some relief funding. Students who had withdrawn prior to that date or who were in online-only coursework were ineligible for relief.

Two factors determined the amount of funding per student: 1) a student’s expected family contribution, a federal calculation of financial need that accompanies a student’s FAFSA (students were grouped into one of eight discrete categories of financial need), and 2) the number of credits a student was enrolled in as of the date of the disbursement. (12 or more credits versus fewer than 12 credits). Consistent with the provisions of the American Rescue Plan, more aid was targeted to students who were Pell eligible.

7) Any “instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.”

Not applicable on December 31, 2021. A mass communication will be sent out in February 2022 prior to disbursement of approximately 50% of student relief funds.