



American Rescue Plan (ARP) Student Grant Proposal

The ARP Act provides financial aid grants to current Ridgewater students (including students exclusively enrolled in online courses and international students) to help support any component of the student's cost of attendance or to help cover any expenses due to coronavirus, such as the loss of employment, food or housing insecurity, health care (including mental health care) or child care. In making financial aid grants to students, the College is required to focus primarily on providing assistance to students with **exceptional need**, such as students who receive Pell Grants or undergraduates with extraordinary financial circumstances.

Students are not required to be eligible for Title IV student financial aid to receive funding. Funding will be allocated through the following distribution strategies:

Total ARP Student Grant Funds Available: \$3,448,164

FALL SEMESTER 2021 (60% of Funds - \$2,068,898)

(NEED-BASED/PELL ELIGIBLE) GRANTS: **Approximately \$1,272,000 (60%)**

All Pell Grant-eligible students enrolled at Ridgewater College who meet the federal program eligibility requirements and are enrolled Fall Semester 2021 will **receive an award of \$1,200**.

(EFC BELOW \$20,000) GRANTS: **Approximately \$371,200 (18%)**

All students that are not Pell-eligible but have an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of \$20,000 or less and are enrolled Fall Semester 2021 will receive grants as follows:

EFC (\$5,846-\$10,000): \$1,000 per student

EFC (\$10,001-\$15,000): \$800 per student

EFT (\$15,001-\$20,000): \$600 per student

EMERGENCY GRANTS: **Approximately \$425,698 (22%)**

Financial assistance grants will be awarded to individual students through a simple application process initiated by each student. Grant amounts will be determined based on the number of eligible applicants after 5 days, **not to exceed \$1,000 per student**.

SPRING SEMESTER 2022 (40% of Funds - \$1,379,266)

(NEED-BASED/PELL ELIGIBLE) GRANTS: **Approximately \$827,560 (60%)**

All Pell Grant-eligible students enrolled at Ridgewater College who meet the federal program eligibility requirements and are enrolled Spring Semester 2021 will **receive an award of \$TBD**.

(EFC BELOW \$20,000) GRANTS: **Approximately \$248,268 (18%)**

All students that are not Pell-eligible but have an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of \$20,000 or less and are enrolled Spring Semester 2022 will receive grants as follows:

EFC (\$5,846-\$10,000): \$TBD per student

EFC (\$10,001-\$15,000): \$TBD per student

EFT (\$15,001-\$20,000): \$TBD per student

EMERGENCY GRANTS: **Approximately \$303,438 (22%)**

Financial assistance grants will be awarded to individual students through a simple application process initiated by each student. Grant amounts will be determined based on the number of eligible applicants after 5 days, **not to exceed \$TBD per student**.

STUDENT CONSULTATION PROCESS

Student Senate leadership from both campuses met with the Vice President of Finance & Operations regarding the proposed student distribution plan. During these meetings students had the opportunity to review the proposed distribution strategy and provide their input and feedback on the plan. Students also inquired about the qualifications for the program and gained a better understanding of what it means to be “PELL” eligible, and to take time to review their financial aid award letters. Both Student Senates were in favor of the current plan and provided letters of support (attached)

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Within 7 business days of the approval of the college’s plan by the system office, the College will engage in a rigorous communication strategy to reach all current students. Information will be sent to the college community through several email communications and utilizing Star Alert text messaging. In addition to these direct forms of communication, the College will also post ARP student grant information on the College website and on a variety of social media platforms.