

Dear Students and Parents,

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was passed by Congress and signed into law March 11, 2021, and is the third round of funding under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) during the coronavirus pandemic. The funding package provides aid to higher education to serve students and ensure learning continues during the pandemic. Charleston Southern University has received \$8,297,524 under this award.

CSU is committed to helping our students during this challenging time and has the following assistance available for both our current and past students that attended on or after March 13, 2020.

### ***Financial Aid Adjustment – Special Circumstance***

Financial Aid awards for the 2021-2022 Academic year are based on the income for the student/parent for 2019. We understand that there may be circumstances that affect your ability to pay for college which may not be apparent if only looking at the information collected from this application. If any of the following circumstances apply to you or a member of your family, you might qualify for an adjustment known as a professional judgement.

- Job loss
- Reduction of pay
- Medical expenses
- Death in the immediate family
- Other

In order to apply, you must submit the Special Circumstance form found [here](#) and email it to [specialcircumstance@csuniv.edu](mailto:specialcircumstance@csuniv.edu). By submitting this form, you are requesting the Financial Aid Office to make adjustments to the data on your FAFSA, to more accurately reflect you and/or your family's current financial situation.

Due to the current economic situation, the Financial Aid Office is experiencing a large volume of appeals. Therefore, it is extremely important that the Special Circumstance Form and all supporting documentation, as outlined on the form, are submitted at the same time. We highly encourage students to be timely in submitting all required documents.

### ***Assistance with Student Debt***

Charleston Southern University has set aside a portion of its institutional funds from the American Rescue Plan to assist students with their account balance. Students may qualify for student debt relief if they attended CSU on or after March 13, 2020 and have been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. If students would like to re-enroll, transfer to another institution, obtain an official transcript, and/or secure employment, the barrier of an outstanding student debt to Charleston Southern University may be discharged by requesting and completing a student

impact certification form. In order to apply, you must submit the Student Debt Impact Certification form found [here](#) and email it to [studentdebt@csuniv.edu](mailto:studentdebt@csuniv.edu). Applications will be accepted first come, first served basis through August 23, 2021 or until funds have been depleted.

### ***Student Financial Aid Grants***

Charleston Southern University was awarded funds to provide students that may have experienced loss of employment or other financial support due to the COVID-19 emergency. These aid payments were intended to help with expenses incurred as a result of the emergency, including housing, food, course materials, technology, healthcare, or childcare.

CSU has decided to prioritize the HEERF III grant funds to students with exceptional financial need, such as those who receive Pell Grants or those with extraordinary financial circumstances. Eligibility for HEERF III funds, will be based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students with the highest financial need will receive the highest aid amount. Students enrolled less than full-time will receive a prorated aid payment.

CSU will be distributing funds to registered students in the Fall and Spring semesters who have filed a FAFSA for the 21-22 academic award year and have an expected family contribution below 20,000. Funds will begin being distributed at the end of August for eligible students on their accounts. You will receive notification of your grant if eligible and will be prompted to determine how you would like to receive your funds. More to come in the coming weeks.