

November 9, 2021

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Section 2003(7) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) requires Montserrat College of Art, an institution of higher education as defined in section 101 or 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), 20 USC § 1001 or 1002(c), to provide emergency financial aid grants to students in an amount equivalent to the sum of two amounts: 50 percent of the portion of its allocation that is based on formula factors from CRRSAA section 314(a)(1)(A)-(D) and 100 percent of the portion of its allocation that is based on formula factors from CRRSAA section 314(a)(1)(E)-(F). The amount of funds made available by this supplemental award under Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.425E represents the minimum amount that Recipient must use for making emergency financial aid grants to students.

Under the HEERF III (also known as ARP) programs, student portion funds must be used to provide financial aid grants to students (including students exclusively enrolled in distance education) which may be used for any component of the student's cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.

In making financial aid grants to students, Montserrat College of Art must prioritize grants to students with exceptional needs, such as students who receive Pell Grants.

The following information is being made public according to the requirements of these Acts:

1. This is to acknowledge that Montserrat College of Art has signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that the institution will use the applicable amount of funds designated under the CRRSAA and ARP programs to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.
2. Montserrat College of Art was awarded a total of \$1,062,484 of which \$531,458 is for Montserrat to use for ARP emergency financial aid grants to students during the 21/22 school year.
3. \$531,458 of the American Rescue Plan is designated to be used as direct assistance to students. These funds will be distributed during the 21/22 academic year to enrolled Montserrat students who filed a Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 21/22 school year and were impacted by the disruption of their education due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

4. At the time of this letter, Montserrat has 275 students who have filed a 2021/2022 FAFSA and are currently enrolled at the college for the Fall 2021 semester. Montserrat students who filed a FAFSA for the 21/22 school year and are currently enrolled are potentially eligible to receive an ARP Grant.
5. Montserrat College of Art's Dean of Finance and Administration, Director of Admissions, Financial Aid Director, and Bursar have been meeting on a regular basis to determine the best way to distribute the ARP allotment in a fair manner. Many factors are being evaluated when considering the amount of ARP funding to be distributed to each student. Those factors include but are not limited to: the student's estimated family contribution from FAFSA, the amount of grant and scholarship money already awarded, a student's cost of attendance including but not limited to tuition, housing and course materials. Additional factors are loan debt incurred and technology costs.
6. Student Financial Services has been communicating and encouraging students to complete the FAFSA in a timely manner to qualify for HEERF III funds in addition to institutional, state, and federal awards. Students have also been informed to contact the Financial Aid office of Special Circumstances. In addition students can file an appeal for additional ARP funds. This is being communicated to students as they pick up their ARP checks and via email.

Be well and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Lisa Shawney

Dean of Finance and Administration

CC: Board of Trustees