



## **Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District**

### **Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act**

1. Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) acknowledges that the District has signed and returned to the Department of Education the Certification and Agreement and the assurance that BVT has used no less than the required amount of the funds received under ARP (a)(1) to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.
2. BVT has received \$81,586 from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students (this includes the student portion only).
3. BVT distributed \$81,586 of Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under ARP (a)(1).
4. There were 44 students enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program Classes of 2020-2022 and 2021-2023 who were eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under ARP (a)(1).
5. The awarded Emergency Financial Aid Grants were disbursed to all eligible students under ARP (a)(1) on the September 23, 2021 warrant and mailed after all appropriate school committee signatures were received.
6. BVT allocated the Emergency Financial Aid Grant equally among eligible students enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program who were affected by the COVID-19 closures. Each student received an equal distribution as indicated on their signed acknowledgement statement for these Emergency Financial Aid Grants awarded under ARP (a)(1). Students were also notified to contact the Assistant Business Manager if they required any additional financial aid adjustments due to changes in their financial situations resulting from COVID-19.
7. Eligible students were asked to review and sign an acknowledgement statement. The acknowledgement statement explained the statutory requirement of how these funds were to be used by BVT students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. This included eligible expense categories used in the Cost of Attendance calculation; such as room & board, personal and transportation expenses; as well as, technology, health care and child-care expenses. These funds were awarded in grant format, and therefore do not require repayment by the student. BVT distributed all funds to students who returned the signed acknowledgement statement. If there are any questions regarding BVT's implementation of ARP (a)(1) under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund please contact Nicole St. Germain, Assistant Business Manager at [nstgermain@vallytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:nstgermain@vallytech.k12.ma.us).

*Serving*

BELLINGHAM\*BLACKSTONE\*DOUGLAS\*GRAFTON\*HOPEDALE\*MENDON\*MILFORD  
MILLBURY\* MILLVILLE\*NORTHBRIDGE\*SUTTON\*UPTON\*UXBRIDGE



**Blackstone Valley Vocational  
Regional School District**

65 Pleasant Street  
Upton, Massachusetts 01568-1499  
(508) 529-7758 | Fax # (508) 529-4579

September 7, 2021

Dear Practical Nursing Student,

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District has recently obtained an allocation of grant funds the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Public Law 117-2. These emergency financial aid grants are available to our Practical Nursing students, regardless of their Federal Financial Aid status.

There is a statutory requirement for these funds to be used by our students to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19. This includes eligible expense categories used in the Cost of Attendance calculation; such as room & board, personal and transportation expenses; as well as, technology, health care and child-care expenses. These funds are awarded in grant format, and therefore do not require repayment. *If you would prefer to have us apply the funds directly to your outstanding balance, please email the school's financial aid coordinator, Ms. Nicole St. Germain at: [nstgermain@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:nstgermain@valleytech.k12.ma.us).*

The school district will distribute the ARP Act grant funds equally among actively enrolled Practical Nursing students. We are requesting you to sign this acknowledgement of understanding and return it promptly to the school's financial aid coordinator, Ms. Nicole St. Germain at: [nstgermain@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:nstgermain@valleytech.k12.ma.us). Once this signed acknowledgement of understanding is provided to Ms. St. Germain, the ARP Act grant funds will be distributed via check mailed to your home address currently on file sometime after September 23, 2021.

If you choose to not sign and return this acknowledgement letter by September 14, 2021 it will be assumed you want to forfeit this financial assistance and your portion will be reallocated equally to other eligible students.

*I understand and acknowledge Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District has awarded me an emergency financial aid grant in the amount of **\$1,854.23**. I certify these grant funds will be spent in accordance to the statutory guidelines of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund authorized by the ARP Act as noted above.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Joann Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC  
Practical Nursing Program Coordinator

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Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick  
Superintendent-Director

September 7, 2021

Dear Practical Nursing Student,

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District recently obtained grant funds through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III). Per HEERF III and Federal Student Aid (FSA) guidelines, if you have received Title IV Federal Financial Aid, you have an opportunity to potentially receive a financial aid adjustment. If you or your family's financial situation changed significantly from what was reflected on your 2019 federal income tax return or if you have experienced certain economic hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, a review of your FAFSA may be made if any of the following apply:

- Change in Earnings/Untaxed Income/Benefits
- Divorce/Separation/Death of a Spouse or Parent
- Unemployment/Disability
- Tuition Expenses at Elementary/Secondary School
- Nursing Home Expenses NOT covered by insurance
- Unusually High Medical/Dental Expense NOT covered by insurance
- Unusually High Child Care/Dependent Care Costs
- Dislocated Worker Status of a Family Member
- Parental refusal to sign FAFSA – Unsub Only
- Parents enrolled in college
- Received a one-time income distribution
- Local Disaster (hurricane, earthquake, etc.)

A review may also be made if your FAFSA does not reflect current receipt of the following:

- Unemployment Benefits
- Social Security/Medicaid/SS Disability Benefits
- Snap/Food Stamps
- TANF
- WIC
- Heating/Fuel/Housing Assistance
- Veterans Education benefits
- Disability/Workman's Comp Benefits
- Veterans Non-Education Benefits
- Child Support received

Documentation of your financial changes (Ex. letter from state unemployment agency regarding receipt of unemployment benefits) is required and may be considered sufficient to adjust calculated expected student/parent contribution. You must also be sure you completed all FAFSA application questions (including transfer of tax return and income information) and that your form has been submitted.

If you qualify for a financial aid adjustment based on previously listed criteria, we are requesting that you contact our school's financial aid coordinator, Ms. Nicole St. Germain, at [nstgermain@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:nstgermain@valleytech.k12.ma.us). You must contact Ms. St. Germain by September 29, 2021 to explain your situation and provide required documentation. If you choose not to contact Ms. St. Germain by September 29, 2021, it will be assumed your financial situation has not changed and you do not require a financial aid adjustment. Please note, Ms. St. Germain will make use of professional judgment authority when assessing financial aid adjustments. The school's decision on financial aid is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Joann Monks  
PN Program Coordinator