



Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Report – Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

June 15, 2021

The Gemological Institute of America (“GIA”) (OPE ID 02231900) received education stabilization funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA). This Fund Report applies to the student portion received under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that is designated exclusively for emergency financial aid grants to students.

The federal government has made these critical funds available for eligible students who have expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. GIA takes receipt of these federal funds seriously and is distributing them in accordance with the CARES Act and implementing guidance.

GIA is making the below information available for transparency purposes and in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education’s (“Department”) reporting requirement.¹ For questions or concerns regarding this Fund Report, please contact Wendy Wang, Financial Aid Director, at wendy.wang@gia.edu.

1. GIA signed and returned to the Department the Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. GIA has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.
2. The total amount of funds that GIA will receive or has received from the Department pursuant to GIA’s Certification and Agreement [for] Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students is \$176,142.
3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) as of the date of this Fund Report is \$176,142.
4. The estimated total number of students at GIA who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and thus eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, as of the date of this Fund Report, is 95.
5. The estimated total number of students at GIA who are eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and thus eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under Section 18004(a)(1) of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) as of the date of this Fund Report, is 116.

¹ See: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.



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6. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of this Fund Report is 95.
7. The total number of students who have received an emergency financial aid grant under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) as of the date of this Fund Report is 116.
8. The methods used by GIA to determine which students receive emergency financial aid grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act are provided at **Attachment A**.
9. The students who meet the eligibility requirements to receive this emergency financial aid grant will receive an acceptance form from GIA via email. The form must be signed and returned to GIA before the funds can be released. The funds will be distributed by check, mailed to each eligible student at their address of record or apply the grant directly to student tuition with student's consent.



Attachment A

Student Eligibility

GIA has identified a total of 211 students who meet the eligibility requirements for receiving an HEERF emergency grant. GIA has established two need-based classifications (Group) for these students, as described below. An *enrolled* student is defined as a student who has signed the enrollment agreement and has started instruction in the GIA U.S.-based on campus Graduate Gemologist Program (GG), Graduate Jeweler Program (GJ), or Jewelry Design & Technology Program (JDT). For the Carlsbad Campus, this is a student who signed the enrollment agreement and has started instruction as of 03/16/2020; for the New York Campus, this is a student who signed the enrollment agreement and has started instruction as of 03/12/2020.²

Group One: Students who have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); the verification process is complete and aid has been calculated; and is *enrolled* in one of the programs described above. Award amounts are based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated in the FAFSA.

Group Two: Students who have not filed a FAFSA and are enrolled in one of the programs described above and who are eligible to file a FAFSA (are U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens; have a valid Social Security number; have registered with the U.S. Selective Service if the student is male; have a high school diploma or GED, or have completed high school in an approved homeschool setting).

Group Three: Students who are enrolled in one of the programs, including both Title IV or Non-Title IV programs described above and/or have demonstrated a need for additional support beyond the award for Group One or Two. The need must be for expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, child care, or other hardships as a result of this crisis. These students can apply for an additional emergency HEERF grant by submitting a written application describing how the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 has created unexpected costs associated with their enrollment. GIA will allocate funds based on the student's stated needs and documented expenses until the funding is exhausted. \$1,000 maximum.

GIA will award the emergency grant funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to students as follows:

Group One (EFC is 0-2000).....	\$2,000
Group One (EFC is 2001-5576) .	\$1,500
Group One (EFC is > 5576)	\$ 750
Group Two.....	\$ 500
Group Three.....	\$1,000

² *Students who qualify in Group One or Group Two are eligible to receive the funding regardless of their student status after 3/16/2020, i.e., students who withdrew after 3/16/2020 remain eligible to receive the HEERF funds.*