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

September 30, 2021

The Gemological Institute of America (“GIA”) received education stabilization funds under Section 18004(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). 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 and implementing guidance.

COVID-19 Relief Funding

CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) – On March 27, 2020 the federal government signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law, and established the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF I) which provided emergency funding to higher education institutions. Half of the HEERF dollars must go directly to students in the form of emergency grants for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the COVID-19 crisis. The campus received \$88,071 for direct student support. These emergency financial aid grants were distributed to students starting in May 2020 and throughout the 2020-21 academic year.

CRRSAA: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) – On December, 27 2020, the federal government signed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) which authorized the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II). Similar to the CARES Act, CRRSAA authorized that half of the funding sent to institutions of higher education must go directly to students in the form of emergency grants. In addition, CRRSAA requires that institutions prioritize providing funding to students with exceptional need. The campus received additional \$88,071 for direct student support. These funds were distributed to students in April 2021.

ARP: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III)– On March, 11 2021, the federal government signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) which authorized the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III). Guidance for the administration of this round of funding was released on May 11, 2021. ARP also authorized that half of the funding sent to institutions of higher education must go directly to students in the form of emergency grants, and similar to CRRSAA, also requires that institutions prioritize providing funding to students with



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exceptional need. The campus received \$228,629 for direct student support. These funds were distributed or will be distributed to students in May 2021 until the fund is exhausted.

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 financialaid@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) 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 \$404,771.
3. The total amount of emergency financial aid grants distributed to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) as of the date of this Fund Report is \$264,392.
4. The total number of students at GIA who have received or will receive the HEERF and/or emergency Financial Aid Grant to Students under § 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, CRRSAA and ARP; and the total number of students eligible to receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students as of the date of this Fund Report, is 261
5. 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 ARP are provided at **Attachment A beginning September 2021**.
6. The students who meet the eligibility requirements to receive this emergency financial aid grant will receive an email notification and 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.



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Attachment A

Student Eligibility

Student who meet the eligibility requirements for receiving a HEERF grant, GIA has established four 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), Jewelry Design & Technology Program (JDT), Graduate Diamond Program (GD), Graduate Colored Stones Program (GCS), Jewelry Design (JD) or Comprehensive CAD/CAM for Jewelry (CCC). 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.

GIA will not (1) condition the receipt of financial aid grants to students on continued or future enrollment in the Institution, (2) use the financial aid grants to satisfy a student's outstanding account balance, unless it has obtained the student's written (or electronic), affirmative consent, or (3) require such consent as a condition of receipt of or eligibility for the financial aid grant. GIA is carefully document how we prioritize students with exceptional need in distributing financial aid grants to students, as the Department intends to establish reporting requirements regarding the distribution of financial aid grants to students.

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 Title IV approved programs described above. Award amounts are based on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated in the FAFSA. For this group of students, the total amount of HEERF III cannot exceed \$5,629 compared to the total 2021-2022 Pell Grant maximum.

Group Two: Students who have not filed a FAFSA and are enrolled in one of the Title IV approved programs described above and who are eligible to file a FAFSA (including refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, other DREAMers, and similar undocumented students (including non-U.S. residents)).

Group Three: Students who are enrolled in one of the Non-Title IV programs, described above (including refugees, asylum seekers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients, other DREAMers, and similar undocumented students (including non-U.S. residents)).

Group Four: Students who have demonstrated a need for additional support beyond the award for Group One, Two or Three. 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 III grant by submitting a written application describing how the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19 has created



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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. This group of students cannot exceed the total HEERF \$5,629 compared to the total 2021-2022 Pell Grant maximum.

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

Group One (EFC is 0-2000)	\$2,000
Group One (EFC is 2001-5846)	\$1,500
Group One (EFC is = or > 5847)	\$750
Group Two	\$500
Group Three	\$500
Group Four	\$5,629 Maximum (See Group 4 for details)

Reference: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudent.html>