



UNIVERSIDAD INTERAMERICANA DE PUERTO RICO
Oficina del Presidente

**Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, 2020 (CARES Act) and the
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)**

March 31, 2021 – Quarterly Report

Item 1

Acknowledgement

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School, hereby acknowledges that our institution signed and returned to the Department of Education on April 17, 2020, the Certification and Agreement required under the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, 2020. Subsequently, during January 2021, our institution received supplemental award for the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Act, 2021.

In addition, hereby Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School, assures that the institution has used, or intends to use, no less than 50 percent of the funds received under the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. As to the CRRSAA Act, our institution has used, or intends to use for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, as a minimum, the same amount awarded under the CARES Act for such purpose.

Dr. Andrés Pagán
School's Dean

____ March 31, 2021 ____

Manuel J. Fernós, Esq.
President

____ March 31, 2021 ____

OPTOMETRY SCHOOL		
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Portion	Date	Amount
Item #2:		
Total funds received under CARES Act and CRRSAA Act	As of March 31, 2021	\$66,924.00
Item #3:		
Total funds distributed to students under CARES Act and CRRSAA Act	As of March 31, 2021	\$66,924.13
Item #4:		
Number of students eligible to receive the emergency financial aid	As of March 31, 2021	409
Item #5:		
Number of students who have received the emergency financial aid	As of March 31, 2021	374

Item 6 – Method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive.

A – Under Section 18004 of the CARES Act:

Inter American University of Puerto Rico established the following guidelines to determine eligibility of its students for the *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)* emergency assistance provided by the CARES Act:

- Students must be actively enrolled in face-to-face program, conducive to complete an academic degree or certificate, during the academic terms affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and thus the study program was interrupted by the emergency. Any student that did not fit into this definition were deemed not eligible to receive the emergency aid.
- Students have filed or may file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) were deemed eligible. As an alternative to student's who under special conditions cannot complete a FAFSA, may demonstrate eligibility by completing an application in which the student attests under the penalty of perjury to meeting the requirements of Section 484 of the HEA.
- Students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, must comply with the following eligibility criteria among others:
 - Have a valid Social Security number

- Be a citizen or national of the United States, a permanent resident, or belong to an eligible noncitizen category to receive the grant
- Not be enrolled in an elementary or high school and I have a valid high school diploma or its recognized equivalent
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
- Have no debt accrued from an overpayment (refund) of Title IV financial aid
- Not be in default on a Title IV loan
- May have not obtained or has repaid any Title IV aid obtained through fraud, proven in a legal proceeding brought against the student that resulted from a guilty verdict rendered by a jury plea or a guilty plea
- May have not received Title IV program loans in excess of the annual or aggregate limits provided by law and applicable regulations through fraud
- Must have repaid any amount of a Title IV program loan that has exceeded the annual or aggregate limit received by miscalculation
- Be registered in the Selective Service (*Male students only 18 – 25 years of age*)
- May have not been convicted of possession or distribution of drugs in the federal or state jurisdictions

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School students' HEERF emergency assistance amounts to \$153.50 per student.

B – Under Section 314 of the CRRSAA Act:

Inter American University of Puerto Rico established the following guidelines to determine eligibility of its students for the *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERFII)* emergency assistance provided by the **CRRSAA Act**:

- Students must be actively enrolled in an educational program, including distance education programs, conducive to complete an academic degree or certificate, during the following academic terms affected by the Coronavirus pandemic: 202112, 202123, 202130, 202131, 202135, 202137, and 202139.
- Students who are American citizens or alien students that could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended.
- The students identified with an exceptional need (maximum amount of Pell grant recipients) were awarded the higher amount of emergency assistance.
- The students with a FAFSA on file with an Estimated Family Contribution between 1 and 5,711 were awarded 75% of the amount awarded to exceptional needs students.
- The students with no FAFSA on file, were awarded 50% of the amount awarded to exceptional needs students.

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School students' emergency assistance under the **CRRSAA Act** ranged between \$116.03 and \$232.05.

Item 7 – Instructions, directions, or guidance provided by the institution to students concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School provided the following communications to the students related to the CARES ACT emergency aid:

- May 5, 2020 – Letter to students announcing the distribution of the CARES ACT emergency aid and describing the distribution methodology.
- May 5, 2020 – Email to potentially eligible students with no FAFSA on record at the institution providing guidance to file the FAFSA.
- April 30, 2020 – Email update to students on the status of CARES Act emergency aid funds to be received.
- April 15-16, 2020 – Email to students describing the purpose of the CARES Act emergency aid funds.
- March 1, 2021 – Letter sent via email to all students announcing the distribution of the CRRSAA Act emergency aid and describing the eligibility criteria.