



UNIVERSIDAD INTERAMERICANA DE PUERTO RICO  
Oficina del Presidente

**CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students - Section 18004(a) (1)  
45-Days Report**

*Prepared as per guidance from Electronic Announcement*

*Posted Date: May 06, 2020*

*Author: Office of Postsecondary Education*

*Subject: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting- Emergency Financial Aid  
Grants to Students*

**Item 1**

**Acknowledgement under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act**

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.

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 Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.

Dr. Andrés Pagán  
School's Dean

\_\_\_\_\_ August 15, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

Manuel J. Fernós, Esq.  
President

\_\_\_\_\_ August 15, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

**Item 2**

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School, received a total amount of \$33,462.00 funds from the Department of Education pursuant to the institution's Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students.

**Item 3**

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School has distributed a total amount of \$30,086.00 from the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students under Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission.

**Item 4**

At Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Optometry School, the estimated total number of students 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 to students under Section 18004(a) (1) of the CARES Act amounts to 218 students.

**Item 5**

The total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students under Section 18004(a) (1) of the CARES Act as of the date of submission are 196 students.

**Item 6** – Method(s) used by the institution to determine which students receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants and how much they would receive under Section 18004(a)(1) 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

Students enrolled in full online learning program during the academic terms affected by the Coronavirus pandemic were deemed *not eligible*, with the exception of online learning students enrolled in *at least one face-to-face course*, who were considered eligible for the emergency

assistance. These students are considered to be affected by the campus operations disruption due to the emergency, for that face-to-face course.

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

**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.