CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Reporting
Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students

On April 15, 2020 The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) signed and returned to the U.S. Department of Education, the Certification and Agreement for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students under Section 18002(a)(1) of the CARES Act. The CIA is required to provide no less than 50% of the funds received as Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students, and has provided in excess of that amount as of May 26, 2020.

The CIA received $1,498,627 from the Department of Education to provide Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. As of May 26, 2020, the CIA has distributed 100% of the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students. The total amount of Emergency Financial Aid Grants the CIA has distributed to students is $1,769,830 ($271,203 more than it was required to).

The CIA used the presence of a Free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine students who were eligible to participate in the program under Section 484 in the Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. 1,634 students met this requirement for the 2019–20 academic year.

The total number of students who have been awarded and received Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students is 1,250.

The CIA determined students who would qualify for the grants based on the FAFSA Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for all undergraduate students who were enrolled in classes on March 13, 2020. No application was necessary for students to receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grants. To award the funds the CIA set an EFC maximum of $24,999 based on the students 2019–2020 FAFSA. Awards ranged from $600 to $1,900 based on EFC and housing status. Instructions, guidance, and directions provided by the Institution to students concerning these grant funds, as well as a description of qualifying levels, is posted within the secure student portal FAQ page. A copy of the notice with guidance concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants sent to the students can be viewed here.