

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The Art Institute of Houston CARES Act Reporting

To assist students who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic, The Art Institute of Houston is distributing emergency government grant funding via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act” or the “Act”). The CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) supplies funding to institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students who may have been impacted by disruption to campus operations due to coronavirus. The CARES Act requires all colleges and universities to provide access to the following information:

1. The Art Institute of Houston signed and returned to the Department of Education (the “Department”) the Certification and Agreement and the assurance 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.
2. The Art Institute of Houston has received \$1,656,960 from the Department for Emergency Financial Aid Grants to students.
3. As of August 17, 2020, The Art Institute of Houston has disbursed \$943,042.84 to students.
4. The Art Institute of Houston estimates that approximately 888 students are/will be eligible to receive the Emergency Financial Aid Grant
5. As of August 17, 2020, 552 students have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant.
6. All currently enrolled Title IV eligible students at The Art Institute of Houston will receive an initial stipend in the amount of \$500.00. Receipt of the initial stipend is contingent upon eligible students certifying he/she has incurred at least \$500.00 of expenses related to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Eligible students at The Art Institute of Houston may request additional emergency relief funds by applying via the secure student portal. The requesting student must specify the nature of the expense, the amount of aid requested for the associated expense and, if possible, provide supporting documentation for the expense. Supporting documentation should include, but is not limited to, utility bills, rent statements, etc. Requests will be reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from the Student Finance, Student Services and Academic Affairs Departments. Submission of a request for emergency aid and/or supporting documentation does not guarantee allocation of aid or allocation of the requested aid amount.

In accordance with guidelines provided by the Department of Education, the maximum eligibility of total emergency aid per student under the CARES Act is \$6,195.00, i.e., the maximum Federal Pell Grant eligibility for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Aid granted under the CARES Act will be awarded through a fund source in Campus Nexus and disbursed directly to the student in the form of a stipend to be administered and disbursed by Bank Mobile in accordance with established institutional practices.

7. An [email](#) was sent to currently enrolled students on April 30, 2020, informing students they may receive a stipend of \$500.00 in emergency aid funds to be used for expenses incurred as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. This email included the steps for students to certify through a student [acknowledgment](#) they have incurred at least \$500.00 in expenses due to the COVID-19 disruption stipend, including eligibility and instructions. A follow-up [email](#) was sent to all currently enrolled students on May 16, 2020, informing of the process to [request](#) additional emergency relief funds by applying via the secure student portal, including instructions for supplying and submitting supporting documentation, the review process, the anticipated timeline for review and who to contact with any questions about the process. Additionally, instructions were provided on how the funds would be made payable to the students account. Any questions on the process to request funds should be directed to caresactfunds@aii.edu.