



## LEA GRANTS MANAGERS UPDATE

### NEW ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSERII) FUND

Feb. 5, 2021

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is pleased to announce an additional grant program to support K-12 local education agencies (LEAs) in responding to emergency needs arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. A second [Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund](#) (ESSER II) was established under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA) and the United States Department of Education (USED) has awarded the District of Columbia \$172,013,174 in ESSER II funds. This spring, OSSE will release a new and separate grant application in the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) for ESSER II funding. Additional application information, including training and technical assistance opportunities, will be shared in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or need support, please contact [OSSE.CARES@dc.gov](mailto:OSSE.CARES@dc.gov).

#### **\*\*ACTION NEEDED\*\***

OSSE received clarification from USED that we must issue Grant Award Notifications (GANS) to LEAs for the full amount of CARES-ESSER grant allocations within one year of when the funds were first granted to OSSE in May 2020. To ensure every LEAs has an approved application and GAN by May 2021, LEAs are now required to **submit FY21 CARES-ESSER applications no later than April 15, 2021.**

LEAs should plan to make use of all remaining CARES-ESSER funds *before* making use of ESSER II and, to support that effort, OSSE will make the remainder of LEAs' CARES-ESSER funds available in fiscal year 2021 (FY21) within the [Enterprise Grants Management System](#) (EGMS). LEAs retain the ability to carry over CARES-ESSER funds into FY22 but, given the additional ESSER II resources now available, are strongly encouraged to leverage funding now to safely reopen schools and mitigate learning loss for students. ESSER II establishes new priorities and state-level reporting for the use of funds, which align to nationwide progress in combating coronavirus, mitigating its effects, and planning for recovery.

#### *Safely Reopening Schools*

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [DC Health](#) have provided guidance on how to safely reopen schools for in-person activities. As a USED priority for the use of ESSER II funds, LEAs are encouraged to leverage this emergency relief funding, as needed, for the staffing, supplies, equipment, and other expenses necessary to operate during the public health emergency.

#### *Measuring and Addressing Learning Loss*

At both the national and local level, we know that school closures as a result of the coronavirus pandemic can lead to learning loss for students and a widening achievement gap for the most vulnerable populations. As a USED priority for the use of ESSER II funds, LEAs are encouraged to leverage this emergency relief funding to measure and address learning loss for students disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and school closures, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.

#### *Maintaining Quality School Environments, Including Air Quality*

As important as supplies, equipment, and practices are to safely reopening schools during the pandemic, it is equally important to ensure school facilities are upgraded and maintained to function as safe and high quality school environments. USED also prioritizes the use of ESSER II funds for testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings.

## FACT SHEET

### NEW ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSERII) FUND

This chart outlines key information for the grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ESSER Fund and the ESSER II Fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act

Topic	CARES-ESSER	ESSER II Fund (CRRSA Act)
<b>Authorizing Legislation</b>	Section 18003 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted March 27, 2020	Section 313 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021 enacted Dec. 27, 2020
<b>Purpose</b>	Provide LEAs with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools	Provide LEAs funding to safely <b>reopen schools</b> as soon as possible and to <b>mitigate and recover student learning</b> lost as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and associated school closures
<b>Allowable Uses</b>	The <a href="#">allowable uses</a> of funding are broad and include activities allowable under the following federal programs: ESEA, IDEA, McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act, Carl D. Perkins Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), as well as additional costs prompted by COVID-19	Same allowable uses as under CARES-ESSER; emphasis on safely reopening schools, measuring and addressing learning loss, and maintaining quality school environments, including air quality
<b>Award Total</b>	United States Department of Education (USED) has awarded the District of Columbia <b>\$42,006,354</b> 90 percent is for formula subgrants to LEAs 10 percent is available for locally determined needs	United States Department of Education (USED) has awarded the District of Columbia <b>\$172,013,174</b> 90 percent is for formula subgrants to LEAs 10 percent is available for locally determined needs
<b>LEA Allocations</b>	Allocations to LEAs are made in proportion to the amount of funds received under Title I-A in the most recent fiscal year (School Year 2019-20) Adjustments are made for public charter schools that are new or significantly expanding in School Year 2020-21 Allocations can be found <a href="#">here</a>	Allocations to LEAs are made in proportion to the amount of funds received under Title I-A in the most recent fiscal year (School Year 2020-21) Adjustments will be made in summer 2021 for public charter schools that are new or significantly expanding in School Year 2021-22 Preliminary Allocations can be found <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Period of Availability</b>	March 13, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2022 May be used for pre-award costs dating back to when the national emergency was declared	March 13, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2023 May be used for pre-award costs dating back to when the national emergency was declared
<b>Grant Application</b>	LEAs must apply for funding in OSSE's <a href="#">Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS)</a>  FY21 CARES-ESSER applications are now <b>due April 15, 2021</b> and must include all remaining available funding including carryover of unspent FY20 funding, funding previously planned for FY22, and the reallocation of returned funds	LEAs must apply in EGMS. Application is planned to release in <b>spring 2021</b> .  ESSER II applications in EGMS will link to and be reviewed alongside LEAs' Continuous Education plans to contextualize LEAs' ESSER II applications and budgets