



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

June 25, 2020

U.S. Department of Education CARES Act Plan for Using Covered Funds

As required by Section 15011(b)(1)(B) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), this document constitutes the U.S. Department of Education's plan to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) describing how the agency will use "covered funds" as defined in the Section 15011(b)(1)(B). This plan covers funds that are made available to any non-Federal entity, not including an individual, under the CARES Act; the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127); or any other Act primarily making appropriations for the Coronavirus response and related activities.

Overview:

It is important to note that many of the U.S. Department of Education coronavirus response activities are not considered "covered funds," as defined by the CARES Act. The following is a summary as of today, June 25, 2020, of the funds made available that are covered:

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund ("GEER Fund"). The Department has awarded \$2.9 billion in GEER Funds under Section 18002 to 52 Governors (states and certain territories). The purpose of the GEER Fund is to provide emergency assistance to a Governor to support local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and any other education-related entities the Governor "deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students" for certain authorized activities under the CARES Act and the Higher Education Act, as well as for "the provision of child care and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs." Grantees are required to execute a Certification and Agreement setting forth their duties and obligations.

Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund ("ESSER Fund"). The Department has awarded \$13.2 billion in ESSER Funds under Section 18003 to all 52 Chief State School Officers (states and certain territories). The purpose of the ESSER Fund is to support continuity of learning for K-12 students whose education has been disrupted by the Coronavirus. Grantees are required to execute a Certification and Agreement setting forth their duties and obligations.

Reservation of Funds for Outlying Areas from the Education Stabilization Fund ("ESF"). Section 18001 of the CARES Act requires the Secretary to allocate "not more than ½ of 1 percent" (i.e., \$153.8 million) of the Education Stabilization Fund for the outlying areas (U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and American Samoa). The purpose of these funds is to provide emergency assistance to the outlying areas to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Governors and State Educational Agencies of the outlying areas may both apply for funding. Grantees are required to execute a Certification and Agreement setting forth their duties and obligations.

400 MARYLAND AVE., S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202
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For the ESF-Governors, the Department has awarded \$12 million. Awards were made to the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and to the Governor of American Samoa.

For the ESF-State Educational Agencies, the Department has awarded \$123 million. Awardees include the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (“HEER Fund”) to Assist Students. Under section 18004(a)(1), the Department has awarded \$6.2 billion to institutions of higher education for the specific purpose to assist students. Grantees are required to execute a Certification and Agreement setting forth their duties and obligations.

HEER Fund to Assist Institutions of Higher Education. Under section 18004(a)(1), the Department has awarded \$5.7 billion to assist institutions of higher education with costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus. Grantees are required to execute a Certification and Agreement setting forth their duties and obligations.

HEER Fund to Assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Other Minority Serving Institutions of Higher Education, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Others. Under section 18004(a)(2), the Department has awarded \$949.8 million. These funds may be used to defray expenses (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, payroll) incurred by institutions of higher education and for grants to students for any component of the student’s costs of attendance including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. Grantees are required to execute a Certification and Agreement setting forth their duties and obligations.

HEER Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. The Department has received applications from 482 institutions of higher education under section 18004(a)(3) of the CARES Act. The Department expects to distribute funds within the next several weeks. Under section 18004(a)(3), the Secretary will make funds available to “institutions of higher education that the Secretary determines to have the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus” and who apply for such funds. Funds may be used to defray expenses (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, payroll) incurred by institutions of higher education and for grants to students for any component of the student’s costs of attendance including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care. Grantees are required to execute a Certification and Agreement setting forth their duties and obligations.

Education Stabilization Fund Discretionary Grants. Included below is related information for discretionary grants under the CARES Act, as well as the Department’s Notices Inviting Applications:

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/states-highest-coronavirus-burden/>

<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/ESF-REM-Notice-Inviting-Applications.pdf>

<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/ESF-RWP-Notice-Inviting-Applications.pdf>

Education Stabilization Fund Project SERV. Attached below is information for Project SERV grants under the CARES Act.

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/cares-act-project-serv/>

Plans and Guidance: The Department is collecting data under various data collection sources, and will track funds through such means as monitoring, reviews, audits and the data collection on the funds for the aforementioned Coronavirus response activities. The Department has provided guidance and transparency for these activities on its Coronavirus web page at the following address:

<https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature>

For further information or if there are questions regarding this plan, please contact the Department at the following email address: COVID-19@ed.gov