



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Overview of the CARES Act
Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency
Relief Funding (ESSERF)

Offices of Federal Programs and School Finance
May 8, 2020

CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides three categories of funding to improve continuity of educational services during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF)
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

GEERF

- West Virginia will receive \$16.5 million. The Governor has full discretion to allocate funds as needed to address the continuity of educational services to:
 - Local education agencies,
 - Higher education institutions, and/or
 - Other agencies and entities deemed essential to the continuity of educational services.

At this time, the Governor's Office has given no indication of how these funds will be used.

ESSERF

- The WVDE submitted the application for funding on May 6, 2020.
- The state allocation is \$86,640,471
- LEAs will receive \$77,976,424 (90%)
- The state reservation of \$8,664,047 (10%) will be used in coordination with the Governor's Office, Higher Education Policy Commission and other state agencies to improve internet connectivity; all stakeholders have identified this as the highest need for improving remote learning capabilities.

LEA uses of ESSERF (slide #1)

- Any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the McKinney Vento Homeless Youth Act and the Perkins Act;
- Providing resources necessary to address the needs of individual schools, including online learning;
- Purchasing educational technology for students, including one-to-one devices and internet connectivity;
- Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs;

LEA uses of ESSERF (slide #2)

- Providing mental health services and supports;
- Activities to address the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness and foster care youth;
- Planning and coordinating student meal services;

LEA uses of ESSERF (slide #3)

- Developing and implementing procedures to improve virus emergency preparedness and response efforts;
- Training staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease;
- Purchasing sanitation and cleaning supplies;

LEA uses of ESSERF (slide #4)

- Planning for and coordinating services during long-term closures;
- Other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services and continuing to employ existing staff; and/or
- Working with partner organizations and nonprofits to address community needs.

Planning for ESSERF Grant Applications

- The ESSERF grant application will be available in GPS on or about June 1, 2020.
- The application will be structured as follows:
 - Simple needs assessment narrative based on identified barriers to continuity of educational services during COVID-19 school closures
 - Simple program details

Allowable Use Categories	LEA Descriptive Narrative	Budgeted Amount	Timeline for Completion
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- Budget pages

Planning for the Needs Assessment

- Utilize information gathered throughout the COVID-19 school closure to inform the LEA's response to:
 - Meeting basic needs of students and staff
 - Providing remote learning capacity (student and staff needs)
 - Responding to COVID-19 cleaning and social distancing guidelines
- Work with stakeholders to identify key activities/purchases that did/will improve the LEA's response and determine which ones will be included in the ESSERF grant budget
- Write a brief Needs Assessment narrative that:
 - Identifies the key needs that will be addressed by ESSERF grant activities/purchases
 - Includes any data gathered to support the prioritization of the identified needs

ESSERF Budgeting Considerations

- Period of Availability: March 13, 2020 to September 30, 2022
- If you have incurred qualifying expenditures between March 13, 2020 and the receipt of your grant award, you will be able to do an adjusting journal entry (AJE) in WVEIS to move those expenditures to the assigned project number. The AJE would need to be made prior to June 30, 2020.
- If you are going to reclassify already incurred expenditures to the ESSERF funding, you should keep copies of all supporting invoices, timesheets, etc. with your adjusting journal entry documentation so that you can clearly demonstrate what expenditures were moved into the ESSERF project and when they were incurred.

WVEIS Account Coding

- Project Number: 52Y1X – Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)
- Fund 71: Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) Fund
- Cost Center: 4455

ESSERF Equitable Services Considerations

- Equitable Services Guidance <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/FAQs-Equitable-Services.pdf>
- Preliminary allocations are provided; awaiting clarification on guidance and updated enrollment from private schools
- ESSERF Intent to Participate Letters need to be sent to all private schools in your district
- Schedule Meaningful Consultation meetings asap; can occur virtually and can include both ESSERF, FY19-20 ESEA extension of service and planning for FY21

ESSERF Quarterly Reporting Requirements

The WVDE will be required to submit quarterly reports on the following:

- Expenditures/liquidations
- Name and descriptions of projects/activities related to expenditures
- Estimated number of jobs created/retained
- Detailed information for subcontracts and subgrants

This means that the WVDE will be requiring quarterly reporting from LEAs in order to complete the required federal reporting.

ESSERF Drawdowns

- At a minimum, county boards of education should plan to do quarterly drawdowns of the ESSERF funds. The quarterly drawdowns would need to correspond with the calendar quarters – for example, draw down April-June 2020 ESSERF expenditures in early July.
- More frequent drawdowns (ex: monthly) are still permitted and encouraged.



QUESTIONS?

