State of Arizona
Department of Education

Date: March 25, 2019

To: Special Education Directors

From: ESS Program Management

Subject: Important Dates for IDEA Funding

ESS Program Management is sharing the following important dates for IDEA Funding and IDEA Fiscal related activities.

Date	Description
March 1 – March 30, 2019	Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Compliance Testing Window
March 1 – May 1, 2019	**FY20 IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement Grant** Applications (IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool grants) must be submitted through Grants Management Enterprise System (GME) to be considered eligible for a Substantial Approval Date* of July 1, 2019.
March 30, 2019	Deadline for Original Applications of **FY19 IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement Grant** Application. Revisions may be made through end of project period
April 1, 2019	High Cost Child and Unorganized Territories funding applications to open in ESS Vouchers application
April 15, 2019	ESS and Grants Management will provide a half-day, in-person training on GME and IDEA Funding at 3300 N. Central, 16-100/101, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please register through EMS.
July 16 – August 15, 2019	Maintenance of Effort Eligibility Testing Window; IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement Grants can be approved once a PEA passes Eligibility Testing
September 30, 2019	FY19 IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement Grant project period ends

*Substantial Approval Date is considered the first day that a PEA can request reimbursement for IDEA grants. If the FY20 IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement grant is not submitted for Program Specialist review by May 1, 2019, your PEA may not be able to request any reimbursements for costs beginning on July 1, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding anything mentioned in this update, please contact essprogmgmt@azed.gov or call 602-542-4013 to speak to an ESS Program Management Specialist.

FY19 IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement Grant

The deadline to submit original applications for IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool is March 30, 2019. PEA personnel must enter the GME system and indicate either the intention to waive funds or to apply for funds before the deadline.

FY20 IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement Grant

The FY20 IDEA Basic and IDEA Preschool grants opened on March 1, 2019. The allocations included within GME are the preliminary awards and reflect 85% - 90% of the total award each PEA will receive for FY20. GME due date is May 1, but ESS will not be able to approve until after MOE Eligibility testing window begins July 16, 2019. The IDEA Consolidated – Entitlement grants cannot be approved until after a PEA's budget is submitted to MOE Eligibility testing. The earliest date for that testing will be after budgets are due to School Finance on July 15, 2019.

Maintenance of Effort Compliance Testing

The Compliance Testing window for FY18 Annual Financial Reports (AFR) is March 1 – March 31, 2019. PEA personnel are encouraged to enter the ESS Maintenance of Effort Application and review the PEA's cases. While some PEAs are passing one of the methods for testing, allowable exceptions and reductions can be applied to pass both tests and establish FY18 AFR as the new comparison year data for future Compliance and Eligibility tests. For more information, please visit http://essmoe.azed.gov and sign in with your ADEConnect credentials.

High Cost Child Fund and Unorganized Territories

The High Cost Child and Unorganized Territories applications will open in April 1, 2019 through the ESS Vouchers application in ADEConnect. Your PEA's Entity Administrator may need to provide access for you to enter the application. Instructions for these applications will be posted on the ESS Program Management Website, http://www.azed.gov/specialeducation/operations, during the last week of March.

GME and IDEA Funding Training

ESS and Grants Management will offer an in-person training on GME Funding Application Overview, IDEA Allowable Costs, and a Hands-on Funding Application Workshop on April 15, 2019. Announcement will be sent over listserv.

Maintenance of Effort Eligibility Testing

The Eligibility Testing window for FY20 Budgets will be July 16 – August 15, 2019. PEAs must pass at least one of the methods of testing to be considered eligible to receive FY20 IDEA funds. If the FY20 Budget does not pass MOE Eligibility, it could delay the substantial approval date for FY20.