Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund

FY21 Grant Application Guidance

Welcome !

Please visit
www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER
for all grant and program
resources and guidance
documents

If you have any questions,
please contact us at:
ESSER@azed.gov

Arizona
Department of Education

Webinar Agenda

What is the CRRSA Act?

The Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund

ESSER II Fund Eligibility & Allocations

Determining Local Needs

Overview of the FY21 ESSER II Fund Grant Application in GME:

- Application Elements

- Assurances & Requirements

- Allowable (and Unallowable) Uses of Funds

Timeline

Next Steps: *Opportunities for Support*

Contacts and Resources

Arizona
Department of Education

What is the CRRSA Act?

- The **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act** was enacted on December 27, 2020

- The **Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)** received an **additional ~$82B** across the three main education grant programs:

Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)	
CARES Act ($30.75 billion)	**CRRSA Act ($82 billion)**
ESSER - $13.5 billion	**ESSER II - $54.3 billion**
GEER - $3 billion	**GEER II - $4.05 billion**
HEER - $14.2 billion	**HEER II - $22.7 billion**

- The new recovery bill also extended CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) until December 31, 2021

ESSER II Update

Arizona's ESSER II Award: $1,149,715,947

➢ ESSER II Funds remain highly flexible, and are designed to help address **local recovery efforts** relative to responding to **COVID-19**

➢ Arizona's award is based on Arizona's proportionate share of Title I-A funds received in **FY21 (SY20-21)** - which is why our new award is not exactly 4x ESSER I

➢ **90%** of Arizona's award **($1,034,744,352.30**) must be **sub-granted to LEAs**
  • Funds are allocated based on each LEA's proportionate share of Title I-A funds received in FY21 (SY20-21)

➢ **9.5%** of the total award may be reserved for ADE **state-level activities** to support K-12 **COVID-19 recovery** efforts

➢ No more than **0.5%** of the total award may be reserved by ADE for **administrative costs**

ESSER II Update

Breakdown of Arizona's ESSER II Award:

Total Award	**$1,149,715,947.00**
Total SEA Admin (0.5%)	$ 5,748,579.74
Total SEA Activities (9.5%)	$109,223,014.97
Total LEA Assistance (90%)	**$1,034,744,352.30**

Initial Project Term: March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2022

Funds will remain available for obligation through **September 30, 2023**

LEAs should be mindful in their local planning that <u>ESSER I funds expire first</u>, on September 30, 2022, as opposed to September 30, 2023 for ESSER II.

NOTE: The Auditor General's Office has established **new fund codes** for ESSER II (336) and GEER II (337), as these funds must be tracked separately from original CARES Act funds

ESSER II LEA Allocations Methodology

Step 1: Make Initial Required Allocations for FY21 Title I-A Grantees

Initial LEA subgrant allocations are required to be based on each LEA's **proportionate share of Title I-A funds** received in FY21 (SY20-21) (*LEAs must <u>complete and submit</u> their FY21 ESEA Consolidated Application for Title I-A*)

Step 2: Allocations for FY21 Non-Title I-A Grantees

Initial Formula:

- Determine Per Pupil Amount (PPA) based on 50% of the Total Final Adjusted Poverty count for the FY21 Title I-A Cohort (*Total for Required ESSER II LEA Assistance / Total Adjusted Poverty*). Apply the 50% PPA to SY19-20 poverty count for Non-Title I-A LEAs, while ensuring a minimum 'hold-harmless' poverty rate of 20% (the state average poverty rate for the FY21 Title I-A LEA cohort)

Minimum Support Level Determinations:

- Ensure **all Small LEAs and CTED Entities** receive a minimum of **$150,000**

- Ensure **all Rural LEAs** receive a minimum of **$175,000**

- Ensure **all Rural and Remote LEAs** receive a minimum of **$200,000**

Step 3: Title I-A LEA Grantees Adjustments

- Ensure all FY21 Title I-A LEAs meet the 50% PPA used to determine initial Non-Title I-A LEA allocations

- Apply the minimum support level determinations to all FY21 Title I-A Small, Rural and Rural and Remote LEAs

ESSER II Allocations Methodology

ESSER II Allocations Summary

	Required Allocation	Adjustment from SEA Reserve	Total Allocation
Title I-A LEAs	$1,034,744,352.30	$8,951,276.52	$1,043,695,628.69
Non-Title I-A LEAs		$35,119,058.60	$35,119,058.60
CTED Entities		$4,925,355.54	$4,925,355.54
TOTAL ALL		**$48,995,690.66** *(~45% of SEA Activities Reserve)*	**$1,083,740,042.83**

ESSER II allocations are estimated to be ~3x a mid to large-sized Title I-A LEA's Title I-A award (prior to adjustments)

Small LEAs and CTED Entities receive a minimum baseline award of $150K, or ~3x their ESSER I award

Small, Rural LEAs receive an additional $25K above the minimum baseline for a total of $175K

Small, Rural and Remote LEAs receive an additional $50K above the baseline for a total of $200K

Determining Local Needs

➤ ESSER II Funds are highly flexible, and are designed to help address local **recovery efforts** relative to responding to **COVID-19**

➤ ESSER II Funds can be used **throughout the LEA,** in **all schools** and in support of **all students and staff**

➤ **Supplement and not supplant** requirements **do not apply** to LEA use of ESSER Fund monies

➤ LEAs are encouraged to review their **Comprehensive Needs Assessments (CNAs)** through the lens of responding to COVID-19 to identify critical areas of need that can be addressed system-wide

➤ Once local school and LEA needs and activities are determined, the LEA should update their school and LEA **Integrated Action Plans (IAPs)**, using the **COVID funding tag**. This will help to identify opportunities to leverage a braided funding approach, across multiple funding sources, to help support identified local needs and activities systemwide
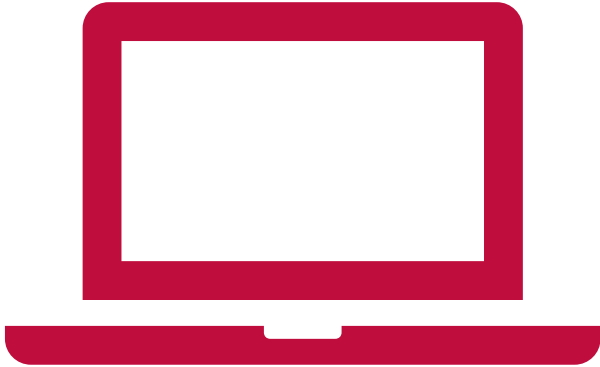
Overview of the Grant Application in GME

The **FY21 Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund Grant** application may be accessed through the **ADE Grants Management system** at: **gme.azed.gov**

You will need to sign in to the Grants Management system using your **ADEConnect** login information to access the application. **Access to the Grants Management system may need to be granted to you** by your local **LEA ADEConnect Entity Administrator**

The Funding Application is named:
"Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund Grant"
under **Fiscal Year 2021**

Complete All Required Sections in GME

☐	**FFATA & GSA Verification**
	FFATA & GSA Verification
☐	**Program Information / Instructions**
	Program Information / Instructions
☐	**Contacts**
	Contacts
☐	**Assurances**
	Assurance of Application Completion
	Program Assurances
☐	**Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund**
	Budget
	Budget Overview
	Budget Overview Plus/Minus
	Program Narrative Questions
	Capital Outlay Worksheet
	Related Documents

Overview of the Grant Application in GME

FFATA & GSA VERIFICATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION / INSTRUCTION

CONTACTS
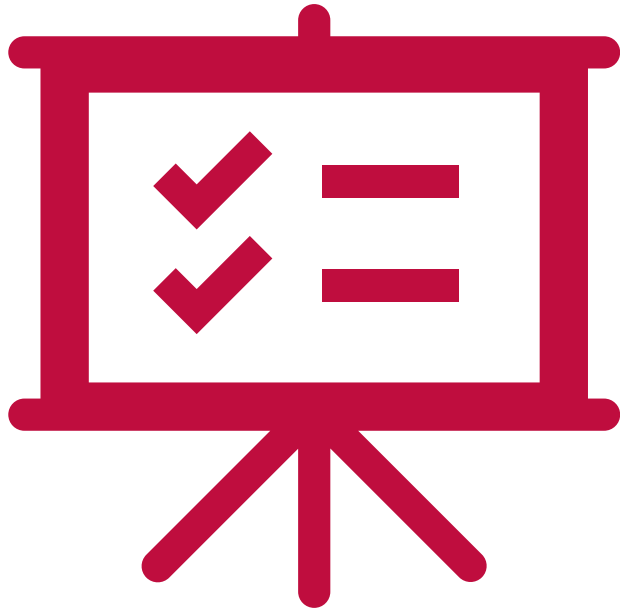
ASSURANCES

PROGRAM NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

BUDGET

FFATA and GSA Verification

✓ Be sure to submit your **FY21 General Statement of Assurance** in GME

✓ Ensure your **SAM.gov information** is up to date

✓ Provide a **short description** of your grant funded project

Contact Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

REQUIRED CONTACTS

Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Primary Contact Name	Contact Title	Contact Phone	Contact Email
*	*	*	*

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Additional Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Contact Name(s)	Contact Title	Contact Phone	Contact Email

Assurances in GME

All assurances are required to be eligible to receive funding through the FY21 ESSER II Fund grant

Each assurance must be checked in this section

Assurance of Application Completion by Verifiable School or LEA Staff Member

By entering the name and title below, the LEA assures the following school or LEA staff member completed this application.

Name:	*	
Title:	*	

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund Grant Assurance(s)

Checking "Yes" assures that the statement is true.

The Local Education Agency (LEA) hereby assures the State Education Agency (SEA) that the LEA:

☐ * Complies with CONTINUED PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES SEC. 315:

A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under "Education contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.

* Name typed in this box acts as a signature assurance that the above has happened or will happen:

LEA Grant Assurances and Requirements

LEAs must make the following assurance in order to receive an ESSER II Fund grant:

➢ **Continued Payment to Employees**
LEAs shall, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.

Program Narrative Questions

- The **Program Narrative Questions** section is where the LEA will provide **brief descriptions** regarding **planned grant funded activities**

- LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities

The following are LEA **allowable** uses of ESSER II Funds to address local **COVID-19 related recovery efforts**:

LEA Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds

ESSER II Fund monies are flexible, and may be used by LEAs for any of the following categories depending on local needs:

✓ **Any activity allowed** under the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

   e.g.: *Title I-A, Title I-C (Migrant Education),Title I-D (Neglected and Delinquent Students),*
   Title II-A, Title III-A (English Language Learners), Title IV-A,
   Title IV-B 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Title V-B REAP (SRSA and RLIS),
   Title VI-A (Indian Education), Title VII (Impact Aid)

✓ **Any activity allowed** under the following **Federal education acts**:

   - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
   - Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act)
   - McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act
   - Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
   - Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act

LEA Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds

➤ ESSER II Funds may also be used by LEAs for the following COVID-19 related relief, prevention, and recovery efforts:

- ✓ **Coordination of preparedness and response** efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus

- ✓ Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the **needs of individual schools**

- ✓ Activities to **address the unique needs** of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population

LEA Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds

- ✓ Developing and implementing procedures and systems to i**mprove the preparedness** and response efforts of LEAs

- ✓ **Training and professional development** for staff of the LEA on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases

- ✓ **Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean** the facilities of an LEA, including buildings operated by such an agency

- ✓ **Planning for and coordinating during long term closures,** including meals to eligible students, technology for online learning, guidance for carrying out requirements under the IDEA, and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all federal, state, and local requirements

LEA Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds

✓ **Purchasing educational technology** (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment

✓ **Providing mental health services and supports**

✓ **Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after school programs**, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care

LEA Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds

- CRSSA highlights several 'new' LEA uses of funds (*however, these 'new' activities would have also been allowable under ESSER I*). These activities include:

  - ✓ **Addressing learning loss** among students, including by:
    - Administering and using high-quality, valid and reliable assessments
    - Implementing evidence-based activities to meet comprehensive needs of students
    - Providing assistance to parents and families on how to effectively support students, including in distance learning environments
    - Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance learning

  - ✓ **School facilities repair and improvement** to enable safe operation of schools

  - ✓ Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade **projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities**

LEA Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds

➢ Other activities that are necessary to **maintain the operation of and continuity of services** in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA

> *Note: **Supplement and not supplant** requirements **do not apply** to LEA use of **ESSER Fund** monies*

> ESSER II funds are subject to the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) and the federal government's Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG), including the requirement that spending be **necessary and reasonable**

> ESSER II does not include a local Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement. LEAs are not required to maintain effort to receive ESSER II funds. LEAs must, however, continue to comply with Maintenance of Effort requirements in other federal education laws such as ESEA and IDEA

LEA <u>Unallowable</u> Uses of ESSER II Funds

The following are _<u>unallowable</u>_ uses of ESSER II Funds:

➢ CARES Act funds generally cannot be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19

➢ Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs

➢ Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations

Program Narrative Questions

- The **Program Narrative Questions** section is where the LEA will provide **brief descriptions** regarding **planned grant funded activities**

- There are boxes available for ESSA programs, as well as other allowable federal grant programs (such as IDEA and Perkins)

- LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities. <u>In this section</u>, **if an area does not apply, <u>please leave it blank</u>**

Program Narrative Questions

For questions 1 and 2, check applicable boxes and complete narrative response to indicate how the LEA will expend Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Grant funds under any of the following allowable uses of funds categories per *Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund* Section 18003(d):

1. Please check all **Elementary and Secondary Education Act** of 1965 (**ESSA**) activities that apply and **briefly** describe the proposed use of funds, <u>as applicable</u>. If you do not see the program authority for your ESSA-allowable intended activity, please check "Other" and site the applicable provision of ESSA for the proposed activity.
If this section does not apply, please leave blank.

☐ Title I: School Improvement   ☐ Title II-A   ☐ Title V-B, Subpart 1 (Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA))

Program Narrative Questions

- The **Program Narrative Questions** section is where the LEA will provide **brief descriptions** regarding **planned grant funded activities**

- LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities. <u>In this section</u>, **if an area does not apply, <u>please enter N/A</u>**

Briefly describe the proposed uses of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Grant funds within the following additional allowable activities categories, **as applicable.**

If a section does not apply, please enter N/A.

3. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

4. Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.

Program Narrative Questions

- The last section on this page includes a request for **estimated** **data** based on the LEA's proposed use of ESSER II grant funds

- These data are being requested per USED ESSER II Fund grant reporting requirements

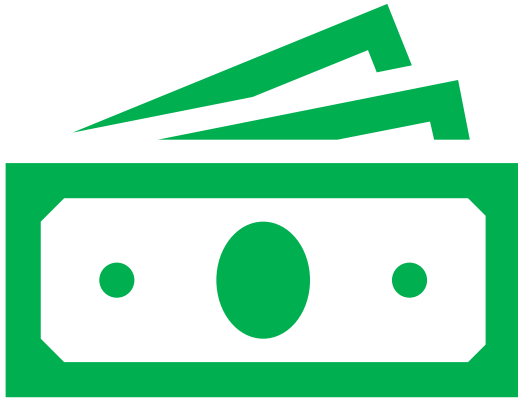- Please provide your **best initial estimate** for these two elements, **as applicable**

Please provide the following additional information, as applicable, based on the LEA proposed use of ESSER Funds:

* **14.** The **estimated** number of jobs (FTEs) **created** by the LEA through the LEA's use of ESSER Funds:

* **15.** The **estimated** number of jobs (FTEs) **retained** by the LEA through the LEA's use of ESSER Funds.

Budget Notes

Be sure to **code all expenses properly** per the **USFR**

Submit **Revisions** for **any fiscal or programmatic change**

Receive grant approval for revisions **prior** to implementing **any change** in spending or activities

In accordance with sound accounting practices, LEAs should plan to **request regular reimbursements**

Keep necessary **Time and Effort** documentation

The <u>initial obligation date</u> for the ESSER Fund grant is <u>March 13, 2020</u>

Substantial approval is required <u>prior</u> to any expenditures

Prior to Grant Submission

✓ Ensure **GSA** is uploaded to GME

✓ Verify that the **FFATA *brief* summary** is completed

✓ Verify that all **Program Narrative Questions** sections have been completed based on your budgeted activities

✓ Ensure all proposed **budgeted activities** are **coded properly** per the **USFR or USFRCS** (charter LEAs)

✓ Update your **School and LEA IAPs** using the **COVID funding tag**

    ✓ **NOTE:** <u>This is not required for an application to be initially approved</u> – but should be completed to support the LEA's implementation of their local plans and activities

ESSER II - Timeline Review

Initial Obligation Date for ESSER I and II Funds is **March 13, 2020**

Allowable Pre-Award Costs are Approved to this Date

Grant Application Opens and **Final Allocations determined** February 2021

Applications will be Reviewed on an Ongoing Basis

Initial Project / Budget Term Ends on **September 30, 2022**

Funds Obligated During Initial Project Term Remain Available as **Carryover** until **September 30, 2023**

| March 13, 2020 | February 2021 | September 30, 2022 | September 30, 2023 |

ESSER I:
Application Opened
May 29, 2020

ESSER I:
Initial Project/Budget Term Ends on
September 30, 2021

ESSER I:
Funds Obligated During Initial Project Term Remain Available as Carryover until
September 30, 2022

Next Steps

ADE is committed to working collaboratively to support schools to use these new funds effectively and strategically to meet immediate needs and to make thoughtful, sustainable investments in support of ongoing local recovery efforts

ESSER II Fund – LEA Grant Application

Thank you for viewing this webinar   !

Please visit
www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER
for all grant and program resources
and guidance documents

If you have any questions, please contact us at:
ESSER@azed.gov