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
**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**

**Webinar Agenda**
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARES Act ($30.75 billion)</td>
<td>CRRSA Act ($82 billion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSER - $13.5 billion</td>
<td>ESSER II - $54.3 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEER - $3 billion</td>
<td>GEER II - $4.05 billion</td>
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<td>HEER - $14.2 billion</td>
<td>HEER II - $22.7 billion</td>
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- 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Award</td>
<td>$1,149,715,947.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total SEA Admin (0.5%)</td>
<td>$5,748,579.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total SEA Activities (9.5%)</td>
<td>$109,223,014.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total LEA Assistance (90%)</td>
<td>$1,034,744,352.30</td>
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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 ESSER I funds expire first, 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.
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 complete and submit 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 Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Allocation</th>
<th>Adjustment from SEA Reserve</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title I-A LEAs</strong></td>
<td>$1,034,744,352.30</td>
<td>$1,043,695,628.69</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Title I-A LEAs</strong></td>
<td>$35,119,058.60</td>
<td>$35,119,058.60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CTED Entities</strong></td>
<td>$4,925,355.54</td>
<td>$4,925,355.54</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ALL</strong></td>
<td>$48,995,690.66 (~45% of SEA Activities Reserve)</td>
<td>$1,083,740,042.83</td>
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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
- Program Information / Instructions
- 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
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

## Required Contacts

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<tr>
<th>Elementary &amp; Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Primary Contact Name</th>
<th>Contact Title</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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## Additional Contacts

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<tr>
<th>Additional Elementary &amp; Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Contact Name(s)</th>
<th>Contact Title</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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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.
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.
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:
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
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 **improve 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
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
The following are *unallowable* 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.
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. **In this section, if an area does not apply, please leave it blank.**
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. In this section, if an area does not apply, please enter N/A.
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 **initial obligation date** for the ESSER Fund grant is **March 13, 2020**

Substantial approval is required **prior** 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:** This is not required for an application to be initially approved – but should be completed to support the LEA’s implementation of their local plans and activities
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

ESSER I: Application Opened May 29, 2020

ESSER I: Initial Project/Budget Term Ends on September 30, 2021
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.
Thank you for viewing this webinar!

Please visit [www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER](http://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](mailto:ESSER@azed.gov)