



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I & II) Funds



The CARES & CRRSA Acts

- The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act** was the original COVID-19 relief package
- The **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act** was enacted on December 27, 2020
- The **Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)** provides funding across three main education support 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



Phases to Recovery

ADE has encouraged a **three-phase approach** to plan to leverage ESSER Funds to respond to state and local needs in relation to COVID-19:

 Relief	 Preparation & Prevention	 Recovery
March 13 – May 30, 2020 Meeting immediate needs and managing school closures and planning for summer school	June 1 – August 30, 2020 Addressing and stabilizing disruption and preparing for safe school openings, as well as a future health disruptions	September 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021 Managing on-going recovery needs of students and schools, and reimagining safe learning environments

A Roadmap for Reopening Schools, developed through the efforts of a statewide stakeholders advisory group, was released in **May 2020** with strategies and considerations to, in part, help inform LEA planning for the use of CARES funds across these phases



Summary of ESSER Fund Eligible Activities

- Any activity authorized by **federal education programs**
- Coordination of COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts
- Training and **professional development** for LEA staff
- Purchasing educational **technology** (including hardware, software, and connectivity)
- Providing **mental health services** and supports
- Planning and implementing **summer learning**
- Addressing **learning loss**
- **Student attendance and improving student engagement** in distance education.
- **School facility** repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus
- Other activities necessary to **maintain LEA operations** and services and employ existing LEA staff



Summary of Most Common LEA Uses of ESSER I Funds to Date

- **Reimbursement of Expenses Related to School Closures**
- **Support for Distance and Remote Learning**
 - Devices, Software, Internet Service / Hotspots, IT Support Infrastructure & Security
 - Professional Learning for Teachers and Administrators
 - Technology Support for Students and Families
- **PPE and Safety Supplies**
 - Face masks, face shields, plexiglass, gloves, gowns, thermometers, hand sanitizer
- **Cleaning / Disinfecting Supplies & Equipment, Facilities Costs**
 - Cleaning supplies and equipment, HVAC systems upgrades, air purifiers, water bottle filling stations
- **Food Services Costs**
- **Salary Expenses**
 - Expanded duties, retention, additional staffing needs
- **Transportation Expenses**
- **SEL and Mental Health Supports**



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 ESSER I funds expire first, on September 30, 2022, as opposed to September 30, 2023 for ESSER II.



ADE Set Aside Activities Priorities

\$1M for Office of Indian Education

- Increase staff capacity to support COVID-19 response and recovery
- Aligned to Office's strategic plan

Other priority areas for ADE use of funds will include:

- Student Equity & Achievement
- Educator Recruitment & Retention
- Social Safety & Wellness
- Serving AZ School Community through the Pandemic & Beyond
- Data Governance & IT



ESSER II Update

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



ESSER II Update

- ESSER II funds – just like ESSER I 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



Next Steps

Actions to Consider Now

- ✓ Continue to submit ESSER applications for approval
- ✓ Revise applications, as needed, to help manage local needs
- ✓ Draw down your ESSER Funds as needed on a timely and *ongoing* basis
- ✓ Leverage other Federal funds, such as Title I-A and IV-A, to support local needs (e.g. *PPE, distance learning supports*)
- ✓ Create your plan for ESSER II funds

Ongoing Efforts by ADE and Stakeholders

- Continued advocacy for additional Federal and State recovery funds
- Seek continued and extended fiscal Federal grant flexibility from USED
- ADE Taskforce on Equitable and Effective Schools



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 - Timeline Review

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

Allowable Pre-Award Costs are Approved to this Date

March 13, 2020

Grant Application Opens and Final Allocations determined February 2021

Applications will be Reviewed on an Ongoing Basis

February 2021

Initial Project / Budget Term Ends on September 30, 2022

September 30, 2022

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

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



Thank You!



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

If you have any questions, please contact us at:
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