Educator and School Excellence Newsletter: April 2021

Issue 01.04: April 2021

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Welcome!

Welcome to our April ESE Newsletter!

We are happy to announce that our new website has launched, and we hope you find it easy to navigate and helpful to your work! You can now find us at https://www.azed.gov/ese.

We have a busy month ahead of us, and we know you do too with the May 1 deadline for submitting the FY22 ESEA Consolidated application. Please stay in contact with your program specialist as you work through the application process. We are here to help! With the addition of ESSER funds, we know you have a lot on your plate, so we thought this infographic might be a helpful reminder of your timelines and funding opportunities.
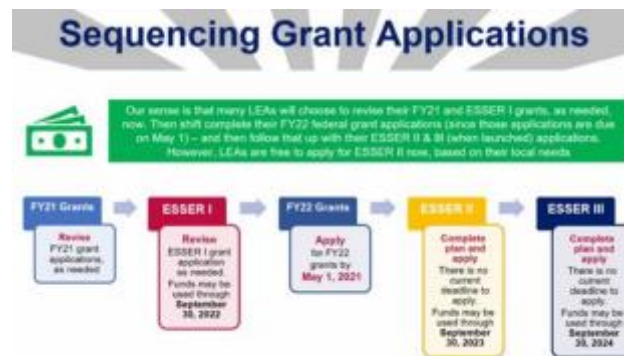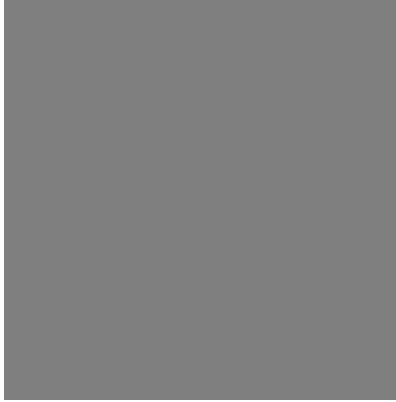
ESEA Consolidated Grant Updates

FY22 Grant Timelines and Requirements

It is hard to believe we are already moving into the 2022 fiscal year! The following reminders are important to note as we move into this new fiscal year.

• **FY22 General Statement of Assurances (GSAs) are due March 1, 2021.** The submission and acceptance of your GSA prior to the deadline ensures your organization will not be affected by a global hold (which prevents any fiscal action and approval of funding applications).

• **Grant funding applications and budgets are due May 1, 2021.** The timely submission of these documents and the above-mentioned GSA, followed by the appropriate approvals, will allow your organization to draw down funds as early as July 1, 2021.

• **Funding applications must be in Director Primary Approved status before an LEA can begin to draw down funds**; this includes the approval of all required documentation, i.e., Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), Integrated Action Plan (IAP), Consultation Forms, etc. Please be reminded that these items will need to be completed prior to Director Approved status and the ability to draw down funds.

•**ADE has provided guidance regarding the use of vendors/consultants when applying for grant funds.** LEAs may use third-party vendors, but must remain the responsible sub-grantee and involved in the application process. The new guidance can be found here. User roles may need to be updated in Grants Management Enterprise (GME) system based on this new guidance. Information regarding user role access can be found here.

We understand that receiving grant funding is more important than ever. As a critical partner in the success of Arizona's schools, ADE is here to support you in this process.

Date: February 24, 2021

To: Superintendents, Charter Representatives, Business Managers, and Federal Program Coordinators

RE: FY22 Grant Funding – Opening March 1, 2021

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is providing this important reminder regarding FY22 grant timelines and requirements. It is hard to believe that we are already moving into the 2022 fiscal year! The following reminders are important to note as we move into this new fiscal year.

- FY22 General Statement of Assurances (GSAs) are due March 1, 2021. The submission and acceptance of your GSA prior to the deadline ensures your organization will not be affected by a global hold (which prevents any fiscal action and approval of funding applications).

- Grant funding applications and budgets are due May 1, 2021. The timely submission of these documents and the above-mentioned GSA, followed by the appropriate approvals, will allow your organization to draw down funds as early as July 1, 2021.

- Funding applications must be in Director Approved status before an LEA can begin to draw down funds; this includes the approval of all required documentation, i.e., Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), Integrated Action Plan (IAP), Consultation Forms, etc. Please be reminded that these items will need to be completed prior to Director Approved status and the ability to draw down funds.

- Lastly, ADE has provided guidance regarding the use of vendors/consultants when applying for grant funds. LEAs may use third-party vendors but must remain the responsible sub-grantee and involved in the application process. The new guidance can be found here.
  - User roles may need to be updated in Grants Management Enterprise (GME) system based on this new guidance. Information regarding user role access can be found here.

We understand that receiving grant funding is more important than ever. As a critical partner in the success of Arizona's schools, ADE is here to support you in this process.

Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction
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Let's Keep Connected!

The ESEA Consolidated Contact section is extremely helpful for Program Specialists and Directors, and it's important to have updated LEA contacts.

Please take a moment to build the LEA's contact list under Contact Details:

- Contact Name

- Contact Title

- Phone Number

- Email Address

The following are required Contacts:

- ESEA Funding Application Contact

- Homeless Children Liaison

These additional contacts give ADE a well-rounded list in order to ensure ESE List Serves are updated. We encourage LEAs, if a position is applicable, to provide:

• Title I-D Coordinator

• Primary Title I LEA Coordinator

• Title II-A Coordinator

• Rural and Low-Income Coordinator

• Additional Title I LEA Contacts

• LEA Private School Contact – *NEW*

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FY22 ESEA Consolidated Assurance Updates

The following assurance citations were added to the FY22 ESEA Consolidated Grant.

• **Title I-A** – Supplement Not Supplant Methodology Citation.

- **Title II-A** - Supplement Not Supplant Citation

- **Title I-D** - Supplement Not Supplant Citation

- **RLIS** – Supplement Not Supplant Citation

- **RLIS** – Clarification on Uses of RLIS Funding

FY22 Substantial Approval

Timeline Process

FYI - Important Due Dates: Self-Assessment & General Statement of Assurances (GSA). Both requirements for FY22 are due 3/1/2021.

LEAs which have not had their GSAs accepted will have their applications placed on **HOLD.**

March 1, 2021-June 30, 2021

Substantial Approval as per Alice Johnson

1. A Nightly process will apply Substantial Approval for ESEA Consolidated (entitlement) applications

2. This process will run **March 1 - June 30, 2021**

3. **Included in the process:**

   1. Entitlement applications on the list provided with any budget amount.

   2. Above applications in **LEA Authorized Representative Approved** status

   3. Above applications **with an accepted** GSA

History Log comment that will automatically drop per program:

Per 34 CFR 76.708, your application has been submitted in a substantially approvable state. While you may begin obligating funds for Title I LEA as of 7/1/2021, reimbursement will not be available until the application is final Director 'Primary' Approved.

July 1, 2021 and after

1. ADE Program Specialist will ensure the GSA has been accepted.

    a. How to find if GSA has been accepted?

        Go to **Funding --- Supplements** to see if the **GSA** has been accepted.

2. The Entitlement applications on this list represent the programs at the LEA level.

3. The above applications are in LEA Authorized Representative Approved status.

4. If the above applications have an accepted GSA, the ADE Program Specialists can manually change "No" to "Yes".

5. A History Log comment will then drop after a nightly process. This will reflect the date Substantial Approval is given.

FY22 Substantial Approval – History Log Statement

Has your *FY22 GSA* been accepted by Grants Management?

Do you have an FY22 budget built into each program area showing a remaining balance of $0.00??

Perhaps your application may or may not be ready for a full review, but you would like to secure the *Substantial Approval* History Log comment.

If so, please reach out to your assigned program specialist to discuss moving your application forward to sit for 24 hours in LEA *Authorized Representative Approved* status. That way, the comment can be automatically be dropped from March 1 – June 30, 2021. This will ensure you can begin to obligate funds on July 1, 2021.

Substantially Approved Dates

Substantially Approved Dates

Here is an example of a Sample Approval Comment:

SAMPLE: Per 34 CFR 76.708, your application has been submitted in a substantially approvable state. While you may begin obligating funds for Title II Improving Teacher Quality as of **07/01/2021**, reimbursement will not be available until the application is final Director Approved.

Substantial Approval will still be granted after July 1, 2021. Please note if that occurs, Program Specialists must select "Yes" in the Substantial Approval section per each program area in order for the History Log Comment to drop. The application must also be in *LEA Authorized Representative Approved* status for this to happen. The history log comment will reflect the date the Program Specialists selected "Yes."

Title IV-A Upgrades the *Grant Navigator Tool*!

To better assist our LEAs with the grant application process, ADE Title IV-A has updated the Grant Navigator Tool! This series of short micro-trainings breaks down each section of the grant, provides listeners with tips on how to navigate the more "tricky" sections of the application, and provides exemplars for review! We hope this tool is useful to new and experienced Federal Program staff and that grant returns are lessoned. Thank you to Title IV-A Digital Learning Specialist Erin Henderson for creating this valuable resource!

Title IV-A Updates

Introducing Title IV-A Caseloads
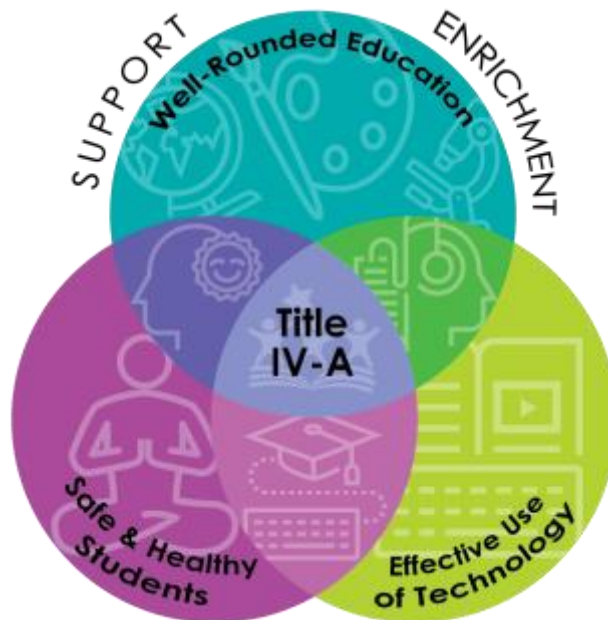
For the first time ever, your Title IV-A Team will have a dedicated caseload, similar to our colleagues in TI/TII. We are excited about this development! You may identify your assigned Title IV-A Specialist on our website or through the link here. Your new Title IV-A specialist will reach out soon in both the History Log and through email. This will begin immediately and will be for FY21, FY22, and future ESEA application years. We look forward to creating deeper relationships with you all!

ADE Recommends Changes to the Title IV-A State ESSA Plan

Please join ADE Director of Arts Education & Title IV-A, Dustin Loehr, on April 7, 2021 at 3 pm for a live webinar that will outline the proposed changes to the Title IV-A section of Arizona's State ESSA Plan. This 45 minute webinar will provide background and context for the proposed changes. Participants will be asked to complete a survey to share your ideas/responses.

Pre-registration is required. If you are unable to join us, the session will be recorded and shared on the ADE State ESSA Plan website. Please complete the survey and share your ideas/opinions.

Please note, these are proposed changes, and we need feedback from stakeholders before recommendations can be formally adopted.

[Title IV-A ESSA Plan Webinar Registration](#)

"Title IV-A & B Symposium: Expanding Horizons" Registration Open!"

Don't wait! Register today for the **2021 Title IV-A & B Symposium: Expanding Horizons!**

ADE Title IV-A and 21st CCLC are combining forces to provide this virtual event for our stakeholders. Featuring local and national experts, practitioners, and educators, workshops provide actionable best practices that can be immediately implemented in the classroom.

Teachers, Arts Teachers, PE Teachers, Counselors, and the administration who support them should sign up now!

 $25.00 gets you access to this two-day event and access to ALL content for six months!

Taking place July 15 and 16, 2021!

[Symposium Website](#)

Register [here](#) today!

New Reporting Paints Picture of Arts Access in Arizona Schools

According to new the Arizona data reported by Department of Education and Arizona Commission on the Arts, 89% of K-12 students in the state have access to education in at least one arts discipline. Participation, however, dropped 5% between the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. These statistics are only two of the insights offered by the latest update to the state's Arts Education Data Project. The update comprises self-reported data from school districts and local education agencies across the state, representing nearly 2,000 schools, up through the 2019-20 school year. The new data is featured in both an [executive summary report and an interactive explorer.](#)

"The newly updated Arts Education Data Project is an incredible tool that helps highlight programs and classes that schools offer to students across our state," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman. "I am grateful to know that more and more of Arizona's students have access to opportunities to engage in the arts. Arts provide a necessary and unique outlet for our students to creatively express themselves and share their stories. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Arizona Commission on the Arts to highlight the importance of the arts for our students."

How is this dashboard being used? Each year, ADE is required to perform programmatic monitoring for our LEAs (Districts & Charters) that utilize federal funding (TI, TII, TIV-A, RLIS, etc.). NEW to this process is the "Arts Access Report." The Arts Access Report utilizes data entered into our dashboard to measure

student access and enrollment in arts courses in comparison to state and federal requirements. More on this will be made available on our Arts Education website.

SPOTLIGHT: Arizona Title IV-A recognized by US Ed!

The T4PA Center hosted by US Ed penned this article "Leveraging State Set-Aside Funds to Provide Innovative Training and Technical Assistance: Title IV-A Use of Funds" to highlight the innovative work your Title IV-A Team works to produce each day. Focusing on our symposium, the "Reimagine Education Podcast" series, and our micro-trainings, Director Dustin Loehr shared how ADE leverages TIV-A flexibility to provide innovative resources for our LEAs and schools.

New! Reimagine Education with Title IV-A Podcast

Join Sandra Skelton as she interviews members of the ADE 21st CCLC/Title IV-B team, Catherine Evilsizor, Doreen Candelaria, and Anderson Yazzie Jr. They discuss what is possible with Title IV-B, The Nina M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant. Learn more at https://www.azed.gov/21stcclc.

Looking Ahead

Important Upcoming Dates

*Please go to this **detailed calendar** for persons generally responsible and helpful links pertaining to each item. (To access the links, download the document first).*

March

- February Monthly **Signed Time and Effort** sheets due. Federal Uniform Grant Guidance 2 CFR 200.430 Compensation.

- Process Monthly Reimbursements through GME

- **Stakeholder survey opens** Title 1, Part A(1), Section 1118

- **Update** Targeted Assistance Schools Rank Order of Students and Eligibility for Service Title 1, Part A(1), Section 1115

- **Allocations Posted** for Upcoming Grant Cycle

April

- **March** Monthly **Signed Time and Effort** sheets due

- **April 15th Deadline (suggested or follow the LEA Guidelines):**

    - CNA, 3 Fishbones and SIAP from each school

    - Site uploaded in GME for LEA review

- [Title I Planning--Workflow](#)

- **Summary Stakeholder Surveys due**

- **Stakeholder Surveys close**

- **Title IV-A & B "Expanding Horizons" Symposium** Registration Opens

May

- **April** Monthly **Signed Time and Effort** sheets due

- Submit year end evaluations of Title I Personnel

- Program evaluations of:

  - Homeless Program

  - Targeted Assistance or Schoolwide Program

  - Parent Involvement

- Final Update: Targeted Assistance Schools rank order of students and eligibility for service

- May 1st: Submission of the ESEA Consolidated Application due, including the following elements:

  - LIAP

  - SIAP (one per school)

    - CNA uploaded

    - RCA (3 fishbones) uploaded

  - Tribal Consultations

  - Private School Affirmations of Consultation

  - Private School Proportionate Share Determination Spreadsheet

  - Title II

    - Recruitment Stipend Worksheet

    - Retention Stipend Worksheet

Spotlight

2021 ESSA Conference Celebrations and Survey Feedback

A huge THANK YOU to all of you who attended the 2021 ESSA Conference. During this very unique year, we are happy that we were able to bring you the conference in an alternative format and we are truly grateful for your support. The 2021 ESSA Conference received overwhelmingly positive feedback with 78% satisfied or extremely satisfied with the conference. Participant highlights from the 2021 ESSA

Conference include student visual arts and student performances, Keynote speaker Gerry Brooks, "How to Navigate the CNA, RCA and IAP Process," "CARES Act Funding" and so much more.
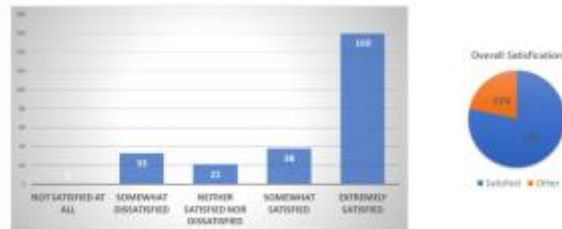
For a more comprehensive look at the feedback, please view 2021 ESSA Conference Overall Survey Results. Thank you for sharing your thoughts. The conference planning committee looks forward to planning another fantastic and worthwhile ESSA conference for you all in 2022!

1 - Keynote Speaker Gerry Brooks

*2 - Keynote Speaker Erica Maxwell*

Collaborative Research in Action: Virtual Youth Symposium

The Collaborative Research in Action: Virtual Youth Symposium is scheduled for **May 8, 2021 from 9:00am-1:00pm**. This symposium is an opportunity for students to share their learning and expertise.

It is also an opportunity for school leaders and educators to participate and hear the valuable insights from students' perspectives and presentations.

Link to register. The deadline to register for this event is **April 24, 2021**.

Here is the link for students to submit proposals. Student Research Proposals are due by **April 17, 2021**.
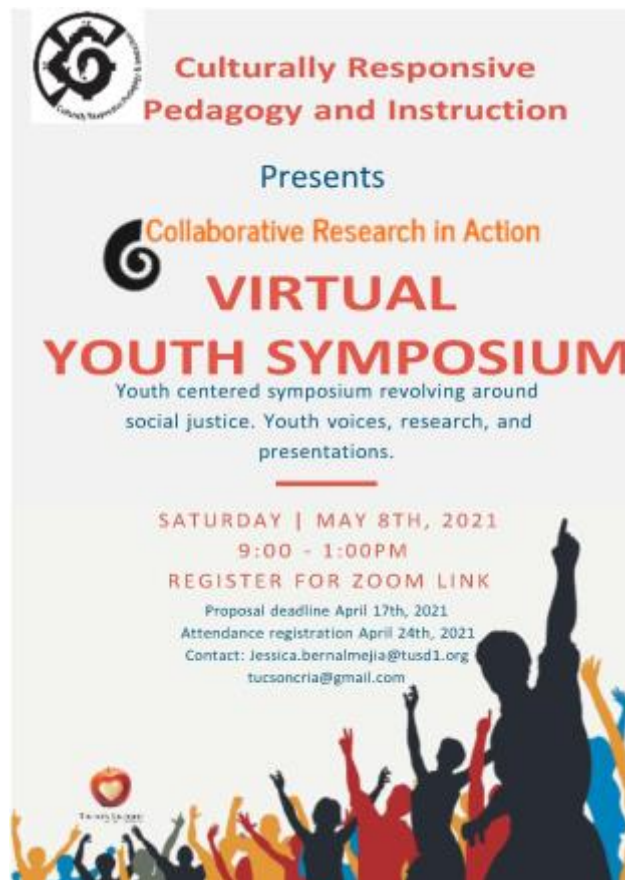
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