

July 22nd ARP ESSER Office Hours for LEAs

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Thursday, July 22nd

For capital expenditures, when does the Davis Bacon rule apply?

Ultimately, it comes down to if any of the individual units/items cost over \$5,000. If they are above that threshold, it does still require a specific request for USBE pre-approval (although we would streamline the paperwork).

In regards to a needs assessment for the ARP money can we use existing survey data?

YES, the LEA can use existing data sets to complete the recommended needs assessment. You do NOT need to complete the full needs assessment linked in the application, as that is there as a resource, not a requirement.

Can ARP (ESSER III) funds be paid for teachers to receive covid-related mental health counseling?

YES. The ARP ESSER funds can be used to support teacher mental health needs as they have been exacerbated by the pandemic. You would want to link it to the federal use case:

Federal Use Case #13 - Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools.

With ESSER funds, can we pair a grow-your-own candidate with getting their schooling supported, as well as use ESSER to support social and emotional needs, by hiring the uncertified individual as a counselor?

The ESSER funds can be used to support educators with extending their professional learning and/or certification efforts to meet the needs of students due to COVID-19. This falls under the following federal use case:

Federal Use Case #15 - Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency,

A few additional notes:

1. You will want to call out the use case above in your plan narrative and table. As a reminder “learning loss” is called “accelerated learning” for Utah’s application and includes social and emotional needs for students, including preventative factors.
2. This should tie to your “impacts of COVID-19” analysis in your plan to justify the connection.
3. I would encourage the LEA to consider how they can not only employ, but support these individuals in earning the appropriate credentials so that they can continue to build their expertise in these roles in alignment with the licensure requirements.
4. Finally, the overall plan will need to be approved by your local school board as required in the application. If there are justifications related to the hiring for someone who lacks qualifications, I would be transparent about that with your local school board leaders.

For all COVID-19 relief funds (ESSER I, GEER I, ESSER II, ARP ESSER, and the CRF funds), USBE requires the following documentation:

USBE will accept a General Ledger with a detailed listing of expenses as described below:

- Detailed general ledger, not journal entries.
- Needs to document who is being paid for services in line items related to the time and effort that is specific to the funding stream and allowances.
 - a. Time and effort documentation consistent with 2CFR § 200.430(i)
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/2/200.430>
- Additionally needs to document specific items for purchase (so not “We spent \$500 at Amazon.” But rather “We purchased hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, and HVAC filters totaling \$500”) or LEAs may provide the receipts with this information.
- The LEA needs to have the receipts on file for auditing and monitoring as requested, as well as the time and effort for the personnel that are being funded in alignment with the project.

Recognizing that this money will be highly scrutinized, the agency is requiring these items to be in alignment with expectations from both the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget as well as the U.S. Department of Education.

For health related questions for K-12...

Please reference the UDOH School Manual, which will be updated by Friday, July 23rd.

Here is a link to the current version: https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/COVID-19_School_Manual_FINAL.pdf

Update for Grants Management System

ARP ESSER funds are currently being updated in the Grants Management system to award LEAs the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ of their funds, since USBE's state plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

The funds should be available in the system by next week.

Updated application due date: **September 17, 2021**