

July 29th ARP ESSER Office Hours for LEAs

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July 29, 2021

Updates

New ARP ESSER application due date: **September 17, 2021**

ARP ESSER is now available in the Utah Grants Management system with the full allocation of funds.

The new grant titles are:

- 21ARPF ARP ESSER 90% Distribution Revised - 2021
- 21ARPV ARP ESSER SEA Reserve Base Distribution Revised - 2021

LEA Questions

Can ARP ESSER funds be obligated up through September 2024, or only through September 2023?

ARP ESSER funds can be obligated through **September 30, 2024**.

This is due to the federal Tyding's Amendment, which allows awardees an additional 12 months for these funds.

When will the updated School Manual be released?

UDOH is finalizing the Disease Plan, which will be included in the School Manual. Once that is complete, they will release it to the field.

As part of FAQ C-12, may an LEA update their SIS system with ARP ESSER funds?

FAQ C-12: How may an SEA or LEA use ESSER and GEER funds to improve its data systems and its transparency when reporting to the public?

Yes, it could be allowable, given the following:

- This use would have to be documented in your application as how it would respond to a need due to COVID-19.
- Your use of funds does have to be approved locally and by USBE.
- And just a reminder that the license as the funds do end Sept 30, 2024, so your LEA would have to take on the expense after that date.

Do we need to wait until our plan is approved before we can purchase materials and/or hire personnel?

The ARP ESSER funds is a reimbursement program that dates back to the start of the pandemic, March 13, 2020. Costs in your plan can date back to that time.

Until your plan is officially approved by USBE, you are not guaranteed reimbursement for the funds you spend, so be cautious of how you spend prior to approval.

If we do need to wait until our plan is approved locally and by the USBE, are we able to use different funding sources to pay for these items now and then adjust ongoing funding to ARP ESSER after approval?

ARP ESSER, as the previous ESSER awards, is a reimbursement program. You will have to use other systems for costs up front and then seek the reimbursement through the Utah Grants system.

Until your plan is officially approved by USBE, you are not guaranteed reimbursement for the funds you spend, so be cautious of how you spend prior to approval.

If we are able to submit our plan prior to September 17, how soon would we expect to hear back from the USBE on approval?

We would review and approve your plan within 2-3 business days within receipt of the application, unless there are concerns with the plan that we need to work through.

If we are able to work with vendors and contractors to purchase curriculum and/or services with a 5-year agreement (*paying up front for the items/services*) is that allowable even though the goods/services will extend beyond September 2024?

No. ARP ESSER funds have a strict deadline of September 30, 2024 and all items/services adhere to that deadline.

This is one-time funding meant to help LEAs mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on their students, teachers, and schools.

With regards to 20% of funds being allocated to accelerate learning, given the examples outlined in the application and the webinar, I'm interpreting the intent of this requirement to be acceleration activities as those that are direct services to students. Is this accurate?

Yes. An LEA must use at least 20% of the total ARP ESSER award to address accelerated learning through the implementation of evidence-based outcomes. These should be activities that are direct services to students.

I work with two brand new charter schools that opened their doors during the 2020-2021 school year. They have no baseline measures from the 18-19 or 19-20 school year because they were not open. Would it be okay to compare their current assessment data with the state average on state assessments? Do you have any other thoughts or suggestions for these new schools in this area?

Two options for your consideration:

1. The school may choose to use average state data as the baseline from the 2018-19 school year (as that was the last comprehensive implementation of state assessment prior to 2020-21).
2. The school may choose to use the local LEA data in which they are located as the baseline for establishing targets and measures.

We would support either approach based on preference of the school leadership team in coordination with their charter board.

I would encourage both schools to articulate why they selected the data set they chose as part of their narrative response to the section on accelerated learning for the plan.

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ARP ESSER Summer and Afterschool Program

ADA Compliant 7/29/2021

ARP Summer and Afterschool Program Overview

LEAs have an additional opportunity to apply for this competitive grant regarding summer and afterschool programs.

Letters of intent are due **Monday, August 2, 2021**.

https://usbe.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3D9XKljzBbyTyE6

Applications are due Friday, August 20, 2021 in the Utah Grant system.

Contact Kamille Sheikh at kamille.sheikh@schools.utah.gov

We don't anticipate utilizing the funding until the summer of 2022 and 2022-23 school year. Should we still apply?

Yes. We fully support the delay in implementation as many LEAs already have plans in place for the 2021-22 school year and are utilizing other funds first.

LEAs do need to meet the application deadline in order to receive these funds.

Additional resources and links to the letter of intent and application can be found at <https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus?mid=5499&aid=8>

Reminders

- If you have specific questions you'd like addressed before office hours, you can email USBE for technical support:
 - Sara Harward, sara.harward@schools.utah.gov
 - Sarah Young, sarah.young@schools.utah.gov

- Our website has a plethora of resources:
<https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus>

- Next office hours on Thursday, Aug 5th at 2:00 PM

Questions?