

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) After-school and Summer Initiative

Technical Assistance Session Frequently Asked Questions

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) located at the SCDE Grant Opportunities Web page for the [ARP ESSER After-school and Summer Initiative](#) competition. The RFP includes the information needed to write a proposal and apply for a subgrant.

Eligibility

Q: *Do schools qualify as applicants or only community-based nonprofits?*

A: This funding opportunity is only for community-based organizations in South Carolina with 501(c)(3) designations and active [SAM.gov](#) registrations.

Q: *Can non-profit private school apply for this funding?*

A: Non-profit private schools may apply for this funding under the following guidelines:

- The funds can only be used for after-school and summer activities.
- The programs must be available to students who are enrolled in public and private schools.
- At a minimum, 40% of the enrolled population must be enrolled in public schools.

Q: *If my program is available at multiple sites, do I apply for multiple grants?*

A: You have the option of applying for each site or you can combine the students and submit one application.

Q: *What if you have applied for our 501(c)(3) designation or your SAM.gov registration and your account has not been approved, but is pending?*

A: You may apply for the funding if your application for your 501(c)(3) or SAM.gov registration is pending. Submit with your attachments documentation to show your pending status. On the online application, when asked about your SAM.gov registration, click the “YES” box and put the date of your submission in the date box. If your application is scored highly, there is potential for conditional approval until your registration is approved and confirmed by OEP.

Q: *Are we eligible if we receive funds from another grant?*

A: Yes, if funds are used to **expand a current project or create a new project.**

Budget

Q: *We employ teachers from the school, and we have an arrangement with the district that the teachers are on their payroll, and we reimburse the school district. This will put them over 20%. Is this okay?*

A: This process for payment of teachers is allowable under this funding opportunity. The 20% rule doesn't apply here because the school is not considered a vendor for services. The process for paying teachers will be on a reimbursement basis.

Q: *Are utilities allowable?*

A: Yes.

Q: *If you are an after-school and summer camp only, can you pay them purchased services or contractual services instead of salaries?*

A: Yes.

Authorized Activities and Program Requirements

Q: *Can programs be social and emotional learning that supports academic achievement as opposed to academic subject content?*

A: Yes, if the program is evidence-based and will address and assist in improving learning loss. Please refer to page 1 of the RFP.

Q: *Is there any flexibility in the summer requirement "operate a minimum of four hours a day, four days a week, for four weeks during June 1- July 31, each year" if the 56 hours of programming are met?*

A: No.

Q: *Are we able to serve more kids in the summer program than in the afterschool program or vice versa?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Can students be charged a weekly fee for participation?*

A: Yes, however, they cannot be charged for programs or activities that are funded by ARP ESSER.

Q: *Are there specific performance measures we will need to report on (regarding academics or other)?*

A: No. Refer to page 15 of the RFP regarding outcome measures.

Q: *Does it need to be the same set of students being served each week during the summer or just the same number?*

A: It is allowable to provide multiple sessions serving different groups of students during the summer. Include the total number of students that will participate in your application and spending plan. The 85% rule still applies to these sessions.

Q: *What specific qualifications would non-certified teachers need?*

A: Refer to page 5 of the RFP for a description of qualifications.

Q: *Are extra-curricular activities such as swimming, tennis, and dance allowable?*

A: Refer to the [Statement on Determining Allowability of Cost for ESSER Funds](#) that relates to determining the allowability of cost for expenditures for all federal ESSER grant programs.

Q: *Who would be considered an authorized official?*

A: The authorized official has the authority to enter into legally binding contractual agreements on behalf of the applicant organization.

Q: *Can one person serve in more than one position (example- Site Coordinator/teacher; Grant Manager/teacher; admin. Assistant/Data Clerk)?*

A: Yes. Persons can serve in multiple positions. These situations should be outlined in your narrative and budget.