MEMORANDUM

To: District Superintendents
Directors of Federal Programs
Career and Technical Education Center Directors
Directors of 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Adult Education Directors

From: John R. Payne, Deputy Superintendent
Division of Federal Programs, Accountability & School Improvement

Karla Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Community & Federal Resources

Dr. David Mathis, Deputy Superintendent
Division of College and Career Readiness

Date: April 3, 2020

Re: Revising Federal Grant Program Budgets due to COVID-19

The purpose of this memo is to provide additional guidance related to the requirements associated with administering federal grants under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

If a district is not able to expend funds as originally written into its federal program plans and budgets due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) advises districts to amend their plans and budgets to address the inability to continue these activities as previously approved. The SCDE encourages districts to revise federal grant budgets and use the funds (consistent with each program's allowable use of funds) to meet needs caused by COVID-19. Please know that the SCDE program office staff stands ready to assist you with amending plans and budgets as needed.
Once the full impact of COVID-19 on the use of federal funds has been determined, along with any additional, federally-approved flexibilities or changes, the SCDE will provide information. The SCDE will also continue to request state-level waivers for its federal programs, so school districts needing specific waivers should contact the appropriate SCDE program office.

In addition, as you are aware, the recent passage of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes funds for states related to K–12 education. The SCDE is closely monitoring the rollout of this legislation and will provide more information about it as soon as it is received.

In the meantime, the SCDE encourages you to amend budgets as needed, particularly for grant awards that expire this summer through fall, to ensure you are able to use all awarded funds. If you have specific questions, need assistance in revising plans and budgets, or need technical assistance, please contact the following staff relative to the federal program:

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
Dr. Sarah Longshore, sclongshore@ed.sc.gov

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
Rebecca Davis, rcdavis@ed.sc.gov

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)
Angel Malone, amalone@ed.sc.gov

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
Michael King, mrking@ed.sc.gov

ESSA Title IV, Part B: Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Joyce Patterson, jypatterson@ed.sc.gov

We appreciate your hard work during this pandemic and stand ready to assist you in revising your budgets and meeting your current needs.