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- Mute your computer and/or phones during the presentation.
- Turn camera function off.
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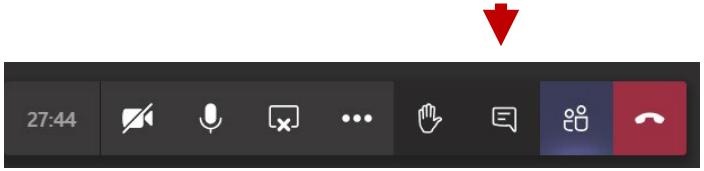

This session is being recorded.

Welcome to the Office of Federal and State Accountability's 2021 ESSA Academy

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds

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Disclaimer

This presentation is designed to help you understand federal and state requirements and procedures for the ESSER I, II, and III Subgrants.

This presentation is not a substitute for reading the ESSER subgrant award, the program-specific assurances, the SCDE's Assurances and Terms and Conditions for Federal Subawards, and the applicable federal regulations for this subaward.

Purpose

The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds (ESSER I, II, and III) as provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, and the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Act

CARES ACT

CARES Act

- On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law
- The US Department of Education has provided $30.75 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I Fund)
- USED awarded grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools

ESSER I

- ESSER I program authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law on March 27, 2020
- 12 categories of allowable activities under ESSER I
- Funds must be expended by **September 30, 2022**
- Equitable services required on the part of the LEAs under ESSER I

ESSER I Allocation

- States' awards based on Title I allocation
  - South Carolina awarded $216,311,158
- SCDE has subgranted 90% of funds ($194,680,042) to school districts based on their proportion of Title I, Part A funds from summer 2019, with 12 allowable uses of funds
- SCDE has reserved 10% ($21,631,116) for state level activities
  - Half of one percent of the total ($1,081,555) for administrative costs
- Grant expires on September 30, 2022

ESSER I –12 Areas of Allowable Uses of Funds

1. 1.Any activities authorized under ESSA
   a) IDEA
   b) Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
   c) Perkins Act
   d) Subtitle B of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
2. Coordinate emergency response
3. Support school leaders and school needs
4. Address needs of highly vulnerable populations
5. Ensure preparedness and coordination (systems & procedures)

ESSER I –12 Areas of Allowable Uses of Funds

6. Training related to infectious diseases
7. Purchase cleaning supplies to sanitize and clean schools
8. Planning/coordinating for continued education during long-term closures
9. Purchase education technology
10. Mental health supports
11. Summer learning
12. Other activities to ensure continuity of education and employment*

Detailed descriptions: https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/cares-act-funding-categories/

ESSER –Monitoring and Reporting

- Monitoring
  - Districts will be monitored through a tiered system
  - Will be conducted remotely
- Quarterly Reports
  - Due 5 days following the close of each calendar quarter
  - Amount of subgrant funds requested in GAPS and received during the quarter
  - Amount of subgrant funds expended by allowable activity during the quarter
- USED Reporting Requirements
  - ESF Portal: https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/profile/state/SC

ESSER I Progress Report

- $91,526,561.07 total ESSER I funds expended by LEAs
  - 47% of South Carolina's total ESSER I allocation
- 11 districts have spent 90% or more of ESSER I to date
- Five districts have received compliance monitoring to date

CRRSA ACT (ESSER II)

CRRSA Act

- On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) was signed into law
- The US Department of Education is providing an additional $54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund)
- USED awarded grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools

ESSER II

- ESSER II was authorized by Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) signed into law on December 27, 2020.
- 15 spending categories under ESSER II
  - 12, 13, and 14 are new allowable activities
- Funds must be expended by **September 30, 2023**
- Equitable services are **not** required by subgrantees under ESSER II
  - SCDE is currently facilitating the distribution of emergency funds through the Emergency Assistance to Non-public Schools (EANS) program

ESSER II Allocation

- States' awards based on Title I allocation
  - South Carolina awarded $940,420,782
- SCDE will subgrant 90% of funds ($846,378,704) to school districts based on their proportion of Title I, Part A funds from summer 2020
- SCDE will reserve 10% ($94,042,078) for state level activities
- Grant expires on **September 30, 2023**

ESSER II – Category 12

- 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, including by:
  - Administering high-quality assessments to accurately determine students' academic progress and needs
  - Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the needs of students
  - Providing information and assistance to parents with distance learning
  - Tracking student attendance and engagement in distance learning

Category 13 and 14

- Category 13: School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
- Category 14: Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

ESSER II - Category 13 and 14, Continued

- Provide greater detail in ESSER II spending plan
- SCDE needs to determine the alteration level (Level 1 through 3)
- May give "conditional" approval until approval from SCDE Office of School Facilities (OSF) for Level 2 and 3 requests
- Special Considerations:
  - Justify it is *to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19*
  - Costs must be reasonable (for new construction documenting that it is cheaper for new than repairing existing)
  - Davis-Bacon rules apply
  - Cannot claim funds in this category until full approval from SCDE OSF
  - Must follow EDGAR requirements on construction

South Carolina Building Codes

- Level 1 Alteration: The removal and replacement of the **covering** of existing materials using new materials that serve the same purpose
- Level 2 Alteration: Reconfiguration or extension of any space/system, addition or elimination of any door or window, or the installation of any additional equipment
- Level 3 Alteration: A level 1 or level 2 alteration where the work area exceeds 50% of the building area (includes new construction)
- Routine Maintenance: Changing air filters, painting, etc.

Office of School Facilities Approval

1. ESSER staff forwards plans with category 13 & 14 budgeted to OSF staff for review
   i. OSF reviews to determine sufficiency of information
   ii. ESSER staff as applicable contacts district for additional information if needed
   iii. OSF staff determines if the request is routine or non-routine maintenance
2. Routine Maintenance
   i. ESSER staff notifies district and sends GAN and assurances
3. Non-Routine Maintenance
   i. A conditional approval is granted pending full approval later with an OSF issued permit
   ii. ESSER staff notifies district of full approval to claim funds in category 13 & 14 once permit is issued

Know the Differences

Topic	ESSER I	ESSER II
Legislation	CARES Act	CRRSA Act
Timeline	Available through September 30, 2022	Available through September 30, 2023
Equitable Services	Required on the part of LEAs	Required on the part of SEAs
Use of Funds	12 allowable uses of funds	15 allowable uses of funds
Tracking of Funds	ESSER I funds must be tracked completely separately from ESSER II	ESSER II funds must be tracked completely separately from ESSER I

ARPA ACT (ESSER III)

ARPA

- On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law
- The US Department of Education is providing an additional $121,974,800,000 for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund)
- USED awarded grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools

ESSER III

- ESSER III fund authorized by American Rescue Plan Act that was signed into law on March 11, 2021
- SCDE is expecting an allocation for public schools totaling $2,112,051,487
- Different requirements for districts and the SCDE from ESSER I & II
  - Districts will be required to set aside a certain percentage of funds devoted to learning loss
  - SCDE will be required to set aside and expend a certain percentage of funds for required activities such as learning loss and afterschool programs
- More information will be available in the coming months

Reminders

- There is no due date for the ESSER II Spending Plan, but districts should submit as soon as possible
- Quarterly reports are due the fifth day following each calendar quarter
- Districts who intend to use ESSER funds for level 2 and 3 alterations will be subject to the conditional approval process
- A GEPA statement must be submitted with the ESSER II spending plan for full approval
- Please submit completed plans to the scesser@ed.sc.gov email account

Additional Resources

- ESSER I Webpage: https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/
- ESSER II Webpage: https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/esser-2-funding-information/
- ESSER II FAQ: https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/esser-2-funding-information/esser-ii-faq/
- USED ESSER Webpage: https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/

Questions?

- Please email
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