**April 30th Office Hours: CARES Act**

1. How does this apply to charter and private schools?

**Answer:** One of the assurances in the LEA application will be that LEAs that receive ESSER funds will provide equitable services to students and teachers in Non-Public Schools, in the same manner as described in Section 1117 of ESSA.

1. Can ESSER funds be used retroactively to mid-march or is it only for new activities for next year, in other words can you utilize these funds for distance learning we have already completed?

**Answer:** Yes, LEAs can be reimbursed for any activities occurring on or after March 13th, as long as those activities are allowable under ESSER section of the CARES Act.

1. Is the LEA application going to state that LEAs must do consultation with nonpublic schools?

**Answer**: That is one of the assurances that the LEA will have to agree to prior to receiving these funds. This again, follows Section 1117 of ESSA.

1. Are only Title I-eligible students at the nonpublic school counted in calculating proportionate share for equitable services?

**Answer:** This is guidance we are waiting for from the USDE. The consultation should be in the same manner as ESSA 1117 so we are waiting for more information from the department. We don’t have a definitive answer for this question.

1. Can ESSER funds be used to pay for staffing?

**Answer:** Yes, activities necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services in the LEA and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA are allowable activities under ESSER. However, subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEA or expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations are not allowable.

1. Will you discuss how that reimbursement would work for non-publics since currently we cannot reimburse non-publics? Will this be an exception?

**Answer:** Waiting on additional guidance from the USDE.

1. Can we use the funds to offset loss in revenues from tuition and/or Nutrition Services meal sales; we still are paying staff through the closure but no offsetting revenue

For example we have preschool staff that we continue to pay and incur costs for salary and benefits. Since no preschool students are attending we are not able to collect tuition. We will lose over $200k in revenue for this.

**Answer:** CDE will need to do more research around this. [Other districts would like to hear about this]

1. Do nonpublic schools get to be part of the survey. Is equitable funding for nonpublic schools considered before or after LEA reimburses themselves for expenditures?

**Answer:** The equitable services is under 1117 in ESSA, that happens before any set asides or budgeting takes place. Equitable services need to be determined first. We still need more information from the USDE and figuring out these kind of details.

As for the survey, it is going to be shared with stakeholder groups. If districts want to make sure it is sent to them, please put your email in the chat.

1. Do we need a new consultation process for FY21 if we are already underway? Or do we only include NP schools that are participating FY20?

**Answer:** If you have already started the consultation process and NPS doesn’t want to participate in TI, districts will need to reach back out to those NPS to see if they want to participate in this money since it is different.

1. Can the CARES be used to supplant? For example we have summer school planned and funds budgeted for them. Can we use these funds now so our current funds can support things not allowable under ESSER?

**Answer:** We may have an answer to this question however we need to double check on the answer.

1. Other allowable activities on CDE website includes “other activities to continue school operations and employment of existing staff”. This seems to suggest that the funds could be used to preserve jobs even if they are not jobs that would be allowable under ESEA. Is this correct?

**Answer:** Yes, that is correct.

1. To clarify, an additional outreach is required to advise NPs re: new CARES funding, including all NPs not just those that participate under T1?

**Answer:** That is correct.

1. How will the amounts for non public be calculated?

**Answer:** CDE is waiting to hear from USDE. We need to clarify whether or not we are using the proportionate share or if we are using a different calculation.

1. Just to clarify...we can use these funds for anything allowable in ESEA, IDEA, Perkins, there's no supplement/supplant, and no specific requirement to tie to Covid? But we can also use it for Covid-related expense if not specifically allowable in those other federal funds?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as it is allowable under those programs, there aren’t Supplement/Supplant requirements for these funds. These funds are prioritized and used to address the impact COVID-19 has had and continues to have on schools in the nation. The list of allowable activities are broad so we can have a conversation on whether an activity is allowable.

1. If you consolidate funds, which could cover a variety of things, sounds like you could pay for teachers salaries?

**Answer:** We will need to take back.

1. Are we going to have to track these expenditures or do time and effort, etc? Looking for what the fiscal requirements might be?

**Answer:** There is going to be separate reporting around the fiscal requirements for these funds. The information needed to be tracked will be built into the budget portion of the application. We will get more detail and clarity around those reporting requirements and how we will track those expenses.

1. So if the Covid impact is a higher Budget Stabilization factor can we use it to offset payroll?

**Answer:** We will document and research this question.

1. What's the guidance on charters? How do we determine their participation? Is there any requirement that it be based on a per pupil basis?

**Answer:** The USDE is providing guidance on Charter Schools. But we don’t have any guidance on whether or not it is on a per pupil basis.

1. When will the applications be available?

**Answer:** We are in the process of developing our application that needs to be submitted to the USDE. Once we get it approved by USDE, we will get the application ready for the LEA. The USDE is promising a quick turnaround.

1. Is indirect allowable as normal?

**Answer:** We have some guidance on this but we don’t have it in front of us. We will research and follow up when we have the information.

1. I understand these funds are not subject to Title l restrictions in terms of rank and order. Do they have to be distributed to schools equitably or can they be expended at the District level?

**Answer:** We asked for clarity around this from the USDE. We do know that TI rank order do not apply to these funds but we have questions to USDE in regards to whether or not all the funds can be expended at the district level.

1. When CDE is ready to send ESSER applications to districts, who will be the recipient(s)?

**Answer:** Currently we have the list of Authorized Representatives in the Consolidated Application. If you have new contacts, please add them there. Feel free to let us know who it should be sent to.

Comment from BOCES: This won’t work for the BOCES. It should go to the Superintendent.

1. Will this application look somewhat like what Consolidated looks like?

**Answer:** It will look and feel like the consolidated application. But it will be a separate application from the Consolidated Application.

1. Will LEA's be responsible for GEER's funds if Governor authorizes to NPS?

**Answer:** Unsure. Take this one offline.

More than likely it will be authorized to the district and the district will be responsible for being equitable but funding won’t go directly to NPS. CDE will clarify that.

1. Will we have to spend first and then request funds?

**Answer:** CDE needs to look into this question.

1. Can you also find out about GEERs for charters -- one charter told me they can apply??

**Answer:** Yes, we will look into this question.

1. Where are the allocations posted for CARES? Grants Fiscal site?

**Answer:** It is on the Federal Program website. http://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/relieffund

1. Similar to Cons App will there be a post award revision?

**Answer:** We are going to build out a post award revision system.

1. Will these funds be assigned a grant number like 4010 for Title I?

**Answer**: Yes. A Grant number has been assigned to these grants.

1. The CARES Act, that is the 120 which the LEAs get 90% of that and the Governors funding is that 44 million that he can decide who gets that. It is two pots of money?

**Answer:** Correct. It is all under the CARES Act, but two separate pots of money: (1) GEER funding to the Governor; and (2) ESSER funding to the State Educational Agency (CDE).

1. Will the 90% be similar to consolidated application? Will we have to fill out the application and go through an approval process like consolidated application?

**Answer:** Correct. A streamlined version of the consolidated application

1. Will the funds be given up front versus requesting for funds like on Consolidated?

**Answer:** If similar to the ARRA funds, it will be a reimbursement grant however we will ask about it.

1. Will we get these funds in July?

**Answer:** It depends on how how quickly we get approval for our application from the USDE and how quickly we can get the LEA application developed and processed.. Once we get our application to USDE and approval, we will post the application and release funds as soon as possible. If we get our approval and can get LEA applications approved before July, LEA could use funds prior to then.

1. Will we have to do an end of the year report on these? How will that look when it crosses years?

**Answer:** It is a different funding source. So it won’t cross against the other programs. We are unsure if this will follow the same process. There is more to come on this. We would have to address this with our Grants Fiscal department.