



Panel on Preventing Lapsing Funds: State/Local Oversight and Initiatives

Panelists:

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Moderator:

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Virtual Spring Forum 2022
Planning for Uninterrupted Crises

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Period of Performance (ESSER/GEER)

	CARES	CRRSA	ARPA
Start date	March 13, 2020	March 13, 2020	March 13, 2020
Statutory end	September 30, 2021	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023
Tydings Period	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2024

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HEERF Period of Performance

- All institutions were given one calendar year (12 months) from the date of award in their HEERF Grant Award Notifications (GAN) to complete the performance of their HEERF grants.
- Institutions generally must expend their HEERF grant funds within one year from the date when ED processed the most recent obligation of funds for each specific grant.
 - Thus, institutions that received a supplemental award under ARP have one year to spend all remaining HEERF I, HEERF II, and new HEERF III funds for each grant from the date their HEERF III supplemental award is made.
- For the HEERF II and HEERF III awards, funds may be used for all costs incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

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DCPS Pandemic Relief Funding ESSER I (CARES), ESSER II (CRRSA), & ESSER III (ARP)

Divya Brown, Director of Grant Administration
 5/4/2022



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DCPS Background/ Fast Facts

- ~50,000 students in 116 schools, 87 of which are Title I
- Total Annual Agency budget is ~\$1.2B
 - ESSER I, II, III Pandemic Relief funds ~\$300M+
- DCPS is the largest Local Education Agency (LEA) in DC with approximately 50% of students in DC
 - We receive many of our large federal awards as subrecipients from our State Education Agency- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)
 - The ESSER funds fall into this category
- DCPS and OSSE share the same OCFO
 - ESSER is considered an inter-agency fund

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ESSER III Strategy

DCPS Pandemic Funding Received

- DCPS funding Received to Date

ESSER Fund	Total DCPS Award
ESSER I - CARES	22,031,825.77
ESSER II -CRRSA	86,969,011.28
ESSER III - ARP	194,985,774.26
Totals	303,986,611.31

- Our Continuous Education Plan (CEP) outlines DCPS priorities for our Covid Relief funds
 - ESSER I CARES → Immediate Needs
 - ESSER II CRRSA → Evolving Needs
 - ESSER III ARP → Targeted Supports with Longer Term Strategy

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DCPS Priorities and Utilization of ESSER I - CARES

In response to immediate needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, DCPS allocated CARES funds to the following pandemic response investments

- 1) Student Technology and Data Service for virtual learning
- 2) Temporary staffing to support the transition to virtual enrollment and instruction
- 3) Curriculum, professional development, and translation services to support instruction and engagement during virtual learning.
- 4) Supplemental contract staff to supervise expanded classrooms to meet social distancing requirements

DCPS Priorities and Utilization of ESSER II - CRRSA

In response to evolving needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, DCPS allocated ESSER II funds to the following pandemic response investments

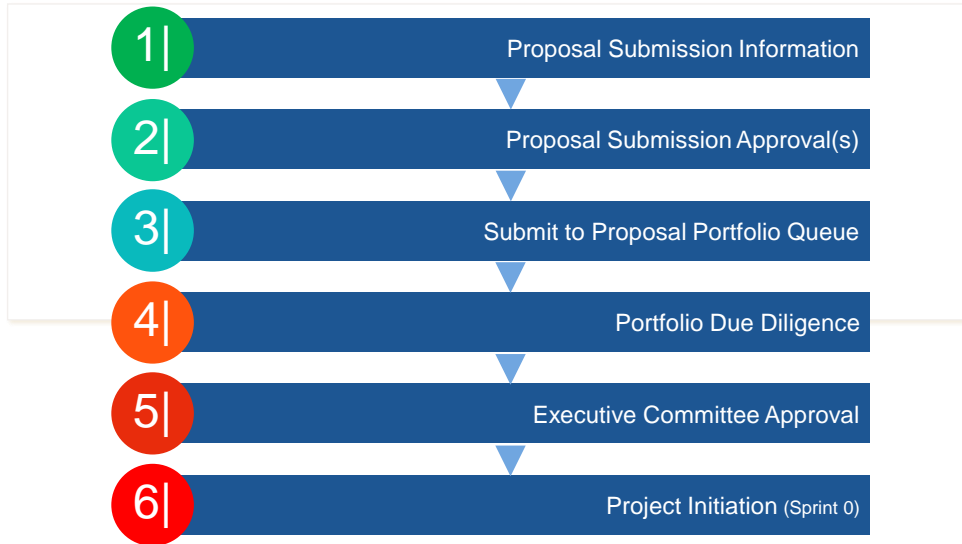
- 1) School-based academic acceleration and social emotional learning
- 2) Temporary staff to support operational needs associated with COVID-19, such as health and student safety policies, fiscal management of federal relief funding, and instruction and school supports required to facilitate virtual learning and academic acceleration.
- 3) Equipment and technology required to support outdoor learning
- 4) Student and teacher devices to support virtual teaching and learning.

DCPS Priorities and Utilization of ESSER III - ARP

- In May 2021, DCPS conducted an ARP Survey to solicit feedback from stakeholders to inform the use of funds allocated through the third installation of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. Using these results we targeted these funds towards:
 - 1) School building maintenance and upgrades in line with safety requirements for school year 2021-2022 opening.
 - 2) Targeted acceleration programming that provides additional learning time for students to strengthen academic and social emotional skills, deepen relationships, and prepare for the year ahead.
 - 3) Curricular enhancements in key content areas, including materials, professional development, and implementation support
 - 4) Substitute Teacher Support

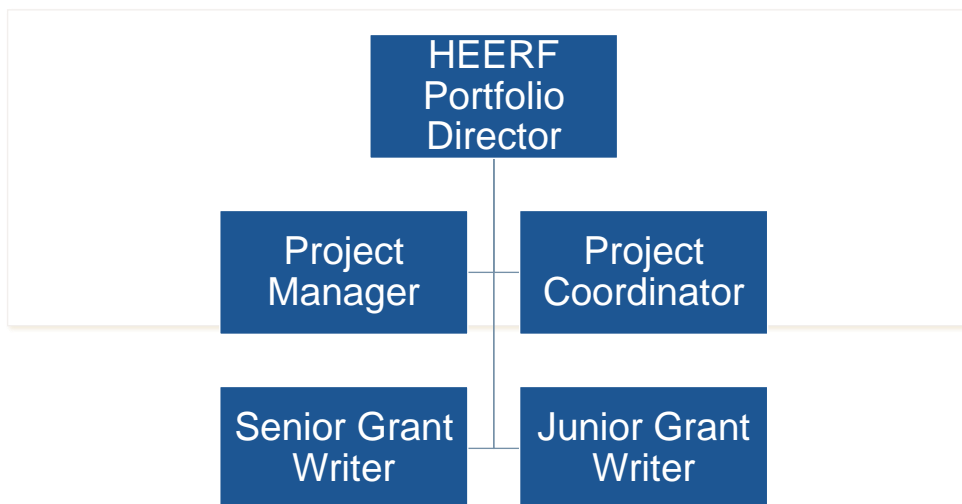


Proposal Intake Process



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Portfolio Staff Structure



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Top 10 Portfolio Projects

FY20210095	CRRSAA online course design and development	\$7,429,267.14
FY2021013	Student & Employee Device Replacement	\$7,301,465.66
FY20210155	MMI and ACUE - Scaling and Expansion	\$6,001,650.30
FY20210151	Seahawk WINGS -Wraparound Initiative for Non-Academic Greater Support	\$5,959,287.70
FY20210081	Campus Network Access, Network Environmental and Network Security	\$5,130,000.00
FY20210083	Pathway & Collegewide Academic Technology, Equipment Initiatives	\$4,941,704.00
FY20210134	AV Technology and Synchronous Classroom Upgrades	\$3,250,000.90
FY20210082	Enterprise Cloud Telephony Services	\$2,494,000.00
FY20210089	North Campus Chiller Upgrade and Cooling Tower Replacement	\$2,300,000.00
FY20210153	Additional Duty Pay Recapture	\$1,992,835.20

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Top Portfolio Issues

Construction not allowable expense

Social distancing projects

High traffic restroom remodeling for CDC hygiene guidelines

Global supply chain delays

Delays with equipment

Delays with supplier materials

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Institutional / MSI Funds Allocation set Aug 2021
\$91.9M of \$92M

Spend Deadline Mitigation

1. Unspent funds reallocated to Loss Revenue (\$15M)
Fund only strategic projects
2. Remainder distributed to students (Financial Aid)

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Susan McCrone
Chief
Division of Federal Programs
Pennsylvania Department of Education

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Big Changes for PDE and Our LEAs

- State of emergency was declared
- Schools went remote from one day/week to the next
- Pennsylvania – rural with suburban, urban areas
 - Bandwidth challenges, access to wi-fi; technology; appropriate online curriculum; meals for students; attendance issues
- PDE team began working remotely
- Lots of unknowns at the beginning
- How long would this last?



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Current COVID Relief Acts Awarded to PA Department of Education

- **CARES Act:** Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
 - 1st round of relief funding (ESSER I) --- \$523.8 million
- **CRRSA:** Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (ESSER II)
 - 2nd round - \$2.22 billion
- **ARPA:** American Rescue Plan Act (ARP ESSER)
 - 3rd round - \$5.2 billion

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▶ Division of Federal Programs – Before & After.... Covid-19

- ESSA Programming
 - Roughly \$800 MILLION dollars
- COVID relief funding
 - Roughly \$ 8 BILLION dollars



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Challenges to DFP



Award grants quickly



Ensure allowability and full flexibility is communicated successfully



Prevent, prepare & respond to COVID-19



Understand construction/reno requirements - Prior approval requirements



Updated guidance from USDE – communicate changes effectively



VOLUME – calls, emails, applications, etc.

Positive Outcomes Resulting from Covid Relief Funds

Great one time opportunities to improve HVAC/ventilation systems, complete construction/reno projects to increase learning space to socially distance, etc.

Potential for one-to-one technology match

Purchase essential PPE, meet contact tracing needs, increase cleaning services; better sanitary practices in general

Retention bonuses for teachers and principals who stayed

- Recruitment options for hard to fill positions
- Incentive pay for vaccination participation

Curriculum upgrades to prepare for remote situations (quarantine, snow days, etc.)

Funds to support learning loss, social emotional needs and especially the students most impacted by covid & remote learning (summer school, after school upgrades)

We CAN successfully administer grants from home!



Changes to Technical Assistance

Canceled in person conferences

New platforms to deliver professional development

Consistency is always key

Due to turnover, repetition of sessions and material is important

Office Hours

Weekly Communications in writing

FAQs

ARP ESSER Handbook

PDE web site



Discussion Questions

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Initial challenges with allocation/expending of funds with CARES Act

- What are the challenges now, after additional rounds of funding?
- What challenges did you encounter given changing rules around subsequent round(s) of funding?
- How were changes communicated to you, do you feel you understand current status?

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Current Spending Status

- Have you received all of your funding (including subsequent rounds of funding)?
- What specific steps are you taking (or have you already taken) to ensure all obligations are made within the period of performance?

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Who is Responsible?

- Who has the responsibility for implementing these funds?
- Did you hire/repurpose staff just for this purpose?
- Any additional oversight?

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Budget Periods

- How are you (did you) determine the appropriate round of funding that charges are applied to?
- How have you responded to supply chain issues?

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Documentation

- How are you ensuring documentation is in place for monitoring?
- What guidance have you been provided on planning for monitoring/audits of stimulus funding?

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