

# Federal Emergency Relief Funds and Pre-K Programming Office Hour

**Monday, November 8, 2021 - 10:30am**

**Early Learning Team and  
Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP)**

# Introductions

Please take a moment to share your name, title, email address, and school community in the chat.

- **Nicole Madore**, Early Childhood Specialist
- **Lee Anne Larson**, Early Learning Team Coordinator
- **Monique Sullivan**, ARP Coordinator
- **Shelly Chasse-Johndro**, Director

# ARP ESSER Purpose

-To implement prevention and mitigation strategies  
*(aligned with CDC guidance to greatest extent practicable)*

-To address the academic impacts of lost instructional time through **evidence-based interventions** that respond to the **academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs** of all students and particularly **underserved student groups**

# ARP Allowable Use - General

ED's [ESSER & GEER FAQs](#) suggests a three-part framework for analyzing ESSER spending:

- Is the use of funds intended to **prevent, prepare for, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including its impact on the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students?
- Does the use of funds fall under one of the **authorized uses of funds**?
- Is the use of funds permissible under the **Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards** (Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200)? In particular, is it necessary and reasonable for the performance of the ESSER award?

# Pre-K Allowability

## **C-20. May an LEA use ESSER and GEER funds for a pre-kindergarten or other early childhood education program?**

- **Yes.** Because an early childhood education program is an allowable use of funds under the **ESEA and IDEA**, it is allowable under ESSER and GEER.
- In addition, ESSER funds may be used for other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA. As a result, ESSER funds could be used to prevent layoffs or service cuts to existing LEA early childhood education programs.

# Early Childhood Program

An “early childhood education program” is

1. a **Head Start program** or an **Early Head Start program** carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), including a migrant or seasonal Head Start program, an Indian Head Start program, or a Head Start program or an Early Head Start program that also receives State funding;
2. a **State licensed or regulated childcare program**; or
3. a program that serves children from birth through age six that addresses the children’s cognitive (including language, early literacy, and early mathematics), social, emotional, and physical development; and is either: a **State prekindergarten program**; a program authorized under section 619 or Part C of the IDEA (see FAQ C-5); or **a program operated by an LEA**. (See section 8101(16) of the ESEA.)

# Pre-K Expansion RFA

- This funding is provided through Maine's American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocation (in [Public Law 2021 Chapter 483 Part R section 2](#)).
- SAUs may apply for grant funding awards for a **1-year period** to support **new** and **expanded programming** during the 2022-23 school year.
- Funding may also be used to **increase the amount of time** 4-year-olds are attending public pre-k programming **from part day/part week to full day/full week**.
- Applications were due November 4, 2021.

# Establishing or Expanding a Public Pre-K Program

If your district is interested in opening a new, or expanding a current, public preschool program, please refer to the following steps.

1. To receive funding on your ED 279 for Pre-K students for the year in which you are starting or expanding programming, SAUs must complete the Estimate Pre-K Count Data Form the fall preceding the school year in which the program will begin.
  - The Fall 2021 form will be due no later than November 12, 2021 to reflect school year 2022-2023 estimated Pre-K enrollment counts.
  - The form link is provided in the [Maine DOE News](#) in October of each year. The link to this year's form is [available here](#).

# Establishing or Expanding a Public Pre-K Program (Continued)

2. Become familiar with [Chapter 124: Basic Approval Standards: Public Preschool Programs](#).
3. Complete Maine DOE's public Pre-K application by using the [on-line application](#) and submit it by April 30, 2022 for a fall 2022 opening date. Applications will be reviewed and districts will be notified of approval from Maine DOE. Users can access a PDF version of the application [here](#).

Nicole Madore, Early Childhood Specialist, is available for on-site consultation, meetings with district staff and community members, resources, phone calls and email. Do not hesitate to contact her with any questions or concerns.

[Nicole.madore@maine.gov](mailto:Nicole.madore@maine.gov)

# Resources and Contact Information

- [Maine's DOE Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Maine's Federal Emergency Relief Programs](#)
- [ARP Law](#)
- [Use of Funds FAQ Document](#)

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