

## ARP ESSER July 1, 2021 Webinar Questions

### Timeline of Allowability:

1. Does this grant work like the other in regards to the timeline; begins March 2020? Or does it go forward from the new school year?
  - a. The period of allowability is March 13, 2020 to September 30, 2024 (this includes the 12 month Tydings Amendment waiver).
2. Is there a specific due date for the application to be turned in?
  - a. The ARP ESSER Application, part 2 is due on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. A due date is required by ARP law and needs to be no later than 90 days. Applications may be revised after this initial submission.
3. When will the application be available?
  - a. The ARP ESSER Application, part 2 will be released on July 7, 2021 and available at <https://www.4pcamaine.org/>.

### Non-public/Private Schools:

1. Is this process identical for independent schools?
  - a. The process and information that is presented today relates only to the ARP ESSER for public SAUs. The Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) is also a part of APR but is a separate funding source with a different set of requirements. At this time, we do not have an additional information related to ARP EANS.

### Application Requirements:

1. Are we allowed to begin spending ARP ESSER funds before the application is submitted and approved?
  - a. SAUs may begin obligating funds once they have submitted the ARP ESSER Application, part 1 and received their Grant Award Notification (GAN). We realize the timeline for obligation and having an approved application is out of sequence as compared to other funding sources. SAUs should be aware of the risks involved in obligating funds prior to having an approved application. That is why we have distributed lists of allowable uses. We also encourage SAUs to apply for the funds as soon as they can.
2. Do we have to keep posting the different revisions of our ARP ESSER applications? We will update our summary as we make revisions to our ARP ESSER applications?
  - a. ARP is about transparency and serving students furthest from the opportunity - so updates to the plans and application should follow this structure as well.
3. What constitutes public comment? Ability to respond and/or comment through email? Board meeting?
  - a. The [ARP ESSER Interim Final Rule](#) and [USED ARP ESSER FAQs](#) document provide additional information about public comment.
4. Can a district decide to set our reservation percentage as 30% on our own number?
  - a. Yes, it is a minimum of a 20% reservation for loss of instructional time. A district can determine how much funding they would like to use for the evidence-based interventions.
5. Is the 20% to address learning loss the only reservation for these funds?
  - a. Yes, the only reservation for the ARP ESSER funding is the 20% for loss of instructional time. For more information, please see [ARP ESSER Interim Final Rule](#) and [USED ARP ESSER FAQs](#) documents.
6. In ESSER II, funds could only be used for things that were a direct response to Covid. Is that also the case in ESSER III?
  - a. Including the 20% reservation to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, SAUs may use ARP ESSER

- funds for a variety of activities related to educating students during the COVID 19 pandemic and addressing the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on students and educators. SAUs may also use ARP ESSER funds to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of its students, and implementing strategies to accelerate learning and to make investments in teaching and learning that result in lasting improvements in the SAU. More information regarding the allowable uses of ARP ESSER funds can be found in the [ARP ESSER Interim Final Rule](#) and [USED ARP ESSER FAQs](#) documents.
7. To address the 20% learning loss reservation, can tutors be hired to help students with learning loss?
    - a. Yes, the 20% learning loss reservation can be used to hire tutors to address students with learning loss. See [COVID 19 Handbook-Volume 2](#) for more information regarding evidenced-based interventions.
  8. What if schools are unable to meet the 20% requirement due to a lack of ability to get staff to work in any extended learning settings.
    - a. The Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP) will provide technical assistance to SAUs needing support in meeting the 20% reservation. Contact information can be found on the [OFERP's website](#).
  9. Do the evidence-based interventions need to be part of the What Works Clearinghouse?
    - a. No, there are a variety of resources for acquiring evidence-based intervention including the [What Works Clearinghouse](#). More information regarding evidence-based interventions can be found in the [COVID 19 Handbook-Volume 2](#)
  10. Is the handbook available now? Or will it be sent along with the slides?
    - a. [COVID 19 Handbook-Volume 2](#) is available on the [US Dept of Education's website](#).
  - 11) What about posting the plan for return to in-person instruction and continuity of services? When do we have to have that posted?
    - a. Yes, the return to in-person instruction and continuity of services needs to be publicly available on the SAU website. Plan requirements are provided in ARP ESSER Interim Final Rule.

## **Fiscal:**

1. What will be the fund and revenue code?
  - a. For ARP ESSER the fund code is 2615 and the revenue code is 4531.
2. Build a structure? For classrooms?
  - a. For construction projects, please refer to B-6 and B-7 of the [USED ARP ESSER FAQs](#) document. Quoted from B-6, "... the Department discourages LEAs from using ESSER and GEER funds for new construction because this use of funds may limit an LEA's ability to support other essential needs or initiatives."
3. Will the categories be the same as the CRF & ESEA? Salaries & Benefits, Purchased Services, Supplies, Equipment, etc.
  - a. Yes, funding code categories will remain the same even though the application and invoicing will be organized around projects.
4. As a business manager I don't understand what is involved in proving "evidenced based interventions" What will we need to provide for information to support this requirement?
  - a. When invoicing you will not need to submit documentation for "evidence-based interventions" expenses. Evidence-based interventions will be identified in the ARP ESSER Application and SAUs cannot submit invoices until the ARP ESSER application has been approved. Please refer to [USED ARP ESSER FAQs](#) and [COVID 19 Handbook-Volume 2](#) for more information regarding evidence-based interventions. School educational program leaders will need to be in communication with school finance team members or business managers about how to provide the programmatic narrative in the application.

5. Will there be a 10% variance to budget for all project budgets?
  - a. Yes, there will a be 10% variance allowance for each specific project budget.
6. When will we be able to start invoicing for expenses?
  - a. Invoicing will become available upon approval of the ARP ESSER application. part 2.