



MAY 2022

Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP)

Notes to the Field



Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- CARES ESSER funds can be **obligated through 09/30/2022**. Please reach out with any questions!
- Join us for our last office hour on **June 9th at 9:00am!** [Click here to register.](#)

PROGRAM NOTES

ESSER Obligation

§ 200.71 Obligations: When used in connection with a non-Federal entity's utilization of funds under a Federal award, **obligations means orders placed for property and services, contracts and subawards made**, and similar transactions during a given period that require payment by the non-Federal entity during the same or a future period.

	Obligate by:
CARES	September 30, 2022
CRRSA	September 30, 2023
ARP	September 30, 2024

Additional Support & Transitions

- Deanna Roberge, management analyst, and Teri Beal, contracted staff, are focusing on ESSER invoice reviewing.
- Robert Palmer has transitioned to support our non-public schools within OFERP.



The May 5, 2022 office hour video, PowerPoint and FAQs are housed on the [Office of Federal Emergency Relief Program \(OFERP\) website](#). May's office hour welcomed our Business Managers! The OFERP team presented some background and application information but focused on invoicing, the reimbursement process, good practices, definitions and distinctions.



The Maine Department of Education (DOE) operates federal grant reimbursement systems which means the good and/or service must be received or rendered prior to requesting a reimbursement. Due to State Statute, the DOE is unable to reimburse for any down payment type of requests. Please reach out to the OFERP to discuss how the project(s) can be broken down into phases with deliverables, which would allow for a reimbursement request to be made once a project phase and deliverables have been completed.



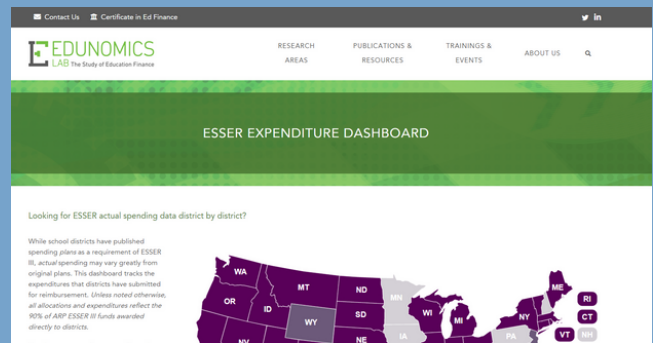
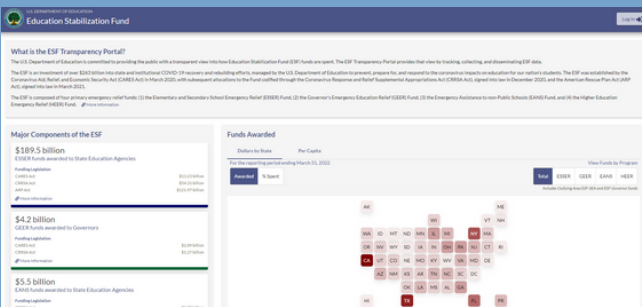
Summer accrual payments are charges for work that has been done but not yet invoiced or paid out. SAUs can only seek reimbursement for summer accrual payments after the employee has received the payment.

Showcasing the Use of ESSER Funds

The U.S. Department of Education established the interim final requirements (IFR) for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund but are relevant to CARES and CRRSA. The IFR requirements are intended to promote accountability, transparency, and effective use of funds.

With a growing interest in what ESSER Funds are supporting a number of outlets are sharing information. The OFERP encourages schools to use data and feedback to empower school leaders to communicate confidently with stakeholders, ensure appropriate use of ESSER funds to impact student learning, proactively plan to sustain evidence-based interventions, and showcase ESSER projects.

The following hyperlinked images are a few nation examples of how Maine's ESSER funds are being showcased:



What can OFERP do to support you?

The Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP) is always looking for new ways to support our schools. Share with us what additional support is needed and what OFERP can do to assist you. Please send suggestions and feedback to Shelly Chasse-Johndro at shelly.chassejohndro@maine.gov with *"OFERP Suggestions/Feedback"* in the email subject line. Your suggestions and feedback is greatly appreciated.

Friendly Reminder: ESSER Performance Report Past Due March 25, 2022

OFERP's website has resources to assist in the completion of the ESSER Performance report:

- [Blank Copy: ESSER Performance Report](#)
- [Completing the ESSER Performance Report Office Hour, January 6, 2022](#)
 - [Slide Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Video Recording \(YouTube\)](#)

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