

ARP ESSER Office Hours for LEAs

September 16, 2021

LEA Questions

I am having trouble locating the ARP ESSER program in the Utah Grants system. Where will I find it?

Please go to Applications → Pending Tasks.

The name of the two ARP ESSER awards:

1. 21ARPF ARP ESSER 90% Distribution Revised
2. 21ARPV ARP ESSER SEA Reserve Base Distribution Revised

If you are not seeing it, another person in your LEA may have already started the application process.

For technical assistance, please contact Traci Peterson at traci.peterson@schools.utah.gov.

Can LEAs revise their plans after they have been approved in the Utah Grants Management system?

Yes. LEAs can revise their plan or budget table at any point during the program period. This can be done through a Budget Amendment in the Utah Grants system.

LEAs need to note that any amendment must be approved by the local school board in an open and public meeting as included in the application assurance section.

At least 20% of your total award should be dedicated to student accelerated learning. This is a requirement from the federal government.

Please ensure that you plan for this in your application and 20% of your award is in the budget table subcategory Category 1 Required 20%. If you have less than 20% in that subcategory, your application will be sent back for revision.

Can the ARP ESSER funds be used in similar ways to the other ESSER awards?

Yes, the use cases for the ARP ESSER funds are similar to the ESSER I and ESSER II awards.

ARP ESSER has 19 allowable use cases that are outlined in the application and can be found on our website at

<https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus?mid=5499&aid=7>

How do we know what is considered an allowable cost under the use case categories?

You are welcome to reach out to Sarah Young or Sara Harward with questions. Generally, we are looking at any use cases under the lens of the following guidance:

- 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 ESSER or GEER 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 ARP ESSER award?

We are funding the Afterschool program with ESSER III funds. Do you think that purchasing a healthy snack for the kids to have each afternoon would be an allowable expense for Afterschool funds?

Generally, USBE does not approve food items for the COVID relief funds except for the following:

1. Expanding the CNP program
2. For parent nights and providing a meal, as this is an evidence-based practice

The LEA is welcome to justify it in their plan and we will review it, with the lens of relating it to COVID and it being a necessary and reasonable use case.

Do we have to attach the capital project letter in Utah Grants with the ARP ESSER application?

No. If your LEA is planning to use a portion of their funds for a capital improvement project, they must complete the capital project proposal letter and email it to Jessica Kjar at jessica.kjar@schools.utah.gov. This is a separate approval process than your ARP ESSER application.

The only attachment we need in Utah Grants is your ARP ESSER application.

Reminders for the ARP ESSER application:

This grant program has many similar requirements to the other ESSER awards, but there are some additional unique requirements as well.

Please seek local board approval of your ARP ESSER plan prior to submitting the application in Utah Grants.

Plan and budget at least 20% of your total award for student accelerated learning.

Make sure your plan is available on your public website within 30 days of receiving your award.

And please remember to sign your application!!

Reminders

Please seek local board approval of your ARP ESSER plan prior to submitting the application in Utah Grants.

The ARP ESSER application is due September 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

If you have questions, please contact

Sarah Young at sarah.young@schools.utah.gov

Sara Harward at sara.harward@schools.utah.gov

Jessica Kjar at jessica.kjar@schools.utah.gov

Questions?