

ARP ESSER Office Hours for LEAs

Thursday, September 2, 2021

I just want to clarify the 20% requirement of the ARP ESSER funds to address learning loss: Is it 20% of the direct costs or of the total grant amount?

At least 20% of your **total** ARP ESSER award should be dedicated to student accelerated learning.

Does the 20% need to be spent strictly on supplemental programs such as Summer School and After School? Or can the suggestions in Option 15, Addressing Learning Loss (i.e. assessment, evidence-based activities, assisting families with distance learning, attendance) count toward the 20%?

The 20% needs to be dedicated to student services that will mitigate the learning loss students experienced due to COVID. That category is for many strategies, including summer and afterschool program, but is not limited to those two programs. Your LEA can make other plans for student accelerated learning.

Should I submit my ARP ESSER application and capital project letter at the same time?

ARP ESSER applications should be submitted in the Utah Grants Management system. They are due September 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Capital Project proposal letters should be submitted via email to Jessica Kjar at jessica.kjar@schools.utah.gov.

They do not have to be submitted on the same day. USBE will take 7-10 business days to review capital project proposals. You can wait to submit your application until after your capital projects are approved, but you do not need to.

What should be included in the capital project proposal letter?

An LEA may write one letter for multiple project plans.

The plans should include

- the project description
- how it is related to COVID-19
- what the project will accomplish or how many students will be served
- the budget and monthly milestones
- timeline for completion of the project

[Capital Expenditure Guidance for LEAs](#)

Additional guidance for capital projects involving new or improved HVAC systems:

To describe what this project will accomplish and how it will serve students, please detail how the new system is increasing air flow and filtration through the building either through the system or improved controls.

This will show how the project is mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Do paraprofessionals and interns need time and effort documents?

Yes. Any individual that is being paid with ESSER or GEER funds need to have time and effort documentation to receive reimbursement.

If it is contract services, then we need the invoice for the reimbursement request.

Why is my indirect cost rate so high in Utah Grants?

According to federal guidance, LEAs can use the unrestricted indirect cost rate for the ARP ESSER program.

This based on the following guidance from U.S. Department of Education to state education agencies:

E-8. May an LEA charge indirect costs to its ESSER or GEER Fund subgrant? Yes. Indirect costs and rates must comply with the Uniform Guidance and the Department's administrative regulations. (See 34 CFR §§ 76.560-76.563 on indirect costs.) Because the ESSER and GEER funds do not have a supplanting prohibition, an LEA may use its unrestricted indirect cost rate.

Additional notes for the unrestricted rate

In Utah Grants, the budget is based on the start date of the award (3/13/2020). For both programs 21ARPF ARP ESSER 90% Distribution Revised and 21ARPV ARP ESSER SEA Reserve Base Distribution Revised, the system is going to apply the indirect cost rate to the fiscal year the project period start date is in. For both programs, the Project Period Start date is 3/13/2020. This is FY20. I do want you to be aware, your indirect cost rate will be different when you submit payment requests as that money will be spent in FY21/FY22.

Reminders for Application Requirements

Prior to submitting their ARP ESSER application to USBE, LEAs must:

1. Engage in stakeholder feedback and public comment for their plan
2. Receive local board approval of their plan

LEAs must also publish their plan to their website, as outlined in the application.

Reminders

ARP ESSER applications are due in the Utah Grants Management system by **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?