

ESEA Office Hours Questions & Answers

May 27, 2021



Q: Does substantial approval just apply to LEAs or does it apply to charters authorized by a LEA?

A: The district must receive substantial approval before its members or schools can obligate funds. Obligations begin when CDE has received an approvable application.

Q: We received an email informing us we had final approval on our ESSER III application and would be receiving a grant award letter. Is this correct? Have some ESSER III applications been given final approval?

A: Currently two ESSER III applications have received final approval. Grant award letters are released in batches.

Q: how will we know when the ESSER RFF is being processed?

A: If you do not receive funds by the end of the month, please follow up with CDEs Grants Fiscal department.

Q: We received substantial approval with a note that our construction activity would need to be reviewed and approved by the CDE. Will that happen prior to our full submission of activities, or not reviewed until all of our proposed activities have been submitted?

A: LEAs may submit capital construction budget line items for prior written approval, without submitting an entire budget at this time.

Q: How do we access the \$7,697,837 allotted to provide supports and services to special education students?

A: Use the RFF link in the slide. AU's have a different Formsite link.

Q: just to confirm , we need to have the full budget plan in 90 days from May 23rd? or is it the public return to school plan?

A: Based on the FAQ recently released from the USDE, it looks like States may have more flexibility to determine a reasonable timeline for LEA plans to be submitted. However, within 30 days of receipt of funds, LEAs must have the safe return to in person plans in place. We will confirm deadlines and will follow up at future Office Hours.

Q: How do we show on the bids for construction that we receive have met the requirements for Davis Bacon salary?

A: Please work with your construction team. Davis Bacon Act requires contractors pay prevailing wages for the area. The Department of Labor has a website we recommend you share with contractors to ensure requirements are met.

Q: Our ESSER I application received final approval. Now I have submitted changes that have not yet been approved. Can I submit for reimbursement for the total that was previously approved?

A: Once final approval has been granted, LEAs may request for reimbursement.

Q: How do you pay Davis Bacon wages if District Staff is performing the facility upgrades?



A: The Davis Bacon Act applies to contractors and subcontractors performing on federally funded or assisted contracts in excess of \$2000. Your district staff would not be considered contractors.

Q: We are charging Summer School Personnel to ESSER II. Since these duties are in addition to their regular salaries, what is required for T&E?

A: Duties in addition to a regular salary would usually fall under stipends. You can show T&E by timesheets if they are being paid hourly or a supplemental contract for a stipend that notes the pay for the services provided for a given number of days/hours.

Q: When you say split funded -- if you have a counselor that is .5 Gen Fund & .5 ESSER - because it's a single cost objective (counselor 100%), don't you just do the single cost objective T&E -- basically saying they are spending 100% of their time as a counselor regardless of funding source? These are the examples that were given with CRF

A: This would still be a single cost objective as the job duties did not change. indicate the funding sources on the Time and Effort.

Q: Can we have place holder for 21-22 activities in ESSER 3 -- e.g. we have 20-21 & 21-22 activities that we are certain of and want to submit this June, but we want to wait on a portion of the funding for evidenced based interventions to be determined after we get more student data in late summer/early fall. So does the same apply that we could get approval on everything else, except that one line item -- which would be 21-22 activities? I understand the reimbursement part, but want to be sure if I put a 21-22 placeholder in I don't have an issue with other 20-21 & 21-22 items as we are concerned with 20-21 activities like summer school in June that is in our ESSER 3 application and activities that are early in 21-22.

A: Provide the funding year in the drop down, along with the placeholder language. Please be advised the full allocations can not be dropped down when placeholders are present.

Q: Will charter schools have to have their own stakeholder engagement plans?

A: That will be up to the LEA to make the determination.

Q: We are working to collect the student data for each mode of instruction as requested in the IFR, due to you prior to June 21, 2021. Is this the actual due date? Is any additional information known about this?

A: The June 21st deadline is the States due date for submitting data to the USDE.

Q: Do we need GEPA statement for interventionist job postings?

A: You do not have a GEPA statement for the job posting, however you do need a GEPA statement for anyone funded with federal funds, describing how the protected groups have access to the services.