

Funding opportunities: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021

Summary as of 1/11/2021

The education sections in particular are focused on supporting students. As afterschool and summer programs are key to students' recovery this spring, summer and fall there are multiple points of entry into the funding opportunities in the law. Key points of entry:

- Learning loss – academic as well as whole child supports – afterschool and summer
- SEL support – afterschool, summer, learning hubs
- Addressing inequity – providing additional supports through out-of-school time to help address disparities

The four significant opportunities to tap in the CRRSA for afterschool and summer are:

1. **GEER (Governor's emergency education relief funds):** \$4 billion (although there is a \$2.75 billion set aside for private schools therefore only \$1.3 billion is available to be distributed nationally). The CRRSA Act provides that \$1,303,060,000 be used to supplement the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II Fund) awarded to each State with an approved GEER application under the CARES Act enacted on March 27, 2020. Under the first CARES bill, we saw a lot of success accessing hundreds of millions for afterschool, but with the smaller amount available today it may be more challenging this go round. **Main decision maker:** Governor's Office

Key resources:

- [Cover Letter to Governors](#)
- [CRRSA GEER II and EANS Methodology and Allocation Table](#)
- [GEER II Fact Sheet](#)

2. **Elementary and secondary school Emergency Relief fund (ESSER II) K-12 funds:** increased from the \$13 billion in CARES to \$54.3 billion, although 90% of funds that go to states will flow to school districts following the Title I Part A formula. Like in CARES, states can use one half of one percent for administrative costs at the state education agency. But that leaves up to 9.5% for state education agencies to spend. The law says that 9.5% can be used "for emergency needs as determined by the state educational agency to address issues responding to coronavirus, including measuring and addressing learning loss, which may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts."

Key resources:

- Letter to State Education Commissioners:
https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_CoverLetter_1.5.21.pdf
- Table with state breakdown of ESSER II funds:
https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_Methodology_Table_1.5.21.pdf
- Fact sheet on ESSER II funds from ED:
https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_Factsheet_1.5.21.pdf

Decision makers: In terms of timing and decision makers for ESSER, 90% of the funds will be controlled by local school districts, making relationships with superintendents/principals important. For the 9.5% of funds that do not have to flow to districts, state education agencies likely will make those decisions -- although we could also see state legislatures play more of a role this time on directing federal COVID relief funds, especially for education. It's a good idea to talk to state legislative champions about whether they see the possibility of legislation playing a role in how funds are spent this time.

3. **Child Care funds** - \$10 billion, more than triple what was available in CARES. Funds will follow CCDBG formula. School age child care is eligible under the CCDBG definition of programs serving students up to age 13. Rules as the same as in CARES. Funds can be spent as stabilization grants to support child care providers open or closed, or as vouchers to parents. The law makes clear that licensed, regulated, or registered providers are eligible for the funds whether or not they have received funds through CCDBG in the past. We are still waiting for HHS to post information about this new round of relief.

Key resources:

- Table with state breakdown of child care funds: <https://www.clasp.org/publications/fact-sheet/covid-relief-stimulus-child-care-state-estimates>
- Guidance from CLASP calling out the need to support license exempt programs as well: <https://www.clasp.org/blog/covid-relief-package-child-care-providers>

Decision makers: state human services/child care agencies will likely determine how the funds are provided.

4. Coronavirus Relief Fund for states and counties: while no new funds were provided at this point, the recent law does extend the deadline for using those \$160 billion to Dec. 30, 2021, making it an opportunity as well.

Decision makers: state and county decision

TIMING: The CRRSA law says funds should be distributed within 30 days of approved application by the Secretary of Education for GEER and EESER. The Dept. of Education is asking that states spend any remaining CARES funds first before spending new relief funds. Child Care funds can be provided by states to providers until the end of the Public Health Emergency that was declared last March.

Appropriations for the Education Stabilization fund (GEERII and ESSERII) in the new bill are to remain available for obligation by SEAs and sub recipients through September 30, 2023; with the original CARES ESSER funds available for obligation by state educational agencies (SEAs) and sub recipients through September 30, 2022.