

CARES ACT INFO SHEET

On March 27, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed. Shortly after the act was passed, the U.S. Department of Education announced that \$30.75 billion of the CARES Act will be distributed through four grant programs to address the impact of COVID-19 on students, K-12 schools and higher education institutions. **This allotment is new grant money and not part of Title IV-A or other grant programs.**

Only one of the CARES Act grant programs requires an application — due by **July 1, 2020** — through the federal government. The [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund \(ESSER\)](#) provides \$13.5 billion in emergency relief funds to support continued learning for K-12 students. State education agencies (SEAs) must apply for ESSER grant money by July 1, 2020 — **time is of the essence!** — and local education agencies (LEAs) will have one year to use the money.

The other three grant programs are distributed to states or directly to higher education institutions. 1) The [Education Stabilization Fund Discretionary Grants \(ESF\)](#) provides a portion of \$307 million in grants to states most affected by coronavirus to address specific educational needs of students, their parents and teachers. 2) The [Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund \(GEERF\)](#) includes \$3 billion of discretionary funds distributed to state governments to support K-12 and higher education needs related to COVID-19. 3) The [Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \(HEERF\)](#) provides \$14 billion of funding directly to higher education institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted.

Here is the breakdown of the funds allocated to the State of Michigan: Governor's emergency Education Relief - \$89,433.00, Elementary and Secondary Relief- \$389,797.00, higher Education Relief- \$354,836.00, and Child Care and Development- \$100,899.00.

For a detailed list on how ESSER Funds can be used, refer to pages 7 and 8 of the [Certification and Agreement for Funding under the Education Stabilization Fund Program](#).

How Do I Get Started?

- Start with a musical needs assessment. Using the criteria above, how can ESSER Funds help your program address the projected needs of your incoming students? Write up a proposal to reflect those items.

- Meet with your administrator about the proposal to address projected needs and ask about securing support from this funding source.
- Principals are not always up to date on U.S. Department of Education funding programs, so it may be helpful to ask your principal/supervisor if they could advocate for your needs by checking with the district's or school's federal funding professional. (Most school districts have a dedicated staff member who seeks out federal funds to support educational needs.)
- Ensure that your needs are advanced to the appropriate LEA department or representative to ensure that they are accounted for because it is the responsibility of the SEAs to download and complete the [Certification and Agreement form](#) and submit it.
- Remember, SEAs have until **July 1, 2020**, to apply for ESSER Funds, so it is important to reach out to your administrator as soon as possible.
- In a letter to education commissioners, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos said that applications will be processed within three business days of receipt.

Additional Resources

Please be aware that this information changes daily. Refer to the [U.S. Department of Education](#) website for current information.

[Press Release from U.S. Department of Education: Secretary DeVos Makes Available Over \\$13 Billion in Emergency Coronavirus Relief to Support Continued Education for K-12 Students](#)

[Education Week: Betsy DeVos Releases Billions More in Coronavirus Education Aid](#)

