

CARES ACT – K-12 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (PRC 163)

PROGRAM REPORT CODE: 163
UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS CODE: XXXX-163-XXX
CFDA #: TBD

TYPE: Dollars

TERM: Funds are available through September 30, 2021

PURPOSE: The Elementary and Secondary School (K-12) Emergency Relief Fund, authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act), is intended to assist eligible public school units during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

ELIGIBILITY: All LEAs, charter, lab, regional and innovative schools are eligible to receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. Units that seek funds must complete and submit to NCDPI a brief application form provided by NCDPI and the State Board of Education. Charters that are newly opened for the 2020-2021 school year will also be eligible.

FORMULA: Allocations to eligible units are made in proportion to the amount of funds such units received under Title I, Part A in the most recent fiscal year.

SPECIAL PROVISION:

- 1) DPI must allocate no less than 90% of its total K-12 Emergency Relief Fund award as subawards to eligible units. Of the 90% available for State Aid, DPI will reserve a portion to make allotments for new or significantly expanded charter schools during the 2020-2021 school year.
- 2) The State Board of Education may reserve up to 10% of the total K-12 Emergency Relief Fund.
 - a) The State Board of Education may not reserve more than ½ of 1 percent of the K-12 Emergency Relief Fund for administrative costs undertaken by the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.
 - b) Any other sums from the K-12 Emergency Relief Fund reserved by the State Board of Education shall be used to address emergency needs as determined by the State Board of Education to address issues responding to coronavirus, either through the use of additional grants or through contracts.
- 3) Units may use program funds for:

- a) Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, or Title VII, Subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
 - b) Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEAs or charter schools with State or local public health departments and other relevant agencies to improve coordinated responses in preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus.
 - c) Providing principals and other school leaders with resources to address the needs of their individual schools.
 - d) Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of those students.
 - e) Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve preparedness and response efforts.
 - f) Training and professional development for staff pertaining to sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
 - g) Purchasing sanitation and cleaning supplies for LEA or charter school facilities.
 - h) Planning for and coordinating long term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, provide technology for online learning to all students, provide guidance for carrying requirements under IDEA, and ensuring that other services can continue consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local requirements.
 - i) Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software and connectivity) for students to aid in regular and substantive interaction between students and their classroom instructors (including low-income and disabled students), which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
 - j) Providing mental health services and supports.
 - k) Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental afterschool program activities, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months.
 - l) Other activities deemed necessary to maintain the operation and of and continuity of services in LEAs and charter schools, and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA or charter school.
- 4) Any funds that have not been approved to be allotted within 1 year of receiving the funds from the Federal government must be returned to the Federal government for reallocation to other States.
 - 5) An LEA receiving K-12 Emergency Relief Funds must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools in the same manner as provided under Title I, Part A, as determined in consultation with representatives of non-public schools.
 - 6) Units that receive funds are required to continue to pay their employees and contractors to the greatest extent practicable during the period of disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.

- 7) When developing budgets related to awards, units that receive funds are encouraged to consider future expenses they are likely to incur to address and respond to coronavirus, including future “re-entry” requirements when school facilities re-open as instructional settings, student mental health, sanitation, and supplemental educational services to students.
- 8) LEAs that receive funds are encouraged to utilize, when feasible and cost-effective, state-level convenience contracts to purchase commodities, such as electronic devices.