

Follow up Questions from COVID Funding Presentations in May.

1. What is the end date of the Homeless Funds?

The Homeless I money came to as funds to address immediate needs. All current McKinney Vento grants will be extended and have an increase in funds. The language we currently have does say these funds are for Spring and Summer of 2021. However, the ARP bill says the funds are available through September, 2024. Until we have guidance from USDOE on this, we cannot give you a definitive answer. It is possible that funds not spent this summer will be rolled forward into Homeless II, and allocated out to schools through that process, but we won't know for sure until we get that guidance.

2. Is there going to be another call for FRP applications?

This was an extension approved through the legislative process. There is nothing moving forward for that purpose this session.

3. Will you be providing any guidance regarding the Stakeholder engagement requirement?

Currently the application in SERVS asks if you've done stakeholder engagement, but we have not put out any guidance on what that entails. Alicia and Michael are looking into it.

4. Is the PEBT program subject to Supplement and Supplant?

PEBT work is new so it should be supplementary. However, you may use these funds to fund PEBT administrative work even if you had previously intended to fund that work from another source. You may also use this funding source to pay for overtime, if the overtime work was/is related to PEBT administration.

5. Is a budget required for the ESSER II and ESSER III Funds?

Yes. Guidance can be found on [MDE CARES Funding Webpage](#), click on the "Creating a GEER or ESSER Budget in SERVS" link posted on 12/2/20.

6. Is there a list of due dates for COVID funding?

Yes, follow this link [MDE CARES Funding Webpage](#) and click on the "GEER and ESSER Application and Budget Steps" link posted on 12/2/20.

7. Is there a way to be notified of changes in the COVID funding?

Yes, from the COVID-19 Updates page click on the "Sign up for email alerts" as highlighted on the clip below.

- ▶ Healthy Schools
 - Active Schools
 - ▶ COVID-19 Updates
 - CARES Act Funding Information
 - Food and Nutrition COVID-19 Resources
 - Health Resources for Schools
 - Operations
 - Public Engagement
 - Safe Learning Model Data
 - Special Education COVID-19 Resources
 - Student Instruction COVID-19 Resources
 - Supporting Students and Families COVID-19 Resources
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COVID-19 Updates

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On July 30, Governor Tim Walz signed [Executive Order 20-82](#) to implement Minnesota's [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#). This plan uses a localized, data-driven approach that allows school districts and charter schools to operate in a learning model that is responsive to the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in their community. The plan prioritizes safe learning for all Minnesota students, including requiring school districts and charter schools to give families the option to choose distance learning for their student no matter which learning model their school is implementing.

The Safe Learning Plan—including Executive Orders 20-19, 20-82, 20-94 and 20-95—will be in full effect through the end of the 2020-21 school year. This means schools will continue following the Safe Learning Plan until whenever the last teacher contact day is for each individual school district or charter school. For year-round schools only, the Safe Learning Plan—including Executive Orders 20-19, 20-82, 20-94 and 20-95—is in effect until June 13, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

Consistent with guidance from the CDC, Minnesota has strongly recommended widespread use of face coverings since April. On July 22, Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-81](#) requiring face coverings in all indoor public spaces in Minnesota, including K-12 school buildings.

School districts and charter schools must adhere to the health requirements and recommendations in the [2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools](#), issued by MDH, and should consult the [2020-21 Planning Guidance for Minnesota Public Schools](#), issued by MDE, to develop and update their plans.

Summer 2021 Programming

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has released updated [guidance for all organizations](#) which outlines social distancing, quarantine, contact tracing, hygiene and masking requirements. This guidance will continue to be updated as we move through the steps



Check the Minnesota Department of Health website often for updates about COVID-19

[Sign up for email alerts](#)

Related offsite resources:

[Stay Safe MN](#)

8. **Does the agency have any suggestions for what is an eligible use of the 20% for learning loss? Is MDE going to put out any guidance on what types of expenses can be charged to this source of funds?**
 USDOE has just put out guidance on this. The definition of learning loss, according to them is the ‘academic impact of lost instructional time’. Generally, the academic impact of lost instructional time is the impact experienced by students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and which may have impacted whether students are meeting grade-level standards. MDE is working on guidance for Minnesota schools.
9. **Will the schools still get money if the state shuts down?** We are trying to sort this out. We would have access to all of our federal money, because that has been approved, but we would have to decide if employees would be allowed to work to get those funds out.
10. **In the ESSER allotment to ELSA programs, does each region decide what they want to do with their funding or are they issuing more pathways scholarships?**
 The funds are only to award new scholarships from the waitlists. Once that is cleared, you may award new applications.
11. **What is the status of the ESSERII applications in SERVS?**
 ESSER II applications are being reviewed as they are received. There has been a backlog which MDE hopes to have complete by the end of the week (May 14th).
12. **How can schools address budget shortfalls with COVID money?**
 LEAs may use ESSER I, II, and/or III funds to prevent layoffs/maintain staffing levels and otherwise sustain pre-pandemic levels of operations and services. This use extends to using ESSER allocations to

assist with budget shortfalls related to the pandemic, such as those caused by loss of enrollment or underpayment of local property taxes due to pandemic-related economic hardship. The best place to indicate this use of funds to MDE at the present time is in the object-level budgets submitted in SERVS. Since each object that's submitted requires a description of the use of funds, LEAs can note which objects are being used specifically to adjust for loss of other revenue. LEAs should follow existing processes for documenting decisions, reporting time and effort, and tracking which FTEs are being supported by the ESSER funds.

13. Can schools use COVID money for additional teacher pay?

Yes, if the additional pay is needed in response to COVID-19 (examples: difficulty hiring means needed increase in salary/benefits for recruitment or retention, additional responsibilities or hours worked due to changes in learning models, teachers taking on additional assignments or teaching both in-person and virtual simultaneously, "hazard pay")