



AWARDED

JULY 2020 ISSUE



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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Understanding Grants Facts Inside the Cares Act	4
Grants to State Library Administrative Agencies	9
CARES Act: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	10
FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program.....	13
CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	15
Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program	17

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UNDERSTANDING GRANT FACTS INSIDE THE CARES ACT

The CARES Act is the largest economic stimulus package in US history. When all is said and done, Congress will provide more than \$2 trillion in grants and other forms of financial assistance to individuals, private businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. All funding will be directed to efforts that prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus in 2020.

Due to its unprecedented size and scope, misconceptions about the CARES Act are common. Important information on how to receive funding is buried inside several hundred pages of dense Congressional legislation. Government web pages meant to explain new programs are sparse and may be updated infrequently. To make matters worse, the remote nature of many workplaces during the pandemic has limited agencies' ability to review, evaluate and apply for funding as a group.

In an effort to quell any rumors and avoid mix-ups on vital funding streams from the CARES Act, the Grants Office team has compiled a list of grant facts. We will continue to add to this list in future editions of HP's monthly COVID-19 funding newsletter as more information becomes available.



Fact #1 The CARES Act consists of multiple grant programs.

There is no one, singular grant that will distribute trillions of dollars with a single application. Instead, the CARES Act will be divided into several distinct buckets of funding. Each bucket will have a unique set of requirements and will have its own application process. As you review all of these program offerings, expect to see some common grant terminology, such as -

It is also important to note that formula and competitive awards from the CARES Act may arrive at your agency's bank account through one of two routes -

Formula Grants

Funding will be available to a predetermined set of applicants. A list of recipients will be published alongside the maximum allotment each may receive. These awards are based on a specific formula - such as population, severity of COVID-19 cases, number of acute care hospital beds in a jurisdiction, etc. Once the formula is finalized, that money is specifically earmarked for agencies on the list. This virtually guarantees awards will be issued so long as applicants complete all necessary paperwork on time.

CARES Act Example: US Department of Treasury, Coronavirus Relief Fund

Competitive Grants

Funding will be available to applicants who score highest within a set of objective criteria. The grantor may set rules for grant awards - such as minimum or maximum request sizes - but applicants are otherwise able to choose how much they will request. Only a select group of agencies in the pool will receive funding.

CARES Act Example: US Department of Education, Reimagining Workforce Preparation

Direct Grant Awards

Funding will be provided to applicants straight from federal grantmakers such as the US Department of Education or the US Department of Treasury. All decisions regarding distribution of grant dollars - including priorities, award sizes, and application deadlines - will be made by these federal agencies.

CARES Act Example: US Department of Education, Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Pass-through Grant Awards

CARES Act funding will be processed by states before becoming available to local applicants. Agencies like the NY Department of Education or the WV Division of Emergency Management may take this opportunity to adjust specific characteristics of a grant before sharing it out. This technique results in a large variation of priorities, award sizes, and application deadlines across the US.

CARES Act Example: US Institute of Museum and Library Services, Funding for State Library Administrative Agencies

Fact #2
Nonprofit agencies may be eligible for more than one grant program offered by the CARES Act.

It's true! A single County government may receive a formula allocation from the US Department of Treasury, a competitive grant for the sheriff's department, AND a pass-through grant for the public health department. If you've already heard folks in your agency talk about securing CARES Act dollars, don't assume that's the end of it. Be sure the team turns over any and all possible stones for additional stimulus funding in the coming months. Keep your finance team in the loop through the entire process so they know to track each grant award separately.



Fact #3

Grant programs from the CARES Act will each carry a unique set of stipulations that limit how and when an agency may spend award dollars.

Grant funding of any type or amount will not arrive as a blank check to spend as you wish. It is important to consider the variations of each grant program to make certain your agency will be able to comply with all requirements. Some of the most consistent stipulations for CARES Act funding include -

- Applicants must spend grant dollars on efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Agencies must clearly explain how every expense relates back to this overall mission. These grants will not cover standard operating expenses or debt reduction. Projects planned prior to the virus outbreak in March 2020 are likewise unlikely to be funded. If you see this requirement, seek out a list of eligible expenses to ensure your needs align with the funder's intentions.
- Applicants must expend all funding within a set period of time. Funding from the CARES Act is set to expire at the end of the calendar year. At that point, any unspent dollars will be returned to the federal government. These grants will therefore delineate exact dates as to when applicants may spend award dollars. If you see this requirement, make sure you build a grant project and budget that can be fully realized within that window of time.
- Applicants will receive grant funding as a reimbursement. This means funding will not be made available by the grant maker as an up-front payment. Recipients will need to purchase eligible items and submit receipts to receive a refund. If you see this requirement, alert your finance team to ensure all expenses will be eligible for reimbursement. They may also want to contact the grant making agency to better understand timing and processes.

Should your agency choose one or more of these grant funding routes, keep a look out for grant-training sessions. Most federal grant programs are offering free webcasts for each new grant solicitation created by the CARES Act. During these events, program managers review important application details and answer questions from the audience. Consider assigning 1-2 staff members to view and/or attend these sessions. Those individuals can then report back to the department in order to train the whole team on the application process – effectively saving time and resources while ensuring CARES Act grant-seeking becomes a group effort.

And do not forget to check back monthly for future editions of this newsletter to learn more grant facts from the Grants Office team.

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GRANTS TO STATE LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES (LSTA)

Summary

The Grants to States program is the largest source of federal funding support for library services in the U.S. Using a population based formula, more than \$150 million is distributed among the State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) every year. SLAAs are official agencies charged by law with the extension and development of library services, and they are located in:

- Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia;
- The Territories (Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands); and
- The Freely Associated States (Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands).

States and subrecipients have partnered with community organizations to provide a variety of services and programs, including access to electronic databases, computer instruction, homework centers, summer reading programs, digitization of special collections, access to e-books and adaptive technology, bookmobile service, and development of outreach programs to the underserved.

Grants to States funds have been used to meet the needs of children, parents, teenagers, adult learners, senior citizens, the unemployed, and the business community. One of the program's statutory priorities is to address underserved communities and persons having difficulty using a library, and approximately ten percent of grant funds in recent years have supported library services for the blind and physically handicapped. The program also meets the needs of the current and future library workforce.

Deadline

Application deadlines vary by state.

Eligibility

Funds are awarded on a population based formula to State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs). Eligible sub-recipients are public, academic, research, school, or special libraries or consortia.

For more information

<https://www.ims.gov/grants/grant-programs/grants-states>

CARES ACT: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

On March 27th, 2020 the CARES Act was signed into law. CARES, more formally known as the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security act of 2020”, was a nearly \$2 Trillion dollar stimulus funding package intended to support state and local governments, public healthcare providers, individual citizens, small businesses as well as big corporations, and education providers in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Within CARES, approximately \$30.75 Billion dollars was allocated to the US Department of Education for something known as the Education Stabilization Fund. Of interest to K-12 districts and charter schools, though, is an even smaller set aside known as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) accounts for 43.9% of the total Education Stabilization Funding bucket, equaling \$13,229,265,000 in total funding. ESSER funds are to be distributed to all 50 State Education Agencies as well as D.C. and Puerto Rico in effort to help k-12 education providers at the local level prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Therefore, of each state’s allocation, at least 90% of their funding must be re-granted to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or charter schools with LEA status. You can see your State’s allocation by visiting: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/ESSER-Fund-State-Allocations-Table.pdf>



Once these monies have made their way to school districts and charter schools, they can be used towards a number of fundable activities including –

- Anything supported by previous legislation such as: Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1965; Native Hawaiian Education Act; Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Adult Education and Family Literacy; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act; or McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Coordination efforts with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.
- Activities to address the unique needs of at-risk groups like: low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, etc.
- Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
- Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
- Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including: how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under IEPs or 504s and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
- Providing mental health services and supports.
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of the aforementioned at-risk student groups.
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

Haven't heard anything about these dollars from your State Education Agency yet? Don't fret! This funding is quite active, and for many states, still in the process of moving from the US Department of Education to State Education Agency coffers. Despite funding becoming available in early April, the deadline for states to file paperwork claiming these dollars was July 1. Presuming it takes State Education Agencies a few weeks to get things in order before being able to regrant to these monies within their borders, districts and charter schools with LEA status could reasonably expect to hear something by August.

Be sure to visit your State Education Agency's website frequently to stay informed. Many have created landing pages specifically for COVID-19 related news and updates. While states may have had until July 1, 2020 to claim these dollars from the federal government, once distributed to the local level this stimulus funding will remain available for K-12 schools obligate through September 30, 2022.

Limited time offer for remote learning

As school leaders and IT staff transition from short-term fixes to more long-term solutions, Microsoft is here to help. Working with our OEMs and Global Training Partners we are bringing together specially-priced devices, professional development, and onboarding assistance into a single offer so that schools and districts can quickly move to an equitable, sustainable platform to deliver remote learning.

Through this limited time offer schools can provide students with safe and secure access to learning, deliver training for teachers so they feel ready and confident engaging with students in class or on-line, and connect with technical experts ready to help with deployment and onboarding.

Whatever the future may bring, Microsoft stands ready to help make your students, your teachers, and your school future proof. We are so excited to travel the world without leaving the classroom.

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CARES ACT: FCC COVID-19 TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

Summary

The COVID-19 Telehealth Program will quickly distribute the \$200 million that Congress appropriated to the FCC in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for connected care services and devices, whether for treatment of coronavirus or other health conditions during the coronavirus pandemic. Eligible expenses include:

- Telecommunications services
- Information services such as Internet access, including access for patient use.
- Devices necessary to enable the provision of telehealth services, including services and/or devices (e.g., smartphones or tablets) that generate and transmit patient-reported outcomes from patients to health care providers. Monitoring devices are only funded if they are themselves connected.
- Services or devices need not be used to treat patients with COVID-19, but must be used to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus,” such as to treat non-COVID-19 patients remotely to free up hospital beds for COVID-19 patients or to facilitate physical distancing to prevent spread of COVID-19.
- Supported services and devices must be “integral to patient care.” Administrative costs of program participation are not supported.

In reviewing applications, the FCC has a strong interest in targeting funding towards areas that have been hardest hit by COVID-19. In addition, given the public health emergency and widespread scope of the coronavirus pandemic, they will not target COVID-19 Telehealth Program funding toward specific medical conditions, patient populations, or geographic areas. However, the FCC strongly encourages selected applicants to target the funding they receive through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program to high-risk and vulnerable patients to the extent practicable.

Deadline

Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until funding is expended, or the corona-virus pandemic has ended.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are nonprofit and public eligible health care providers, whether located in rural or non-rural areas.

For more information

<https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>



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CARES ACT: HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

The CARES Act included about \$30.75 billion in emergency relief for education. Of that, almost \$14 billion (\$13,952,505,000) was allocated to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), administered by the U.S. Department of Education. This funding is being distributed directly to institutes of higher education, using a formula based on the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) students who were not already exclusively receiving distance education.

Ninety percent of this funding is being divided amongst all institutes of higher education currently receiving funding under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The amount each institution receives is 75% determined by the FTE enrollment of Federal Pell Grant recipients and 25% determined by the FTE enrollment of students who are not Federal Pell Grant recipients. Another 7.5% of the total HEERF funding is being awarded to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Minority-Serving Institutions, and Strengthening-Institutions-Program schools. The final 2.5% of the total HEERF funding is being awarded to institutions eligible under Part B (Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education) of Title VII of the Higher Education Act. These funds are being prioritized for institutions Secretary DeVos has determined to have the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus. If there is remaining funding from this bucket after these awards, there will be a competitive grant process to distribute the remainder. The Department of Education is estimating approximately \$15 million will be available for these competitive grants, but they have not yet released a Notice Inviting Application.

The HEERF puts some restrictions on how HEERF funding must be used. At least 50% of the allocation the institution receives under the 90% bucket must be used to provide emergency financial aid grants to students to help cover

expenses related to the disruption of campus operations. This can go towards any expenses under a student's cost of attendance, including food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and childcare. Many institutions have expressed concern about knowing which students may receive these grants. The Department of Education has released a clarification saying that only students eligible under Title IV may receive funding. The easiest way to identify those students is through their FAFSA applications, but other forms confirming their eligibility may be used by institutions.

The remaining up to 50% of the institution's allocation from the 90% bucket, as well as all of their allocation from the 7.5% and 2.5% buckets, may be used to cover any costs associated with the significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to coronavirus incurred on or after March 13, 2020 (the date the national emergency was declared). Any expenditures from this portion of the awards must have clear, reasoned connections to the change of instructional delivery. This section is particularly relevant for technology needs resulting from the pandemic. For example, institutions could use this funding for devices for students or for cyberinfrastructure needs to support remote learning.

Institutions will receive their funding through the same process that they currently receive Title IV funding, but they must sign and return a Certificate of Funding and Agreement to the Department of Education. This certificate specifies that they will only use the funding for allowable costs. Institutions must complete this process and distribute the student aid and institutional costs aspects of the HEERF by August 1, 2020, so those institutions who wish to use the funding and have not already completed the certification should do so as soon as possible.

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<https://www.amd.com/system/files/documents/AMD-PRO-Processors-Image-Deployment-Competitive.pdf>

INDUSTRY-UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTERS PROGRAM (IUCRC)

Summary

The Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program (IUCRC) program catalyzes breakthrough pre-competitive research by enabling close and sustained engagement between industry innovators, world-class academic teams, and government agencies. IUCRCs help industry partners and government agencies connect directly and efficiently with university researchers to achieve three primary objectives: 1) Conduct high-impact research to meet shared and critical industrial needs in companies of all sizes; 2) Enhance U.S. global leadership in driving innovative technology development, and 3) Identify, mentor and develop a diverse, highly skilled science and engineering workforce.

IUCRCs are formed around research areas of strategic interest to U.S. industry. Industry is defined very broadly to include companies (large and small), startups and non-profit organizations. Universities, academic researchers, and students benefit from IUCRC participation through the research funding, the establishment and growth of industry partnerships, and educational and career placement opportunities for students. Industry Members benefit by accessing knowledge, facilities, equipment, and intellectual property in a highly cost-efficient model; leveraging Center research outcomes in their future proprietary projects; interacting in an informal, collaborative way with other private sector and government entities with shared interests; and identifying and recruiting talent. NSF provides funding to support Center administrative costs and a governance framework to manage membership, operations, and evaluation.

Deadline

Preliminary proposals are to be submitted by July 7, 2020, September 16, 2020, March 10, 2021 and September 8, 2021. Full proposals are then to be submitted by September 8, 2020, December 16, 2020, June 9, 2021, and December 8, 2021.

Eligibility

Proposals may only be submitted by Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two- and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members.

For more information

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505789



Windows 10

