



Illinois State Board of Education

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Darren Reisberg
Chair of the Board

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ISBE to Release FY 2020 CARES Act Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Grant in IWAS on Monday, May 18

ISBE will release the fiscal year 2020 Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Grant (ESSER) awarded under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS) through the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) system on **Monday, May 18**. The purpose of the ESSER funds is to provide states with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Districts are strongly encouraged to explore using these funds to strengthen its infrastructure for remote learning.

All eligible applicants must create and submit an application through the IWAS system. Once you are in the system, create your application by selecting "Year: 2020" and choosing "Create Application." Some grants display a "Yes" checkbox that must be selected before the "Create Application" button appears.

Webinars: Join ISBE for a webinar to introduce district staff to the purpose of ESSER, allowable expenses, non-public consultation requirements, and LEA application requirements. A recording of the webinar and the webinar presentation will be posted on the ISBE website at www.isbe.net/covid19 as soon as available. ISBE will host two sessions of the webinar:

- 3 p.m. May 18: [Register here](#)
- 3 p.m. May 19: [Register here](#)

Allocations: School districts, including charter schools, that received an allocation under Title I, Part A in FY 2020 are eligible for ESSER funds. The ESSER allocation amount is based on the percentage of Title I, Part A funds received in FY 2020. Final ESSER allocations can be accessed at: [CARES Act ESSER Final Allocations](#). Please note that districts that were allocated Title I, Part A funds in FY 2020 but declined funds are not eligible for funding from the portion of the CARES Act allocation targeted toward LEAs.

Start Date: All project grants reflect a start date of March 13, 2020.

End Date: All project grants reflect an end date of September 30, 2021. Please note that the period of availability for this FY 2020 project grant covers 16 months, which eliminates the need for districts grantees to submit a separate FY 2021 application. Districts are encouraged to expedite application submission and prioritize the use of these grant funds.

Due Date: Please complete and submit your application to ISBE as timely as possible. ISBE consultants will prioritize application approval.

Reimbursement: Once the district application approval is received, districts may submit expenditure reports via the Electronic Expenditure Reporting System in IWAS for reimbursement. Expenditure reports must be submitted on a cumulative (i.e., year-to-date) basis from March 13, 2020, through the date of the period reported. At minimum, quarterly expenditure reports will be required. There are additional reporting requirements for ESSER funding. These data are included in the application. Portions of the application will require updating as LEAs spend ESSER funds. Funding and Disbursements staff voucher each Wednesday, so all expenditure reports submitted by Tuesday evening will be paid. Revenue should be receipted under revenue code 4998 Other Restricted Grants Received from Federal Government through the State. Please note, if ESSER funds are used for salaries, federal Teacher Retirement rates apply.

Please make sure that approval groups are properly assigned through IWAS in order to access the system and submit your application. Technical assistance on items not covered by the instructions link in IWAS may be obtained by contacting your program consultant in the Title Grants Department.

Questions: Please submit any questions after viewing the webinar to illinoiscares@isbe.net.