

## Administrative Memo

**Date:** July 29, 2020  
**To:** School Administrators  
**From:** Kari Monsees, deputy commissioner, Division of Financial and Administrative Services  
**Subject:** FAS-20-008 – CARES Act Funding Details

Missouri's local education agencies (LEAs) have a number of different opportunities to receive CARES Act funding to support efforts to continue to educate students and to provide reimbursement for certain COVID-19 related expenses. Funding sources within the CARES Act include the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), the Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). This memo provides a basic overview of the recently announced funding mechanisms. **Detailed program descriptions, guidelines, allocations, applications, assurances, revenue codes and related information for each grant program will be shared in the near future.** LEAs are encouraged to review each funding opportunity and develop a strategy that utilizes CARES Act funding to the greatest extent possible. Eligible expenses can only be reimbursed once from the various CARES Act sources.

### **Missouri Student Connectivity Grant – \$30,000,000**

This project combines funding from CRF, GEER and ESSER sources to support student connectivity across the state, specifically by increasing both access to WiFi and the number of devices in the hands of Missouri students.

- Access: \$10,000,000 in CRF funds will support extending school network access, aimed to make WiFi available outside the building for students and families to access when buildings are closed. Grants will be available for up to \$4,000 per instructional building and will require 50% matching funds from county CRF allocations or other local sources. Expenditures must be made by December 30, 2020.
- Connections: \$15,000,000 in GEER funds, plus \$5,000,000 in ESSER state reserve funds, will provide more electronic devices for students. Equitable services are required to be provided for students at nonpublic schools as well. Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2021.

Please contact Chris Neale, assistant commissioner, Office of Quality Schools, at [Chris.Neale@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Chris.Neale@dese.mo.gov) or 573-751-4234 for additional information.

### **Transportation Supplement (GEER) – \$15,000,000**

Funds to support student transportation costs related to COVID-19 will be provided to schools through a supplemental grant. Allocations will be based upon a proportionate share of the allowable costs used to distribute FY20 transportation formula funds. Equitable services are required to be provided for students at nonpublic schools as well. Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2021. Please contact Debra

Clink, student transportation manager, at [Debra.Clink@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Debra.Clink@dese.mo.gov) or 573-751-0357 for additional information.

**Transportation for Meal Delivery (CRF) – \$7,473,210**

Reimbursements will be available for direct LEA costs associated with delivering meals when school buildings were closed during spring 2020. A one-time application process will be developed to collect eligible expenditures. Should eligible costs exceed the fund allocation, LEAs will receive a prorated share. Please contact Debra Clink, student transportation manager, at [Debra.Clink@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Debra.Clink@dese.mo.gov) or 573-751-0357 for additional information.

**Emergency Worker Childcare (CRF) – \$795,543**

Some LEAs provided childcare services for families of medical professionals and emergency workers supporting the COVID-19 response effort in spring 2020. A one-time application process will be developed to collect eligible expenditures for such services. Should eligible costs exceed the fund allocation, LEAs will receive a prorated share. Please contact David Tramel, coordinator of financial and administrative services, at [David.Tramel@dese.mo.gov](mailto:David.Tramel@dese.mo.gov) or 573-751-0357 for additional information.

**COVID-19 Response Supply Reimbursement Grant (CRF) – \$7,500,000**

CRF funds will be provided to reimburse districts for a 25% share of costs associated with personal protective equipment and medical and cleaning supplies for school buildings and buses. These funds will require local counties to provide schools a 75% match from CRF fund allocations. The purpose of this grant is to extend the use of available county CRF funds. An application process will be developed to collect eligible costs for reimbursement, including supplies purchased after March 13, 2020. Expenditures must be made by December 30, 2020. Please contact David Tramel, coordinator of financial and administrative services, at [David.Tramel@dese.mo.gov](mailto:David.Tramel@dese.mo.gov) or 573-751-0357 for additional information.