

STATE OF ARIZONA
Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund:
45-Day Report to the United States Department of Education

1. Please describe the State's process for awarding GEER funds to LEAs, IHEs, and/or other education-related entities, including:

a. Timeline(s) for awarding GEER funds to LEAs, IHEs, and/or other education-related entities;

b. The criteria, process and deliberations you use to determine which LEAs, IHEs, and/or other education-related agencies are:

i. "Most significantly impacted by coronavirus;" and/or

ii. "Essential" for carrying out emergency educational service;

c. The funding mechanisms (e.g., grants, contracts) the State will use to provide GEER funds to LEAs, IHEs, and/or other education-related entities; and

d. Any specific funding conditions or requirements the State will place on awards to ensure the funds are spent for specific purposes or activities.

Arizona's GEER funds will be awarded in an expedited manner to all qualifying LEAs, IHEs, and other eligible entities, utilizing a combination of direct contracts and competitive grants. The timeline for these awards will vary, depending on the targeted program. However, it is the intent of the Governor that these funds will be distributed as efficiently as possible, and putting these dollars to work quickly is of paramount importance. To ensure that the funds are spent for the specific purposes and activities, as outlined in the Governor's plan, robust monitoring and administrative oversight will be in place. Arizona has mobilized a team of grant specialists within the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) who will work in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education to ensure all funds are spent appropriately. More detailed information regarding Arizona's GEER funding plan follows:

- Expand broadband in rural communities to bridge the digital divide
 - Following the State Procurement Code and working with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), a Request for Information (RFIs) was released on July 16th to solicit potential partners on this project. Further timelines will be based on the information gathered from those RFIs received including any contract(s) to be awarded.
- Extra support for high-need schools
 - Currently, working with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) in the development of the specific eligibility based on indicators of LEAs' academic needs and accessibility to resources along with coordinating timelines of this support and ADE's related ESSER initiatives. This GEER support to high-need LEAs will be in the form of grants. The policies and procedures established within the State's Grant Management Manual (GMM) along with those systems described in question 2 will be followed to ensure funds are spent for specific purposes or activities.

- Assistance to address the teacher shortage
 - In collaboration with the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR), funding will be administered by an Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) for its Arizona Teachers Academy which provides tuition and fee support in exchange for the applicant's commitment to teach in an Arizona public school. ABOR and its IHEs are still developing their timelines for the upcoming semesters. We will coordinate with ABOR once those timelines are finalized on this project's detailed timeline.
- Microgrants to support innovative programs to continue educating Arizona students
 - Matching the State's investment with private philanthropy sources to maximize the impact, GEER grant funding will be provided to A for Arizona's established Innovation Grant program. This program funds LEA leaders and their plans that create adaptable, innovative learning opportunities for all students. All LEAs are eligible with priority to schools serving underserved student populations. The current grant application cycle is from June 25 to July 20, 2020 with grant awards tentatively announced July 28th with additional funding cycles possible. The Governor's Office will work with A for Arizona to ensure the policies and procedures established within the GMM along with those systems described in question 2 are shared and followed.
- Vehicles for the Arizona School for the Deaf And Blind
 - Following the State Procurement Code, a contract/purchase order will be issued to replace those aging and high-usage state vehicles operated by the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) to ensure its teachers who travel all across Arizona to provide educational services have a safe means to do so along with no disruption in services to ASDB students.
- LEA principals and leaders professional development
 - Leveraging its philanthropic funding, a grant will be provided to the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) for its executive training program, Beat The Odds Leadership Academy. Working with CFA and ADE, there will be a targeted focus on rural and underperforming schools. Currently, CFA is focusing on its development and fundraising efforts to maximize any GEER funding provided by this project. However, the Governor's Office continues to work with CFA to develop program parameters and will have a clearer timeline/deliverables in the next report. Again, the policies and procedures established within the GMM along with those systems described in question 2 will be followed to ensure funds are spent for specific purposes or activities.
- Support to Teach for America (TFA)
 - Collaborating with TFA to launch and lead an initiative to funnel some of the nation's most eager and talented college students to work with schools serving Arizona's most vulnerable student populations. Again, those determinations will be a collective effort by TFA, ADE, and the Governor's Office as discussions continue to solidify them as well as a detailed project timeline. The policies and procedures established within the State's Grant Management Manual (GMM)

along with those systems described in question 2 will be followed to ensure funds are spent for specific purposes or activities.

2. Describe the system of internal controls the State will use to ensure that GEER funds are expended for allowable purposes and in accordance with cash management principles and the Uniform Guidance. See 2 CFR §200.303.

Arizona has developed an Award Performance and Risk Management Plan to oversee the various COVID-19 covered funds including the GEER program. This plan establishes internal controls for coordination with federal oversight agencies, establishment of performance reporting and financial reporting requirements, agency risk assessment, federal flowdown requirements for grantees and subgrantees, subgrantee risk assessment, programmatic and financial monitoring, performance measurement and management, transparency, and the necessary training and professional development. In addition, the OSPB, Government Accounting Office and Auditor General's Office have implemented a robust Waste, Fraud, and Abuse prevention program.

3. If GEER funds are being awarded or used for payments to SEA or IHE administrators, executives, and/or state or local teachers' unions or associations, please describe your process for reporting the amount of funds used for this purpose, and how the funds are consistent with allowable uses of funds under section 18002(c) of the CARES Act.

At this time, Arizona does not plan to use any of the GEER funds for this purpose.

4. If you intend to provide GEER funds to LEAs, please describe the process you will use to ensure that LEAs receiving GEER funds provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools located within the LEA in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA.

To ensure equitable services are provided in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA, Arizona will include guidance from the Federal Register, Vol. 85, No. 127, 34 CFR Part 76, that clarifies this requirement, to all LEA's that are directly awarded GEER Funds. Additionally, the State of Arizona has also developed an expenditure plan with items that will directly benefit non-public schools to a significant extent. In example, funds allocated to bridging the digital divide will be used to invest in connectivity infrastructure that will provide broadband access to schools throughout rural Arizona, including public and private schools. Furthermore, a key investment being made with GEER funds is an innovation microgrant program. This program will strategically leverage the GEER dollars to obtain matching funds from private donors. These funds from private donors may be used for non-public school microgrants. In sum, Arizona will ensure LEA's are fully educated on the federal rule pertaining to equitable services, and will also engage directly in projects that benefit all schools.