

STATE OF NEW MEXICO REPORT ON GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND

July 30, 2020

Section 18002 of Division B of the CARES Act provides that grants awarded under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund be used to support the ability of local educational agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to continue to provide educational services to their students.

This report is being submitted in fulfillment of the commitment by the State of New Mexico (State) to submit to the Department, by July 30, 2020, an initial report detailing the State's (1) process for awarding those funds to LEAs, IHEs, or other education-related entities, including the timeline for awarding GEER funds to LEAs, IHEs, and/or other education-related entities, the criteria for determining those entities that are "most significantly impacted by coronavirus" and/or "essential for carrying out emergency educational services" and a description of the process and deliberations involved in formulating those criteria, funding mechanisms, and any specific conditions or requirements placed on awards to ensure funds are spent for specific purposes or activities; (2) system of internal controls to ensure GEER funds are expended for allowable purposes and in accordance with cash management principles and 2 CFR 200.313; and (3) process 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.

The State considered the needs of LEAs, IHEs, and early childhood educators/caregivers in identifying a process for awarding GEER funds. A working group was established to prioritize funding needs with input from the State's Education Agencies. New Mexico's State Education Agencies include the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (NMECECD), the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED). The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (NMDFA) will utilize an Interagency Grant Agreement (IGA) to transfer funds to the three agencies on a reimbursement basis using a Reimbursement Request form which will require identification of the expenditures that were incurred by the agencies seeking reimbursement. The expenditures will be reviewed by NMDFA to ensure compliance with the specific allowable purposes outlined in the agreement prior to reimbursement.

To discharge the obligations outlined below, sub-awards may be granted by each Education Agency provided all requirements outlined in the Grant Award Notification are followed in entering into sub grant agreements. IGAs and contracts between the sub-recipient and pass-through agency will include scopes of work that will detail all deliverables, which will be for allowable purposes under the GEER fund.

Funding will be drawn for reimbursement and made available for disbursement by NMDFA to the Education Agencies immediately upon receipt of a certified reimbursement request.

The following describes how the needs of each education segment have been addressed:

Early Childhood Education and Care

The Office of the Governor worked in partnership with NMECECD to identify the needs of early childhood to ensure ongoing learning support per the following allocations:

Early Childhood		
Summer Programming for PreK Students	19%	\$4,229,906
Home Learning Support	1%	\$222,627
Social and Emotional Support	1%	\$222,627

Private pre-kindergarten (PreK) providers started implementing the Jump Start summer program for four year-olds entering kindergarten on June 8, 2020. NMECECD will start to cover the expenses of the Jump Start summer programs for July and August. Public PreK was not an option as New Mexico schools remained closed over the summer.

K – 12 Education

Through the effective collaboration between the Office of the Governor and NMPED, they have identified the needs of LEAs and intend on supporting them through ongoing and intermittent distance learning. NMPED will award funds by October 1, 2020. The following allocations have been identified:

K – 12 Education		
Digital Devices and Connectivity	4%	\$1,000,000
PPE, Building Sanitization and Cleaning Supplies (not covered by insurance)	1%	\$212,848
Social Emotional Support	18%	\$4,040,221
Supporting students with special needs or in need of at-risk services during a building closure or transition back into the school building	13%	\$2,968,537
TBD Priorities, Emergencies or Emerging Needs	1%	\$190,561
Support for Tribally Controlled Schools and Departments of Ed	2%	\$445,253
Supplemental Funding for LEAs that receive less than \$5k in funding from CARES	0%	\$37,720
Mitigating Staffing Shortages	13%	\$3,000,000
Childcare During Building Closures	1%	\$200,000
Supplemental Nursing Services	4%	\$1,000,000
Supplemental Food Services	3%	\$700,000

NMPED is working on implementing an application process that ensures that services will be provided equitably to students in non-public schools in each LEA. NMPED will require LEAs to submit an application that requires documentation of consultation with non-public schools. The application will require equitable services be provided to students and staff at participating non-public schools in the same manner as provided under Section 1117 of the ESEA, as determined in consultation with representatives of non-public schools.

NMPED will make awards to LEAs through its usual flow-through grant process, including a required application in the web-based SharePoint platform and fiscal administration (budget establishment and requests for reimbursement (RFRs) through NMPED's Operating Budget Management System (OBMS).

Institutions of Higher Education

NMHED, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, has identified a collaborative approach to address high-demand statewide workforce needs through credential-based programs and long-term strategies. NMHED anticipates awarding GEER funds by December 31, 2020.

Higher Education		
Online Capacity Learning and Professional Development (including Tribal Colleges)	4%	\$898,219
Workforce Development (focus on Early Childhood Preparation Programs, Nursing Programs, and Teacher Preparation Programs)	13%	\$2,894,146

NMHED will make awards to Public, Private, and Tribal IHEs in New Mexico that will directly impact New Mexican students by enhancing connectivity, building institutional capacity in online learning, and assisting in modernizing workforce programs. Cross collaboration between IHEs is highly encouraged, as it will increase the level of impact of the GEER funds.

Internal Control

The State will develop specific guidance for pass-through entities to ensure an adequate system of internal controls is in place to ensure funds are expended for allowable purposes, are in accordance with cash management principles, and all equipment acquisitions are in accordance with state laws and procedures.

Prior to the pass-through entities receiving GEER funds, they will develop and submit their sub-recipient monitoring plan for ensuring funds are expended by their sub-recipients for allowable purposes. This plan will include all necessary documentation to substantiate the expenditure is maintained as required by state and federal law, all property purchased with GEER funds have adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property, and that all property purchased with GEER funds are appropriately used, maintained, and disposed of in accordance with 2 CFR 200.313.

For agency sub-awards, the pass-through entity will review each request for funds from their sub-recipients prior to requesting the funds be reimbursed from the federal government. To ensure compliance with cash management principles, the State will include instructions for pass-through entities in its guidance detailing the allowed number of days between the draw and pass-through of the funds to their sub-recipients. Additional documentation regarding individual purchases will be requested when necessary.