

- SEAs WITH RURAL LEAs TRACK -

Strategic Use of Funds: Title IV, Part A and REAP Funds



Tuesday, May 4, 2021
4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. ET.

Introduction to the SEAs with Rural LEAs Track



Dig deeper into State coordinator (SC)-identified needs when supporting local education agencies (LEAs) in rural areas.



Engage with experts and peers.



Build capacity of SCs to support rural LEAs addressing issues via Title IV, Part A.

Providing technical assistance (TA).
Reviewing and processing LEA applications.
Supporting program evaluation.



What We've Heard From Title IV-A and REAP SCs

What is needed?

Better understanding of how Title IV-A and Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) overlap (e.g., SRSA allocations, SRSA/RLIS use of funds, AFUA)

Why?

Support LEAs in their decision making on what funds to use

Strategic Use of Funds: Title IV, Part A and REAP Funds



Greta Colombi
Deputy Director
T4PA Center



Staci Cummins
Federal Program Officer
REAP Program



Grace Kwon
Federal Program Officer
REAP Program

Agenda



Brief Overview of REAP and Its Relationship to Title IV-A



Rural LEA Coaching Scenarios

Review Examples

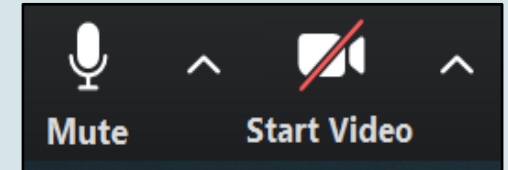
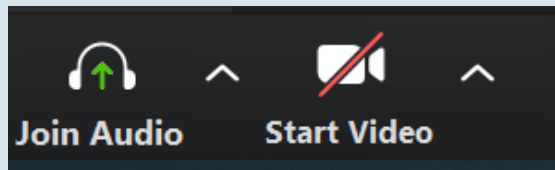
Small Group Discussions

Review What You Learned

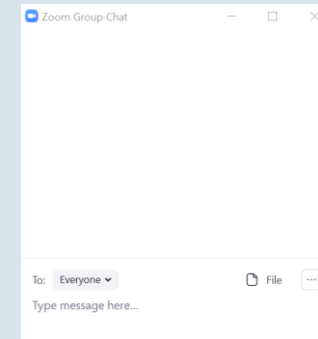
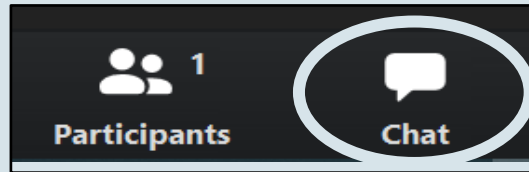


Wrap Up

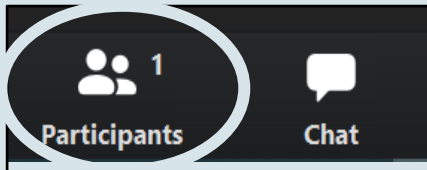
Join Audio, Mute/Unmute, Connect Phone and Computer, Start/Stop Video



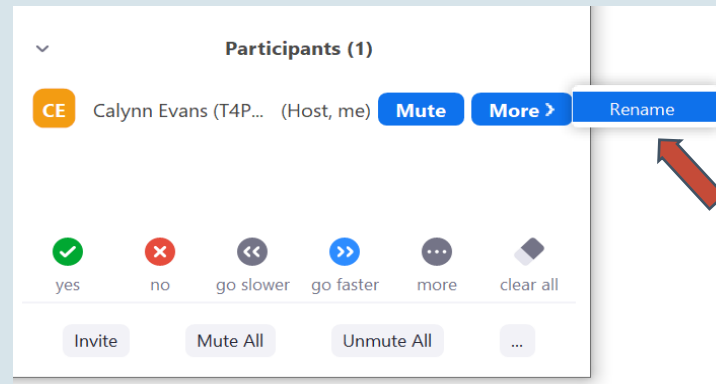
Access and Engage in Chat



Access Participants



Rename Yourself - Example: Greta Colombi (T4PA Center)
(Hover over your name > click more > rename.)



Brief Overview of REAP and Its Relationship to Title IV-A



RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (REAP) Title V, Part B

- REAP is designed to address the unique needs of rural local educational agencies (LEAs) that may lack the personnel and resources to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants and that often receive grant allocations in amounts that are too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes.
- Consists of two formula grant programs:
 - **Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA):** Department makes grants directly to LEAs
 - **Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS):** Department makes grants to State educational agencies (SEAs); SEAs make subgrants to LEAs



REAP Eligibility

*To view the eligibility of individual LEAs, check the REAP Master Eligibility Spreadsheet on the [REAP website](#)

SRSA Eligibility Criteria (ESEA section 5211(b))

An LEA is eligible for the SRSA program if it meets the statutory criteria of being both **small** and **rural**:

1. To be considered small, an LEA must have a total average daily attendance (ADA) of fewer than 600 students *or* exclusively serve schools that are located in counties with a population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile
2. To be considered rural, all schools within the LEA must have a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43 (as determined by the Secretary) *or* be located in an area of the State defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State

RLIS Eligibility Criteria (ESEA section 5221(b))

An LEA is eligible for the RLIS program if it meets the statutory criteria of being both **rural** and **low-income**:

1. To be considered low-income, twenty percent or more of children aged 5 to 17 served by the LEA must be from families with incomes below the poverty line as determined by data from the Small Area Income Poverty Estimates of the Bureau of Census (SAIPE Data)
2. To be considered rural, all schools within the LEA must have a school locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43 (as determined by the Secretary) *or* be located in an area of the State defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State



Allocation Basics

SRSA

Grant funds are allocated to eligible **LEAs** based on the following formula:

- The number of students in average daily attendance, minus 50
- Multiply this number by \$100
- Add \$20,000
- If the total is above \$60,000, this amount is capped at \$60,000
- From the amount above, subtract the funds for each LEA from appropriations of the preceding Federal fiscal year under:
 - Title II, Part A
 - **Title IV, Part A**

RLIS

Grant funds are allocated to **SEAs** based on a formula:

- The amount of funding each State receives is based on the State's proportionate share of children in average daily attendance in all RLIS-eligible LEAs, excluding dual-eligible LEAs that select SRSA.

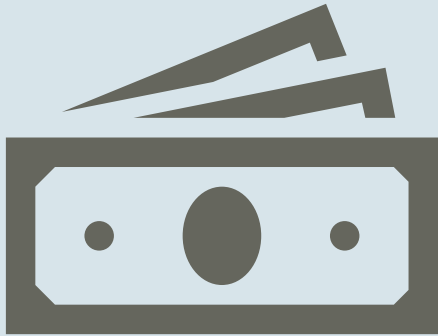
REAP Allowable Uses of Funds

REFERENCE	RLIS	SRSA	EXAMPLE
Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs)	✓	✓	High-quality preschool or full-day kindergarten to facilitate the transition from early learning to elementary education programs.
Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction)	✓	✓	High quality professional development to train teachers, principals, and other school leaders about topics such as technology in the classroom, student data privacy, parent and family engagement, academic readiness skills, school policy decision-making, and experiential learning through observation.
Title III (Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students)	✓	✓	Supplemental professional development for teachers of ELs.
Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)	✓	✓	Digital resources for students in rural, remote and underserved areas.
Title IV, Part B (21st-Century Community Learning Centers)		✓	Academic enrichment learning programs, mentoring programs, and remedial education activities, and tutoring services that are aligned with the challenging academic standards and any local academic standards and local curricula that are designed to improve student academic achievement.
Parental Involvement Activities	✓		Creation of a parental advisory committee to provide input on various education topics.

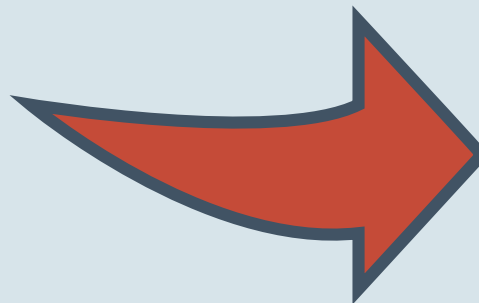
All REAP funds must be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local education funds.



What is the Alternative Fund Use Authority (AFUA)?



Funds allocated under:
Title II, Part A
Title IV, Part A



Activities allowable under:
Title I, Part A
Title II, Part A
Title III
Title IV, Part A
Title IV, Part B

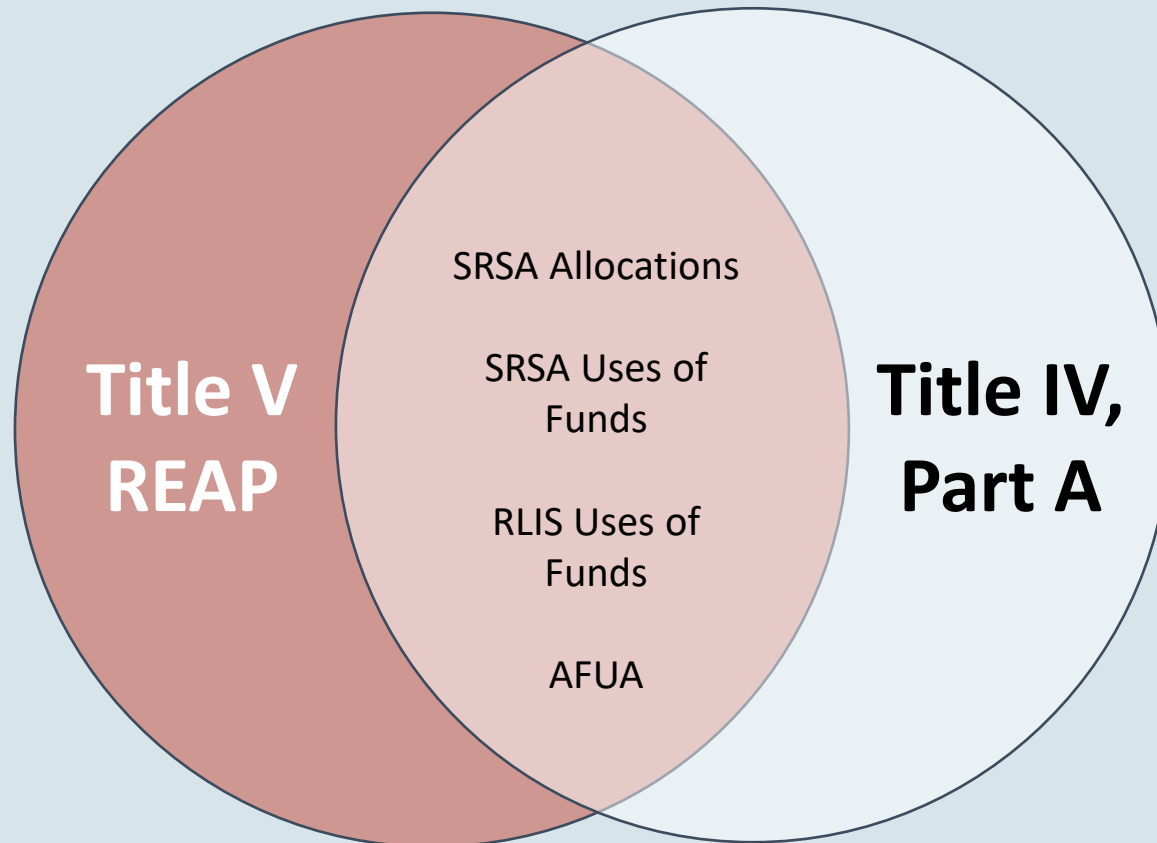
Alternative Fund Use Authority (AFUA)

(ESEA section 5211(a))

- Allows SRSA-eligible LEAs greater flexibility in spending the funds they receive under Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A.
- LEAs may use Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A funds to pay for activities under any of the allowable uses for SRSA grant funds.
- Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A funds are not actually transferred from one program to another - the funding may be used for local activities authorized under certain ESEA programs, but it is not subject to all of the rules and requirements of those programs.
- A dual-eligible LEA may exercise this authority even if it chooses to participate in RLIS, instead of SRSA.
- LEAs do not need to apply for (or receive) SRSA funds to exercise AFUA.
- The State must establish a deadline by which an eligible LEA must notify the State of its intent to exercise this authority.



How do REAP and Title IV, Part A Intersect?



Discussion

- Have you seen LEAs exercise the AFUA flexibility? If so, what did they use it for?
- If you haven't had much experience with considering AFUA, do you think more of your LEAs would make use of AFUA if they understood its advantages?

Rural LEA Coaching Scenarios



Activity Overview

- Explore common Title IV-A/REAP scenarios SCs may have when working with LEAs.
- See how requirements are operationalized in real-life situations.



Review Examples As a Large Group

1 AFUA Eligibility

2 Title IV-A Eligibility/Application Requirements

3 AFUA Uses of Funds Requirements

Example 1: AFUA Eligibility

An LEA in your state asks about **exercising AFUA**. You explain to the LEA that AFUA stands for the **Alternative Fund Use Authority** and any LEA that is eligible for SRSA can exercise AFUA on their **Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A funds**. Exercising AFUA means using their Title II-A and/or Title IV-A funds for any of the other uses of funds **allowable under SRSA**.

The LEA tells you that they checked the Master Eligibility Spreadsheet (MES) on the REAP website and they are **eligible for both RLIS and SRSA (dual-eligible)**. The LEA wants to know **if they must apply for SRSA** in order to exercise AFUA and how they could use Title II-A and Title IV-A funds under AFUA.

Does the LEA, which is dual-eligible, need to apply for SRSA in order to exercise AFUA?

Example 1 Response: AFUA Eligibility

Does the LEA, which is dual-eligible, need to apply for SRSA in order to exercise AFUA?

Highlights:

An LEA just needs to be **eligible for SRSA** (does not need to receive funds) in order to exercise AFUA.

The LEA can use their **Title II, Part A** and **Title IV, Part A** funds to pay for activities under any of the allowable uses for SRSA grant funds, which includes **Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III, Title IV-A, and Title IV-B.**

Where to check eligibility: REAP MES on the [REAP website](#)

Where to check for allowable uses of funds: [REAP Uses of Funds Guide](#)

Example 2: Application/ Eligibility Requirements

The LEA is very relieved to hear that it can exercise AFUA even though it is **dual-eligible**. The LEA informs you that it is planning to use AFUA on **both its Title II-A and its Title IV-A funds** but aren't sure if that is allowed. You tell the LEA that **yes**, it can exercise AFUA on both Title II-A and IV-A funds as long as it uses them for the **allowable activities** you've already mentioned and the use would not supplant any other local, state, or federal funds.

Since the LEA wants to exercise AFUA on **all** of its Title II-A and Title IV-A funds, it is wondering if it needs to meet the **eligibility/application requirements** for both programs.

Does the LEA need to meet the eligibility and application requirements for Title IV-A and Title II-A even if it is planning on exercising AFUA on all of those funds?

Example 2: Application/ Eligibility Requirements

Does the LEA need to meet the eligibility and application requirements for Title IV-A and Title II-A even if it is planning on exercising AFUA on all of those funds?

Highlights:

Yes! Before exercising AFUA on its Title II, Part A or Title IV, Part A funds, an LEA **must meet the relevant statutory application and eligibility requirements** of those Title programs in order to receive those funds.

Example 3: Title Uses of Funds Requirements

Now that the LEA is ready to exercise AFUA on both its Title II-A and Title IV-A funds, it asks if it still needs to meet the Title II-A and/or Title IV-A **uses of funds requirements** (e.g., the 20% spending requirement) and if it needs to do anything to **report that it plans on exercising AFUA**.

-
1. Does an LEA exercising AFUA on its Title II-A and/or Title IV-A funds need to meet use of funds requirements for those programs?
 2. What are the reporting requirements for an LEA planning to exercise AFUA?
-

Example 3: Title Uses of Funds Requirements

1. Does an LEA exercising AFUA on its Title II-A and/or Title IV-A funds need to meet use of funds requirements for those programs?
2. What are the reporting requirements for an LEA planning to exercise AFUA?

Highlights:

1. An LEA is **not** subject to the rules or requirements of Title II, Part A or Title IV, Part A. However, the LEA must still provide equitable services to its non-public Schools. To learn more, go to page 52 of the REAP Informational Document. In addition, all activities must also supplement, not supplant any other Federal, State, or local education funds.
2. Before exercising AFUA, an eligible LEA must **notify** its SEA **every year** by the **deadline established by the SEA**.

Questions



Explore More Topics

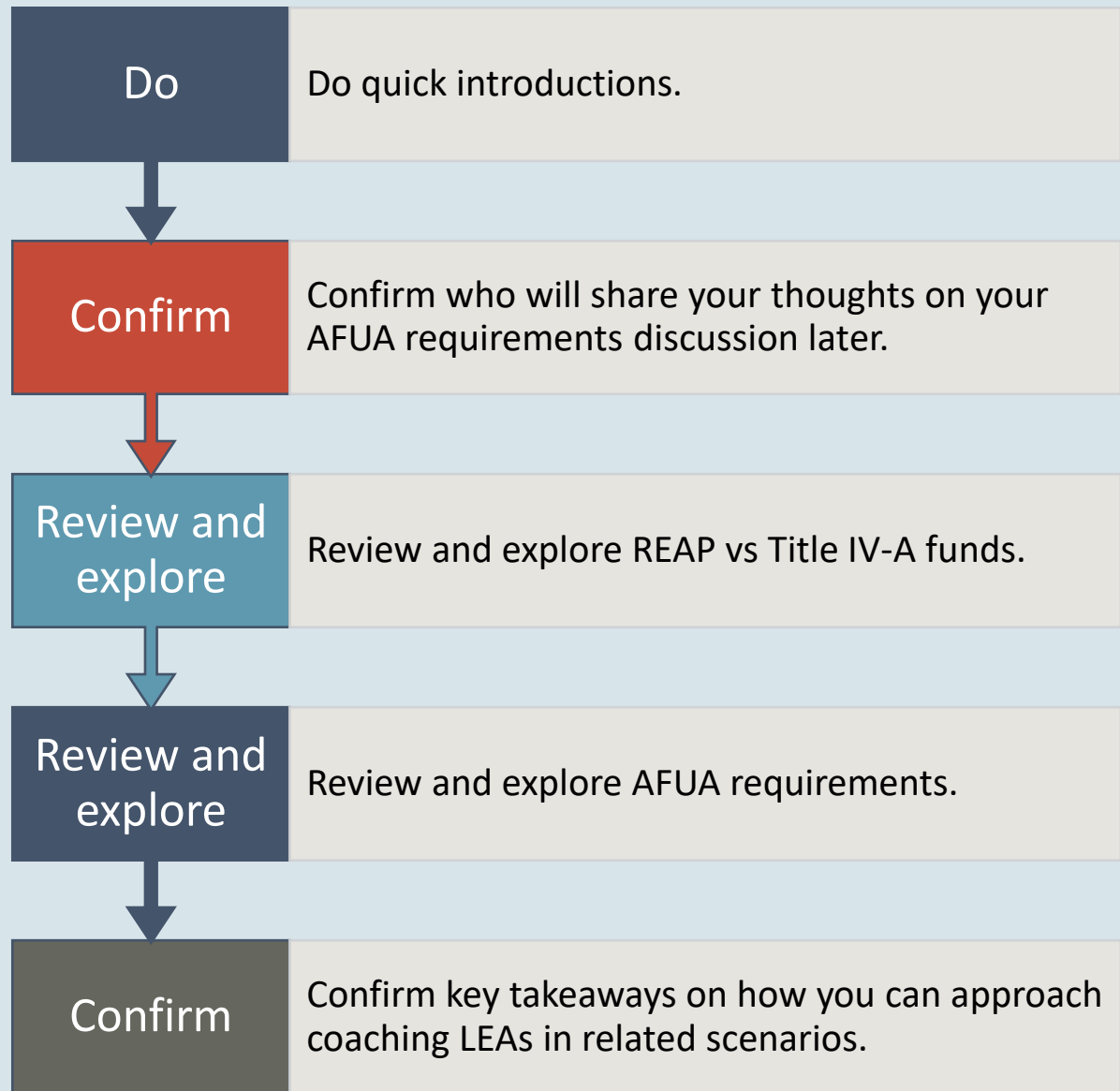
1

REAP vs. Title IV-A Funds

2

How to support LEAs exercising AFUA

Small Group Discussions to Explore Additional Scenarios



Quick Small Group Introductions

Title IV-A
SCs

Title V-B
SCs

REAP Team

Title IV-A
FPOs

T4PA
Center Staff

REAP vs. Title IV-A Funds

At the beginning of the next fiscal year, an LEA calls to tell you that it checked the REAP MES and saw that their **estimated SRSA allocation decreased compared to last year.**

You checked the SRSA website and shared that Title II-A and IV-A allocations are included in the SRSA allocation formula. You told the LEA that its SRSA allocation changed because the **LEA's Title IV-A and Title II-A allocations increased**, which is factored into the statutory allocation formula.

The LEA asks if it should **decline its Title IV-A and/or Title II-A funds in order to receive more under REAP.**

How can you respond?

REAP vs. Title IV-A Funds

-
- **Step #1:** What should be considered when walking an LEA through this decision?
 - **Step #2:** How does each of these different elements impact your response to the LEA?
 - **Step #3:** How would you respond?
-

How does this response change if...

- The LEA is dual-eligible?
- In the last FY, the LEA received \$10,000 for Title IV-A, \$10,000 in Title II-A, and \$20,000 in REAP funds?
- The LEA historically uses its REAP funds to purchase Chromebooks and other pieces of technology for its 1:1 initiative, which is allowable under Title IV-A?
- The LEA wants to use REAP funds for professional development?

How to support LEAs exercising AFUA

How could Title IV-A and REAP State Coordinators use all this information on AFUA and uses of funds to better support LEAs in your state? What are some next steps?

Think through:

- Common questions from LEAs
- Potential outreach on flexibilities (e.g., AFUA)
- How to help LEAs maximize REAP and Title IV-A allocations depending on their needs
- What requirements should LEAs be aware of and how can you share them?
- What resources could you share or develop?
- LEA breakdown in your state?



Large Group Discussion on Lessons Learned: REAP vs. Title IV

When coaching LEAs on deciding which funds to use, what do you want to remember from this exercise?

Large Group Report Out on Lessons Learned: How to support LEAs using AFUA

How could Title IV-A and REAP State Coordinators use all this information on AFUA and uses of funds to better support LEAs in your state? What are some next steps?

Wrap Up



Questions



Upcoming Events

May

Rural Connectivity Webinar (SEAs with Rural LEAs Track)

JUST TITLE IV-A SCs

May 13, 2021, 4:00 – 5:00 PM Eastern Time

Strategic Use of Funds: Title IV-A and REAP Funds (SEAs with Rural LEAs Track)

TITLE IV-A AND REAP SCs

Week of May 24



Closing



Thank you for
joining us today!



For Title IV-A: Contact us
at info@t4pcenter.org.

For REAP: Contact REAP
FPOs at reap@ed.gov