



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 13, 2022

Dr. Hal Harrell
Superintendent
Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District
1000 North Getty Street
Uvalde, TX 78801

Dear Superintendent Harrell:

Thank you for meeting with me last week, and please know that you and your community continue to be in my prayers. It was a powerful and deeply moving experience to speak with you, Robb Elementary School Principal Mandy Gutierrez, and all the crisis volunteers and others who are supporting children and families in Uvalde. When I traveled to Texas, it was important to me to hear directly from its members and grieve with you. I will never forget attending the wake of four children and the funeral mass for teacher, Irma Garcia—who died protecting her students—and her husband Joe Garcia, who passed away of a broken heart. While in Uvalde, I saw the community come together in meaningful ways to support one another and all the families who lost loved ones. As a nation, we must do everything we can to protect and promote the well-being of our children and our educators.

As a follow up to our discussion, the Department is today providing \$1,500,000 to the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (UCISD) to assist you in addressing the monumental challenges that you are facing following the tragic mass shooting at Robb Elementary School. These funds are awarded pursuant to Project SERV (School Emergency Response to Violence), authorized under Section 4631 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended (20 U.S.C. 7281).

Project SERV funds may be used for activities that help restore a sense of safety and security for your students, teachers, staff, and families and that address specific needs of those individuals directly affected by the shooting. Such activities may include mental health services for staff and students and overtime pay for teachers, counselors, and security staff, and may take place over the summer in the form of additional summer programming. Project SERV funds may not be used for construction or medical services (see enclosure of allowable and unallowable services and activities). As described below, my team is available to address any questions that may arise as you identify additional supports that might be paid for with the funds we are providing today.

While we typically provide Project SERV funds for specific activities on the basis of an approved application, the Department is expediting the availability of these funds in recognition of the extraordinary, immediate needs faced by UCISD. Members of my staff in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will work with UCISD to complete a budget for the use of these funds based on the needs of your students and staff and consistent with the assurances below.

Please read the following assurances for this award and signify your acceptance by signing and returning this letter by email to Hamed Negron-Perez, our SERV program manager at hamed.negron-perez@ed.gov.

- These funds will be used to provide much needed services to schools within UCISD to assist in restoring the learning environment.
- UCISD will provide equitable services to eligible private school students and teachers under this grant, as applicable.
- Within 60 days after receipt of funding from ED, unless a later deadline is established, UCISD will provide the following information to ED's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools:
 - a brief description of the impact the incident has had on the learning environment;
 - a brief description of the proposed or completed activities and services designed to restore the learning environment including:
 - identification of the service provider or providers, if available;
 - a description of who will receive the services or participate in the activities;
 - a list of participating public and non-public schools; and
 - the funding level for activities and/or services for each school.
- Prior to the submission and approval of the information requested above, UCISD will obtain approval from the Department for any drawdowns of SERV funds. In requesting such approvals, please contact Hamed Negron-Perez (hamed.negron-perez@ed.gov), who will help expedite this process.

My team at the Department of Education is offering every available federal resource—including through this Project SERV program and on-the-ground support—to help the families, educators, staff, and greater Robb Elementary School community recover from this trauma and loss. While there are few words available to provide comfort and healing, know that we are prepared to serve your district in any way needed. As always, please reach out at any time.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education

Enclosure

ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD

I have read the requirements for this award under Project SERV, and I accept the \$1.5 million, 12-month award for use by the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District.

Hal Harrell (signature) June 13, 2022 (date)

Hal HARRELL (printed name) Superintendent (title)

Name, telephone number, email address, and mailing address of the project director for this award:

Noema Carranza; 830-278-6655;

ncarranza8654@uvaldecisd.net; 1000 N. GETTY, UVALDE, TX

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