Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your continued efforts to support your State's administration of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021.

Following last year's successful data reporting cycle, initial collection of the GEER Fund Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 (Year 3) Annual Performance Report (APR) will take place from **June 5 to June 22, 2023**, with a data correction period to resolve isolated data quality issues from **August 28 to September 7, 2023**. The Year 3 collection form is now available on the Grantee Help Page of the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) Education Stabilization Fund Transparency Portal.

Annual reporting from States is essential to provide the public with insight into how funds have been used to support students and educators recovering from the impact of COVID-19 and helps ensure accountability for unprecedented levels of Federal investment. The Department will support your State in meeting its GEER Fund FY 2022 (Year 3) reporting obligations. Two upcoming webinars will be announced soon by the APR Help Desk. These webinars will explain the Year 3 reporting form, process, and available resources. These and other resources include but are not limited to:

- An updated **Grantee Help Page** (https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/grantee-help/geer) that will include resources available to grantees to support their reporting.

- A **summary** of updates to the collection form from GEER Fund FY 2021 (Year 2) reporting to GEER Fund FY 2022 (Year 3). For example, updates were included on the collection form to clarify the APR reporting fiscal year and collect information on GEER II expenditures in the prior reporting period.

- Updated reporting **template files** for the current reporting period will be available in April, followed by State-tailored versions (containing pre-populated data from prior reporting) sent directly to respective States.

- A **data dictionary** with key information on all GEER reporting variables, expected format of the data reported, and format validation rules.

- A **business rules guide** detailing GEER reporting requirements and specific data submission errors or warnings that a grantee may encounter during reporting.
- An **annotated version of the Year 3 collection form** that provides additional insight into reporting requirements.
- Webinars that will be recorded and posted to the Grantee Help Page for future reference.

The Department's APR Help Desk is currently open Monday through Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM ET (excluding Federal holidays) and can be reached at ESSER.GEER.EANS.AnnualReport@ed.gov. When the reporting system opens for formal APR submission on June 5, 2023, the APR Help Desk will be staffed at higher levels to quickly respond to any technical challenges your State may encounter with the reporting portal. Your State is encouraged to contact the APR Help Desk as early as possible to work through any challenges it may encounter.

As a reminder, a Governor may charge, as an expense to the GEER Fund, an amount that is reasonable and necessary to effectively administer the program consistent with cost principles in the Uniform Guidance. Please also note that GEER Funds may be used for data collection and the creation of State dashboards that provide public reporting when the reporting is related to the COVID-19 pandemic. If your State is concerned about its ability to meet its reporting obligations, your State should consider the use of these funds to meet the APR obligations.

Similar to last year's APR process, all data points (including both prime grantee and sub-grantee data points) are required. No data submitted to the Department may be internally inconsistent or otherwise logically impossible (for example, reported component parts summing to something in excess of the associated reported total). The Department is unable to accept any APR that does not meet these summarized minimum requirements. These requirements will be included in the above-referenced business rules guide.

A designated representative from your State is expected to certify the accuracy and completeness of its GEER Fund FY 2022 (Year 3) APR by **June 22, 2023**. A reopening of the APR submission system will be provided for States to resolve isolated data quality issues identified by the Department. The APR data quality issues will be expected to be resolved by your State between **August 28 to September 7, 2023**. Please note this opportunity to revise APRs based on Department feedback is **only** available to States that meet the June 22, 2023, initial submission deadline. Additionally, if your State needs to correct or update previously reported data within the GEER Fund FY 2021 (Year 2) APR, the State will have a final opportunity to edit this APR from **August 14 to August 24, 2023**.

The Department commends its grantees for promoting fiscal transparency by meeting reporting obligations during the first two years of data collection. The data you submitted provides the public with transparency on how over $4 billion in education funding are being spent to help students, schools, and educators recover from the impact of COVID-19. As with years past, the Department will continue working closely with States to provide technical assistance to support States in continuing to provide these critical data this year. The Department also reminds States that, as with years past, the Department may initiate additional steps to ensure compliance with the above reporting requirements. As we shared last year, if an APR is not received by the deadline, these actions may include placing special conditions on the State's grant awards or initiating actions to withhold, suspend, or terminate remaining GEER Funds in accordance with the Department's enforcement authority in section 455 of the General Education Provisions Act.

If you have questions about your GEER Fund FY 2022 (Year 3) APR requirements, please reach out to the Department via ESSER.GEER.EANS.AnnualReport@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Fortelny
Chief Data Officer
U.S. Department of Education