

SGR Newsflash: ESSER, GEER, and EANS Grantee Communications November 20, 2023

The SGR Newsflash informs subscribers about communications distributed to grantees by the Office of State and Grantee Relations (SGR). SGR administers the ESSER, GEER, and EANS grants on behalf of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) at the U.S. Department of Education (Department).

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Recent Grantee Communications

Sent 11/16/23 – ESSER Year 4 (FY23) APR data collection period: Grantees received information about the availability of the updated ESSER Year 4 (FY23) data collection form, along with the *Summary of Key Differences*, which outlines the changes from ESSER Year 3 (FY22) to ESSER Year 4 (FY23). These resources have been posted to the ESSER Grantee Help page under the *Fiscal Year 2023 (Year 4) Annual Performance Reporting Resources* accordion. Grantees will be notified when the schedule for the ESSER collection period has been announced, along with information regarding upcoming webinars. Please continue to submit any APR-related questions to ESSER.GEER.EANS.AnnualReport@ed.gov. The ESF Reporting Helpdesk can also be reached by phone at 1-866-890-0913.

Upcoming Webinars

Davis-Bacon Regulatory Update Office Hours, 12/6/23, 4:00pm-5:00pm EDT: The Office of State and Grantee Relations, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, will hold an Office Hours session to discuss the October 2023 Davis-Bacon regulatory update. This session will provide an overview of the key changes in the regulations that impact construction, renovation, and repair projects supported with Federal education funds. This event will not be recorded. Grantees should submit questions they would like addressed to their State mailbox (*State name.oese@ed.gov*) by 12/1/23. **Registration link**: https://intellor.webex.com/weblink/register/r68fd3b4b55f1508af4ab89d3ff97f618

Deadlines and Announcements

<u>GAO Report: COVID-19 Relief Funds - State Experiences Could Inform Future Federal Relief Funding</u>: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report describing how some states planned for, used, and reported on COVID-19 relief funds; challenges that some states experienced in using COVID-19 relief funds; actions taken to address those challenges; and how the experiences of some states could inform future federal relief funding. Link: <u>https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106152</u>

GAO Report: Federal Spending Transparency - Opportunities Exist to Improve COVID-19 and Other Grant Subaward Data on USAspending.gov: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report summarizing findings from a series of tests on roughly 6 million grant subaward records available on USAspending.gov, reviews of the legal framework that governs subaward reporting, and interviews with officials from selected agencies to understand how they support subaward data quality. Link: https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106237

SGR Newsflash: ESSER, GEER, and EANS 11/20/23, continued

<u>Beware of emails soliciting payment for SAM.gov registration or renewal</u>: Grantees and other entities are reporting they have received very sophisticated emails that appear to be from SAM.gov. These emails include a phone number that is not the GSA Help Desk, but rather will solicit payment to renew registration. SAM.gov is free and will never ask for payment. Please see this article from GSA, <u>Don't Take the Bait: Beware of Misleading Marketing, Imposters, and Phishing</u> for more information.

Optional Template for LEA-Level MOEquity Data, Due 12/31/23: The Notice of Final Requirement establishes requirements for publishing LEA-level maintenance of equity data to demonstrate that LEAs are maintaining both fiscal and staffing equity in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The deadline for SEAs to publish this applicable LEA high-poverty school data for FY 2023 is 12/31/23. FY 2023 data includes a comparison of school year 2021-2022 data with school year 2022-2023 data to determine whether high-poverty schools within applicable LEAs received disproportionate per-pupil funding and/or full time equivalent (FTE) staff. The Department is providing this optional template for SEAs to collect and submit data from LEAs. LEAs that are excepted from the LEA-level MOEquity requirement in FY 2023 are not subject to this reporting requirement.

Strategic Planning for Continuing Recovery (SPCR) initiative: In August, the Department shared plans for the Strategic Planning for Continued Recovery (SPCR) initiative to support States in planning for sustaining especially high-leverage strategies that have been funded by American Rescue Plan and other COVID-relief funds. States are invited to form cross-functional teams to participate in the SPCR initiative and share priorities and preferences for types of support. Please complete this online <u>State Invitation and Interest Form</u> for SPCR Initiative to share a few of your State's priorities and indicate members of your State's crossfunctional team, including a key point of contact.

<u>ARP Liquidation Extension Request Information</u>: The Department has communicated that the general liquidation extension that has been available under the CARES and CRRSA Acts will be available for ARP Act programs. Additional information, including a request template and updated frequently asked questions document will be available this fall. Please see the Department's 9/18/23 <u>communication</u> for additional information.

Grantee Resources

- SGR Deadlines and Announcements CRRSA Liquidation Extension Request Template CARES and CRRSA Liquidation Extension FAQs ESSER and GEER FAQs ESSER and GEER FAQs - Spanish EANS FAQs ARP ESSER Maintenance of Equity FAQs ESSER and GEER Maintenance of Effort Guidance 2023 OMB Compliance Supplement ESF Transparency Portal
- SAM.gov Resources Lessons from the Field Webinar Series Community of Practice Resources Regional Comprehensive Centers The Best Practices Clearinghouse National Partnership for Student Success Engage Every Student National Comprehensive Center GSA Interact Community (SAM.gov and UEI related updates)

<u>Subscription Information</u>: Send subscription requests to <u>SGR Newsflash Subscription</u>. Did you miss a previous issue? Go to <u>SGR Newsflash Archive</u> <u>Questions</u>: Email your State mailbox at *State name.OESE@ed.gov*.