Workshop on Leveraging Multiple Federal Funding Sources for COVID Response and Recovery

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THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Panel 1: Schools

Nick Simmons
Senior Advisor for School Reopening and Recovery, Dept. of Ed

Lisa Barrios
Branch Chief, Division of Adolescent and School Health, CDC

Sarah Mulligan
Section Chief for Regulations & Policy Public Assistance Division, FEMA

Panel 2: Water

David Goldbloom-Helzner
Physical Scientist, Office of Water, EPA

Lorrie Davis
Community Programs Specialist, USDA

Christina Clark
Administration for Children and Families, HHS

Vanessa Megaw
Policy Advisor, Emergency Housing Programs, Treasury

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Panel 1:
Resources for Supporting Schools Impacted by COVID-19

U.S. Department of Education

COVID-19 K-12 Education Recovery Programs

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER): Funds are provided to State education agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's Students.

ARP Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY): Funds State and local education agencies' to identify homeless children and youth, to provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF): Funds awarded to governor's offices based on a formula stipulated in the legislation.

Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS): These funds will remain available through September 30, 2023 for making allocations to Governors to provide services or assistance to non-public schools that enroll a significant percentage of low-income students and are most impacted COVID-19.

U.S. Department of Education
COVID-19 Relief Funding for Education

ARP:
American Rescue Plan Act

Date: March 2021
Total funds: $1.9T
$166B towards education.

- **$122.7B** for to P-12 education through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)
- **$2.75B** to the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program
- **$40B** to higher education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
- **$3B** for students with disabilities
- **$7B** in funding to provide devices and connectivity to students and educators.
- **$800M** for students experiencing homelessness

CRRSSA:
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

Date: December 2020
Total funds: $900B
$82B towards education.

- **$54.3B** for P-12 education through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)
- **$4B** for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)
- **$22B** to higher education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

CARES:
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Date: March 2020
Total funds: $2.2T
$30.75B towards education.

- **$13.5B** for P-12 education through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER)
- **$3B** for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)
- **$14B** to higher education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

RETURN TO SCHOOL ROADMAP

VACCINATIONS AGES 12+ **SUMMER LEARNING** **SAFELY REOPEN SCHOOLS** **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT** **ADDRESS LOST INSTRUCTIONAL TIME**

WHERE THE ROADMAP WILL LEAD FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES:

- Students are healthy and safe in their school environments
- Students are welcomed back into their school communities and their schools make them feel like they belong
- Students are challenged and supported academically
- Students are safe and taken care of socially and emotionally

RETURN TO SCHOOL ROADMAP
LANDMARK PRIORITIES

American Rescue Plan funds can be used to support all of these efforts

LANDMARK 1

PRIORITIZE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES.

My child is healthy and safe, and my family is supported.

- Encourage and provide access to vaccinations for eligible students and staff
- Address ventilation needs where applicable
- Mask-wearing in indoor school settings, in line with CDC K-12 guidance
- Distancing of three feet in K-12 classrooms. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, layer multiple other prevention strategies
- Conduct COVID-19 testing in schools
- Provide healthy and safe transportation
- Communicate frequently with families – in their home language – and work to build their confidence that children will be safe in person
- Ensure access to healthy meals and other basic needs

https://sites.ed.gov/roadmap/

LANDMARK 2

BUILD SCHOOL COMMUNITIES, AND SUPPORT STUDENTS' SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH

My child is supported and set up for success.

- Assess social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff

- Invest in effective strategies to address social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.

- Provide professional development for educators and staff to address identified needs

- Invest in school counselors and mental health professionals in schools

- Ensure restorative, equitable, and inclusive approaches to school discipline

- Provide extracurricular opportunities to build school community and advance academic and emotional development of students

LANDMARK 3

ACCELERATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

My child is engaged and excelling academically.

- Reengage disconnected youth

- Provide students summer enrichment and afterschool opportunities to help address lost instructional time

- Identify gaps in academic opportunity

- Identify unexpected strengths and skills that have been developed or surfaced during the pandemic

- Invest in evidence-based strategies to address lost instructional time, especially for students most impacted by the pandemic

- Invest in career pathways programs that leverage high-quality career and technical education, including opportunities to earn credentials and college credit

- Invest in educators, including building a diverse teacher pipeline

- Invest in early learning opportunities like high-quality preschool

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC's Support for School Leaders

- $10 billion awarded through **CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC)** cooperative agreement to 64 state, local, and territorial health departments.

- **Operation Expanded Testing** funded at $650 million to support free testing for K–12 schools and other qualifying sites.

- **Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT),** funded by HHS at $255 million, provides COVID-19 testing resources and support to disproportionately affected populations, including school districts.

- **Public Health Workforce Development:** CDC provided $500 million to support efforts to develop, train, and sustain a strong school health workforce, with an emphasis on school nurses.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Other Sources of Support for School Leaders from CDC

- The CDC COVID-19 response's **School Support Section** partners with health departments and their liaisons (HDLNOs), school districts, and schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- The **CDC Healthy Schools Branch** works with states, school systems, communities, and national partners to prevent chronic disease and promote the health and well-being of children and adolescents in schools.

- CDC's **Division of Adolescent and School Heath (DASH)** is providing support to schools to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 on students. They are working to enhance mental health services for students and improve school environments.

- **CDC Foundation School Workforce Strategy** strives to strengthen school staff though activities such as expanded school based COVID-19 testing, contact tracing/case investigation, and improved staffing infrastructure for child vaccinations and post-holiday surges.

Toolkits and Resources

- School Testing Communication Toolkit
  - www.cdc.gov/covid19-school-testing
- FAQs for Parents and Caregivers
  - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-faqs.html
- FAQs for School Administrators
  - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/admin-faq.html
- Toolkit for Responding to COVID-19 Cases in K–12 Schools
  - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/K-12-contact-tracing.html

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program: COVID-19 Safe Opening and Operation Policy

PA's Support for Safe Opening and Operation Policy:
Eligible Costs

- FEMA may provide assistance to all eligible PA applicants (SLTTs and eligible PNPs) to safely open and operate eligible facilities, including schools.

- Eligible work includes:

  - Purchase and distribution of face masks and PPE (based on projected needs)

  - Cleaning and disinfection

  - COVID-19 diagnostic testing

  - Screening and temperature scanning

  - Acquisition and installation of portable temporary physical barriers & signage to support social distancing

Safe Opening and Operation Policy: Applicability

- Timeframe

  - Applies to work performed from January 20, 2020 onward to support the safe opening and operations of PA-eligible facilities.

- Cost Share

  - FEMA is funding the entire cost (i.e., 100% federal share) for the measures included in this policy until December 31, 2021.

  - Costs incurred after December 31, 2021 will be subject to the cost-share established at that time.

Public Assistance vs. Other Programs of Federal Assistance

- Applicants should determine which source of funding best meets the need.

- If an eligible applicant applies for PA funding and then determines it will instead seek funding from another federal agency, the applicant should notify FEMA as soon as possible.
  - PA should not be considered funding of last resort
  - PA should be considered concurrently with other federal programs and sources

- For certain types of work that may be eligible for funding under another agency's authorities, FEMA has determined that it will not provide reimbursement for such work through the PA program.

- COVID-19 Education Resource Roadmap:

  - Describes how supplemental appropriated funds and certain ongoing annually funded federal programs can be used to implement solutions for challenges due to COVID

COVID-19 Response: Information & Resources

FEDERAL FUNDING RESOURCES:

▪ *COVID-19 Resource Summary Report*
Lists of federal programs providing COVID-19 relief

▪ *Covid-19 Education Resource Roadmap (version 2) Describes how supplemental appropriated funds + certain ongoing annually funded federal programs can be used to implement solutions for challenges due to COVID*

FEMA PA POLICY:

▪ *COVID-19 Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance Policy (Interim)* – Version 2

▪ *Public Assistance COVID-19 Medical Care Policy (Version 2) -* issued 3/16/21

▪ *COVID-19 Pandemic: Work Eligible for Public Assistance Policy (Interim) -* issued 9/1/20

▪ *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (Version 3.1) –* issued April 2018 (Applicable to all COVID-19 declarations)

Panel 2:
Federal Funding Programs for Water and Wastewater Utilities and their Customers Impacted by COVID-19

Environmental Protection Agency

Financial Impacts From COVID-19 on:
Water and Wastewater Utilities & Their Customers

- Increased labor costs to backfill operators and other mission essential staff who are unable to work, e.g., infected by COVID-19, quarantined or taking care of family members

- Loss of revenue
  - Customer arrearages/Delinquent payments
  - Moratoria - provide water to previous shut-off customers
  - Loss due to less usage from commercial and industrial users

- Increased costs for chemical, lab, COVID PPE supplies

- Increased costs for deferred maintenance & capital projects

- Increased overtime costs for labor

Federal Funding for Water/Wastewater Sector Related to COVID-19

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - State Revolving Funds (Clean Water and Drinking Water)
  - Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
  - Federal Funds for Utilities-Water/Wastewater in National Disasters (Fed FUNDs)

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - Water & Environmental Programs (WEP)
    - Emergency Water Community Assistance Grants (EWCAG)
    - Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees
    - Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants

- Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- U.S. Treasury
  - Consolidated Appropriations Act
  - American Rescue Plan

EPA Funding

- **Drinking Water & Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF)**
  - Low interest loans (40-year loans to disadvantaged communities)

  - Uses DWSRF
    - Install/upgrade/replace water treatment, water storage, transmission and distribution systems
    - Mitigate disasters; consider consolidating systems
    - Receive technical assistance through set-asides.

  - Uses CWSRF
    - Build wastewater collection, treatment, stormwater management, nonpoint pollution control, reuse
    - Pursue projects on estuary management, green infrastructure, energy efficiency

  - If difficulty paying back existing SRF loans due to COVID-19, talk to SRF State representative

  - If new SRF loans, consider combinations of FEMA 75% and EPA SRFs 25% through MOU

- **Examples of Combined EPA and FEMA funding**
  - Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA), Florida
    - Because of many damaging floods, justified building new plant
    - Combined funds from FEMA ($135M), ECUA Bank ($129M), FL SRF ($24M), Pensacola $20M, FL Grant $29M

  - Bayshore Regional Sewage Authorities, New Jersey
    - Because of significant damage from Hurricane Sandy, rebuilt with low interest bridge loans
      - For Phase 1, $15M from FEMA, $13M from SRF

EPA Funding (continued)

- **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)**
  - Providing long-term, low-cost loans for regionally and nationally significant water and wastewater infrastructure projects.
    - Miami Dade - Ocean Outfall Discharge Reduction and Resiliency Enhancement ($99.7M)
    - Orange County Water District: Groundwater Replenishment System Final Expansion ($135M)

- **Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool**
  - Helps drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities assess financial impacts of the COVID-19 on cashflow.

- **Federal Funds for Utilities -Water/Wastewater- in National Disasters (Fed FUNDs)**
  - Search for federal funding for utilities from EPA, USDA, FEMA, HUD, SBA
  - Find examples of successful projects and tips for applying
  - epa.gov/fedfunds

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Funding:
How WEP Can Help with COVID-19 Impacts

As part of the Rural Utilities Service, WEP provides assistance in three critical areas:

1) Financing rural infrastructure needs at affordable rates

2) Payment assistance to current borrowers

3) Technical assistance to rural utilities and communities

https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs

USDA Rural Development program electronic application: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rd-apply

3 Important Programs Under WEP Deployed During COVID-19

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG) (Expedited Assistance)

- WEP provides grants to eligible communities to prepare or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.
- Events qualifying as emergencies:
  - **Disease outbreak**
  - Drought or flood
  - Earthquakes
  - Tornado or hurricane
  - Chemical spill, leak or seepage
  - Other disasters

- **Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees**
  - Eligible: Municipalities, NFPs, Fed. Recognized Tribes w/pop of 50,000 and less
  - Interest Rate: Negotiated between lender and borrower
  - Term: Negotiated between lender and borrower
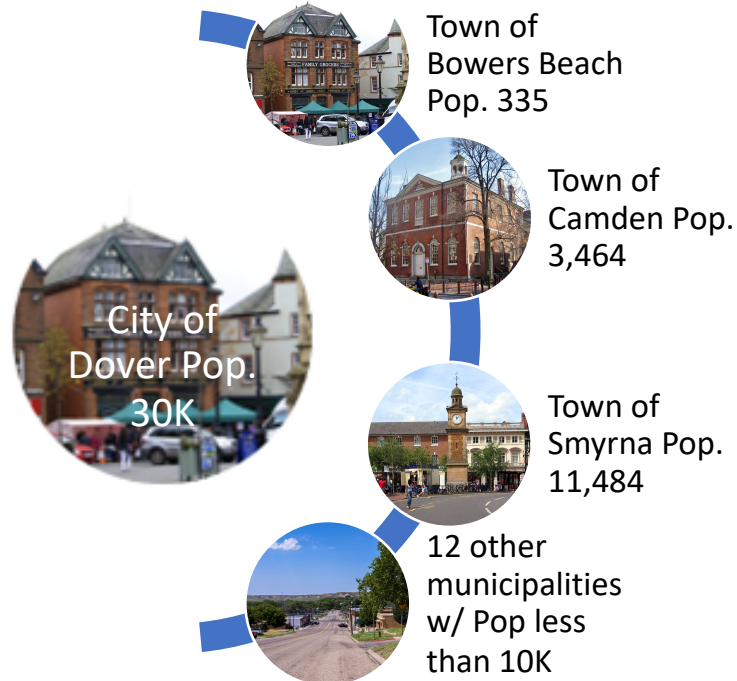- **Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants**
  - Eligible: Municipalities, NFPs, Fed. Recognized Tribes w/pop of 10,000 and less
  - Tiered Interest Rate: 1.250% – 2.125%
  - Term: Up to 40 years or maximum of state law
  - Flexible funding

Partnerships with EPA, States, and Local Governments

Regional Projects Leveraging Funding

- IA- Southern Iowa Rural Water Association - Three Mile Water Treatment Plant ($68M)
- MD - Town of Greensboro - Regional Wastewater Collection and Treatment ($16M)
- DE - Kent County Levy Court - Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade Project ($28M)

Kent County Wastewater Facilities

Town of Bowers Beach Pop. 335

Town of Camden Pop. 3,464

City of Dover Pop. 30K

Town of Smyrna Pop. 11,484

12 other municipalities w/ Pop less than 10K

Total Project Cost: $ 27,951,000
WEP Loan: $19,280,000
DNREC: $ 6,918,700
County: $ 1,752,300

*Based off the PER, annual wastewater flow for the City of Dover made up 25% of the regional plant. DNREC leveraged the ineligible portion of the County's project.

Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families, HHS Funding
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- Authorized under Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and the American Rescue Plan. $1.38 billion combined funding

- Payments for water and waste water services to assist low income households with water affordability. (current bills, arrearages, late fees, and reconnection fees)

- Grantees include states, tribes, territories and the District of Columbia.

- Payments must go directly to the water utility provider on behalf of low income households.

Office of Community Services
Low-Income Household
Water Assistance Program
(LIHWAP)

Program Design

- Priorities include restoration of services, prevention of disconnection, reducing rates

- Mandatory awards, that allow grantees have the flexibility to design many of the policies and procedures related to program implementation

- Grantees should enter into vendor agreements with water service providers.

- Many states use local administering agencies to administer certain program activities

U.S. Department of Treasury

Emergency Rental Assistance:
Eligible Households & Expenses

Eligible expenses may vary depending upon the grantee's program design.

Eligible Households (in general terms)

- The applicant must be obligated to pay rent

- The applicant must demonstrate:
  - Financial hardship during the pandemic
  - Risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
  - The household is a "low-income family" (incomes do not exceed 80% of the area median income)

Prioritization

- 50% of area median income or
- 1+ individuals unemployed for the 90-day period preceding the date of application.

In general terms, federal guidance allows ERA grantees to cover:

Rental assistance

- Up 15 (ERA1) or 18 (ERA2) months of rental assistance
- Assistance may cover back rent or prospective rent

Utilities and Home Energy Costs

- May include separately stated electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash removal, and energy costs, such as fuel oil; payments to public utilities are permitted.

Other Expenses (under certain constraints)

- Internet service
- Reasonable accrued late fees
- Relocation expenses
  - including certain flexibilities for those experiencing homelessness

Questions?

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