



Funding Guidance for Communication Plan Events

The CDE has allocated IDEA state-level set-aside funds to assist Administrative Units (i.e. School District or BOCES) in addressing the unique needs identified in the Communication Plans for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. These funds aim to support AUs in collaboratively meeting the language, communication, social, and emotional needs of these students. These funds are limited. Priority will be granted to individuals who apply before January 15th, 2025, and for teams who are collaborating with other AUs. AUs applying individually can request up to \$2,000.

The Exceptional Student Services Unit provides funding to support events that offer students opportunities to connect with peers and/or role models who share their language and mode of communication. These events are crucial for fostering a sense of community and belonging, and to foster greater development of the student's communication skills. Additionally, the funds can be utilized for district-led events aimed at helping parents improve communication with their children, thereby enhancing the overall support system for the student.

However, it's important to note that these funds currently **cannot** be used for food or professional development for district employees. The focus remains on directly benefiting the students and their families through meaningful interactions with individuals who share their language and mode of communication.

Overview of Allowable Costs

Transportation Cost

- Funds can be used to pay for transportation costs for students and families to attend an approved D/HH event. The means of transportation must follow all AU policies regarding the transportation of students including but not limited to gaining guardian permission before the day of the event.

Books & Materials

- Books or materials for workshops or trainings are allowable if the content is linked to the Communication Plan and focused on support for the student and/or family member(s).

Presenters/Trainers

- Hiring a trainer, speaker, presenter, and/or role model can be covered using these funds. **This type of request must be communicated to [Shauna Moden](#), who will need to obtain CDE/ESSU Executive Director approval. A minimum of 6 weeks prior to the event is needed to allow for all required paperwork to be completed and approved.**

Reminders

Transportation Cost

- Grant funds will be distributed only after the event has occurred and CDE has received an invoice detailing all charges related to the reimbursement request
- After a grant request has been approved, changes to the event cost **MUST** be approved prior to the event. All non-preapproved expenses will not be reimbursed.
- Contact Shauna Moden with any questions, moden_s@cde.state.co.us.