

Funding Opportunity

Applications Due: **September 30, 2022, 11:59pm MST**

Intent to Apply Due: **September 16, 2022, 11:59pm MST**

|  |
| --- |
| EASI (ESSER) Supplemental Grant – Enhanced Implementation Support Pursuant to The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title I, Section 1003,and the School Transformation Grant through HB 18-1355 and the American Rescue Plan of 2021 |



**Program Questions:**

Carol Mehesy, District and School Transformation Manager

(720) 415-7009| Mehesy\_C@cde.state.co.us

Laura Meushaw | Meushaw\_L@cde.state.co.us

**Budget/Fiscal Questions:**

Evan Davis | Davis\_E@cde.state.co.us

**Application Process Questions:**

Grants Program Administration Team | CompetitiveGrants@cde.state.co.us

**Table of Contents**

[Introduction 3](#_heading=h.30j0zll)

[Purpose 3](#_heading=h.1fob9te)

[Eligible Applicants 3](#_heading=h.3znysh7)

[Available Funds 3](#_heading=h.2et92p0)

[Allowable Use of Funds 3](#_heading=h.tyjcwt)

[Duration of Grant 4](#_heading=h.3dy6vkm)

[Evaluation and Reporting 4](#_heading=h.1t3h5sf)

[Data Privacy 4](#_heading=h.4d34og8)

[Application Assistance and Intent to Apply 4](#_heading=h.2s8eyo1)

[Review Process and Timeline 4](#_heading=h.17dp8vu)

[Submission Process and Deadline 5](#_heading=h.1y810tw)

[Application Format 5](#_heading=h.4i7ojhp)

[Required Elements 5](#_heading=h.2xcytpi)

[Part IA: Applicant Information 6](#_heading=h.35nkun2)

[Part IB: Recipient Schools Information 7](#_heading=h.1ksv4uv)

[Part II: Program Assurances Form 8](#_heading=h.44sinio)

[Application Scoring 9](#_heading=h.2jxsxqh)

Part III: Narrative [Selection Criteria and Evaluation Rubric 10](#_heading=h.z337ya)

**Note:** The following version of the application is intended as a reference document for instructions and grant application planning purposes.

**Applications for the EASI Supplemental Grant must be submitted through the** [**online application form**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9eba51bb305f4f9aa0c21f85e220e6a5)**.**

Submission of application materials either in hard copy or via

e-mail will not be accepted.

**EASI Supplemental Grant – Enhanced Implementation Support**

**Applications Due: September 30, 2022, by 11:59 pm**

# Introduction

The EASI Supplemental Grant – Enhanced Implementation Support is intended to provide supplemental funding to current EASI Connect for Success, Turnaround Network, and District Designed and Led (DDL) grantees to enhance implementation of approved improvement strategies by supporting a new or expanded partnership with a CDE approved provider. A list of CDE approved district and school improvement providers can be found [here](https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/cde-advisory-list-of-providers).

This opportunity will be funded through the American Rescue Plan’s Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER III) funds.

# Purpose

This grant program exists to:

* Enhance district and/or school implementation of approved improvement strategies
* Accelerate learning for all students, particularly those most impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic

# Eligible Applicants

Local Education Providers (LEPs) are eligible to apply for this opportunity. An eligible LEP is:

* A School District;
* A Board of Cooperative Services (BOCES);
* A Charter School authorized by a School District; or
* A Charter School authorized by the Charter School Institute.

Applications will not be accepted from individual schools, but must be authorized and submitted through the LEP. A charter school’s authorizer will be the fiscal agent, if funded.

***Only applicants that have received funds from the EASI grant for 2022-23 or 2023-24 in the areas of Connect for Success, Turnaround Network, or District Designed and Led (DDL) may apply for this current funding opportunity*** and their application must describe current grant activities and services and demonstrate how, if awarded, capacity to provide activities and services will be expanded, augmented, or sustained.

Available grant funding will be distributed to Education Providers with school(s) demonstrating high need based on Priority Criteria. Past expenditure of funds and quality of program implementation will also be considered.

# Available Funds

A total of approximately $300,000 is available for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year and CDE anticipates funding grants in amounts ranging from $50,000-$100,000 per LEA award.

# Allowable Use of Funds

A Local Education Provider that receives a grant under the program shall use the monies to enhance implementation of currently approved improvement strategies through contracting with an approved CDE school or district improvement provider.

Allowable services or activities include:

* Consultation, coaching, and/or professional learning activities designed to enhance implementation of approved improvement strategies.

Funding should be used for:

* Contracting with a CDE approved school or district improvement partner to enhance implementation of improvement strategies through consultation, coaching, and/or professional learning activities.

**Note:** Funding may not be used for food, staff stipends, or hiring for district or school positions.

# Duration of Grant

Grants will be awarded for a two-year term beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year and continuing through 2023-24. Funds must be expended by **June 30, 2024**. There will be no carryover of funds.

# Evaluation and Reporting

The EASI Supplemental Grant – Enhanced Implementation Support does not include any additional evaluation or reporting requirements. Any LEAs awarded the EASI supplemental grant are required to continue to submit any evaluation and/or reporting information associated with current Connect for Success, Turnaround Network, or District-Designed and Led (DDL) grants.

Information reported to CDE in relation to grant activities is not confidential and is subject to public request. Grantees should ensure reported information does not contain PII or confidential information.

# Data Privacy

CDE takes seriously its obligation to protect the privacy of student and educator Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected, used, shared, and stored. PII will not be collected through the EASI Supplemental – Enhanced Implementation Support grant. All program evaluation data will be collected in the aggregate and will be used, shared, and stored in compliance with CDE’s privacy and security policies and procedures.

**Note:** Documents submitted must not contain any personally identifiable student or educator information including names, identification numbers, or anything that could identify an individual. All data should be referenced/included in the aggregate and the aggregate counts should be redacted to remove small numbers under n=16 for students or n=5 for educators.

Information reported to CDE in relation to grant activities is not confidential and is subject to public request. Grantees should ensure reported information does not contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or confidential information.

# Application Assistance and Intent to Apply

If interested in applying for this funding opportunity, submit the [**Intent to Apply**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fd026477c7b644c0a6eadf0035739394) by **September 16, 2022, 11:59pm MST**. The Intent to Apply is encouraged, but not required to submit an application.

# Review Process and Timeline

Applications will be reviewed by CDE staff and peer reviewers to ensure they contain all required components. Applicants will be notified of final award status no later than **October 19, 2022.**

**Note:** This is a competitive process – applicants must score at least 32 points out of the 50 possible narrative points to be approved for funding. Applications that score below 30 points may be asked to submit revisions that would bring the application up to a fundable level. There is no guarantee that submitting an application will result in funding or funding at the requested level. All award decisions are final. Applicants that do not meet the qualifications may reapply for future grant opportunities.

# Submission Process and Deadline

Completed applications (including all required elements outlined below) must be submitted through the online application form by **September 30, 2022, at 11:59pm.**

Within the online application, applicants will complete Part I with their applicant information and upload attachments as described in the Required Elements section below.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. If you do not receive an email confirmation of receipt of your submission from the application system within 24 hours after the deadline, e-mail CompetitiveGrants@cde.state.co.us.

# Application Format

* The total narrative of the application cannot exceed 5 pages. See below for the required elements of the application. **Note:** Applications that exceed 5 pages will not be reviewed. If you need any clarification at all about what the page limit will or will not include, please reach out to the application contacts prior to submitting.
* **All narrative response pages must be standard letter size, 8-1/2” x 11”, using no smaller than 12-point font, single-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and numbered pages.**
* The Program Assurances Form must include signatures from the lead organization/fiscal agent. If grant application is approved, funding will not be awarded until all signatures are in place.

Other than the Letters of Support from Key Collaborators (if applicable), attachments or addendums cannot be utilized to address the required elements or be factored into the scoring and are therefore discouraged. Support letters that do not meet the criteria should not be submitted.

# Required Elements

The format outlined below must be followed in order to assure consistent application of the evaluation criteria. See evaluation rubric for specific selection criteria needed in Part II (pages 11-12).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Complete responses in the** [**online application form**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9eba51bb305f4f9aa0c21f85e220e6a5)**:** | **Part IA: Applicant Information****Part IB: Recipient Schools Information** |
| **Upload these documents in the** [**online application form**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9eba51bb305f4f9aa0c21f85e220e6a5)**:**1. Part II: Program Assurances Form2. Application Narrative 5 page maximum 3. Budget Workbook Submit in Excel format in original CDE template. Does not count towards page limit. | **Part II: Program Assurances Form** |
| **Part III: Application Narrative**Application Narrative [cannot exceed 5 pages]Proposed Implementation Enhanced Supports |
| **Part IV: Budget Workbook** |

**EASI Supplemental Grant – Enhanced Implementation Support**

**Applications Due: September 30, 2022, 11:59 pm**

# Part IA: Applicant Information

All elements of Part I will be completed in the online application form. The online system does not save works in progress so applicants may wish to complete their information in this document and copy responses into the online application.

**Submit all application materials through the** [**online application form**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9eba51bb305f4f9aa0c21f85e220e6a5)**.**

|  |
| --- |
| **Lead Local Education Provider (LEP)/BOCES Information** |
| **LEP/BOCES Name:** |  | **LEP/BOCES Code:** |  |
| **Mailing Address:** |  | **UEI** #: |  |
| **Requested Funding:** | $ | **UEI # Expiration:** |  |
| Authorized Representative Information |
| **Name:** |  | **Title:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Program Contact Information** |
| **Name:** |  | **Title:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Fiscal Manager Information** |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  | **E-mail:** |  |

# Part IB: Recipient Schools Information

|  |
| --- |
| **Current EASI Grant(s) Eligible for Supplemental Funding*****List any EASI grantee schools receiving EASI funding in 2022-23 or 2023-24 for which district is requesting supplemental funding*** |
| **Connect for Success** | School(s): | **Applying for Supplemental Funding?** | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| **Turnaround Network** | School(s): | **Applying for Supplemental Funding?** | ☐ Yes ☐ No |
| **District Designed and Led** | School(s): | **Applying for Supplemental Funding?** | ☐ Yes ☐ No |

# Part II: Program Assurances

**Download, complete and attach the Assurances, Approval and Transmittal Signature form.** When completing Assurances, Approval and Transmittal form, the applicant should read each assurance and check the box to indicate that the applicant understands and intends to comply with the corresponding program requirements. The applicant must agree to all assurances understanding that if certain requirements don't apply to the applicant's current context, that the applicant would meet the requirements if the situation were to become applicable.

**Assurances, Approval and Transmittal Signature Form**

**FY 2022-2023 Application for ESSER EASI Supplemental Grant – Enhanced Implementation Support**

In consideration of the receipt of these grant funds, the applicant and all organizations involved in this application—including local education agencies and community-based organizations— (subsequently referred to as “the applicant(s)”) agree to comply with the certifications, assurances and provisions included here and in the Grant Award Letter (GAL). The applicant(s) also certifies that they will meet all program and pertinent administrative requirements, including the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Grants Guidance) Accounting Circulars, and the U.S. Department of Education’s General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) requirements.

**The appropriate Authorized Representatives must read and check the boxes to indicate that the applicant understands and intends to comply with the corresponding program requirements.** The applicant must agree to all assurances understanding that if certain requirements don't apply to the applicant's current context, that the applicant would meet the requirements if the situation were to become applicable.

 **Assurances**

☐ The grantee will ensure that the program(s) funded by this grant will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and requirements delineated in this application.

☐ The grantee will ensure that the funds awarded for this/these program(s) will only be used to meet the goals of the ESSER EASI Supplemental Grant - Enhanced Implementation Support namely to enhance implementation of current EASI improvement strategies and activities through the development or expansion of a partnership with a CDE-approved improvement provider.

☐ The grantee will ensure that the following data is, at a minimum, collected and maintained:

☐ No additional data collection is required with this supplemental grant

☐ The grantee will ensure that all necessary district and school leadership (including the superintendent and principal(s)) are aware of the application and willing to support the implementation of the program(s).

☐ The grantee will ensure that the ARP - ESSER III funds will only be used for activities allowable under section 2001(d)(2)(e) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

☐ The grantee will ensure that the ARP - ESSER III funds will not be used for 1) subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs or 2) expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.

☐ The grantee will ensure that ARP - ESSER III funds will be used for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the ARP Act.

☐ The grantee will, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to compensate its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19 in compliance with section 2001(d)(2)(e) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. In addition, each entity that accepts funds will continue to pay employees and contractors to the greatest extent practicable based on the unique financial circumstances of the entity. Similarly, to the CARES Act and CRRSA, ARP funds generally will not be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19.

☐ The grantee will cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals available for interview and examination, upon the request of (i) the U.S. Department of Education and/or its Inspector General; or (ii) any other federal agency, commission, or department in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction and authority.

☐ The grantee will meet the requirements of section 442 and section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232(e) & 1228(a)) meaning that during the entire duration of time that the entity is receiving funding under ARP - ESSER III, the LEA will, where applicable:

1. Ensure that it has taken steps to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its federally-assisted programs for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs;
2. Ensure that each program will be administered in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;
3. Ensure that control of funds and property acquired using ARP ESSER III program funds will be maintained and administered by the appropriate public agency;
4. Ensure that fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be used to ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds;
5. Report to the state agency or board and to the Secretary as may be needed for the state agency or board and the Secretary to perform their duties under each program, and each grantee will maintain records (as required in Section 443 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA)) and provide access to those records as the state board, state agency, or Secretary deems necessary to carry out their responsibilities;
6. Provide opportunities for the participation in, planning for, and operation of each program by teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals;
7. Ensure that applications, evaluations, plans, or reports related to each program will be made available to parents and the public;
8. The grantee has adopted effective procedures for acquiring and disseminating information and research regarding the programs and for adopting, where appropriate, promising educational practices to teachers and administrators participating in each program; and
9. Ensure that none of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment if such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees.

☐ The grantee agrees to review the GEPA statement submitted as part of their ESSER I, II, or III online application and confirm that the statement describes the steps the LEA will take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers that impede equal access to, or participation in, programs funded in this application for federal funds. Should changes need to be made to the GEPA statement specific to this application, the grantee must describe the steps the grantee will take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers that impede equal access to, or participation in, programs funded in this application with federal funds (add GEPA statement to the section provided).

GEPA Statement:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

☐ The grantee will annually provide the Colorado Department of Education the evaluation information required in the “Evaluation and Reporting” section of this application including the End-of-Year Report in the RFA.

☐ The grantee ensures that it will work with and provide requested data to CDE for the program(s) funded by these funds within the time frames specified and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

☐ The grantee ensures that it will participate in and comply with the CDE’s monitoring process and protocols.

☐ The grantee will not discriminate against anyone regarding race, gender, national origin, color, disability, or age.

☐ The grantee will be in compliance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) requirements in 2 CFR, including Subpart D—Post Federal Award Requirements (2 CFR §§200.300-345) and Subpart E—Cost Principles (2 CFR§§200.400-475).

☐ The LEA will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances; the following provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR parts 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non procurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

☐ If any findings of misuse of these funds are discovered, project funds will be returned to CDE.

☐ The grantee will maintain sole responsibility for the project even though subcontractors may be used to perform certain services.

☐ The grantee ensures that it will, if applicable, comply with the maintenance of equity provisions in section 2004(c) of the ARP.

☐ The grantee ensures that all agreements are in place with all applicable districts and other partner organizations to ensure the coordination necessary for effective implementation of the proposed program—including the data required for the reporting detailed in the RFA.

☐ All organizations and staff associated with this technical assistance program shall comply with all state and federal laws relating to health, safety and anti-discrimination, including but not limited to Titles VI and VII of the federal "Civil Rights Act of 1964", pub. l. 88-352, as amended; the federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990", 42 U.S.C. sec. 1201 et seq., as amended; Section 504 0f the federal "Rehabilitation Act of 1973", 29 U.S.C. sec. 794, as amended; and Title IX of the federal "Education Amendments of 1972", 20 U.S.C. secs. 1681 to 1688, as amended.

In addition, the applicant(s) certify that:

1. the Financial Management Risk Assessment has been accurately completed by the appropriate Finance/Budget/Business manager for the lead applicant;
2. data shall be made available to the lead applicant in order to meet the requirements outlined in the request for applications (RFA) of this program, the GAL, and any other reporting required by the U.S. Department of Education;
3. the applicant(s) are in compliance with the requirements of the federal Children's Internet Protection Act; and
4. no policy of the applicant(s) prevents, or otherwise denies, participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools.

Further, the applicant(s) and all relevant governance of the applicant organization(s) certify that they understand all the rules and regulations associated with the receipt of these ETAG funding, including those not specifically enumerated above, and will take action to ensure the applicant(s) comply with all such requirements.

The Colorado Department of Education may terminate a grant award upon thirty days’ notice if it is deemed by CDE that the applicant is not fulfilling the requirements of the funded program as specified in the approved project application, or if the program is generating less than satisfactory results.

Project modifications and changes in the approved budget must be requested in writing and be approved in writing by the CDE before modifications are made to the expenditures. Contact Evan Davis (Davis\_E@cde.state.co.us) and Carol Mehesy (Mehesy\_C@cde.state.co.us) for any modifications.

**Note:** Signatures for the lead applicant (including organization board president, authorized representative, and program contact) are required on the **Assurances, Approval and Transmittal Signature** form. If grant application is approved, funding will not be awarded until all signatures are in place. Please attempt to obtain all signatures before submitting the application.

**EASI Supplemental Grant – Enhanced Implementation Support**

**Applications Due: September 30, 2022, by 11:59 p.m.**

# Application Scoring

CDE Use Only

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Parts I - II:** | **Application Introduction and Assurances** | Not Scored |
| **Part III:** | **Narrative:** Proposed Implementation Enhancement Supports | /40 |
| **Part IV:** | **Budget** |  | /10  |
| **Total:** | **/50** |

**GENERAL COMMENTS:** Indicate support for scoring by including overall strengths and weaknesses. These comments will be provided to applicants with their final scores.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

**Required Changes:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **RECOMMENDATION:** | Funded |  |  | Funded with Changes |  |  | Not Funded |  |

# Selection Criteria and Evaluation Rubric

**Parts I-2: Application Introduction** [Not Scored]

Applicant Information and Assurances

Complete applicant information and program assurances and include as the first pages of the application.

**Part III: Narrative** [40 Points]

The following criteria will be used by reviewers to evaluate the application. For the application to be recommended for funding, it must receive at least 30 points out of the 40 possible narrative points and all required elements must be addressed. An application that receives a score of zero on any required elements will not be funded without revisions.

**Part IV: Budget** [10 Points]

The following criteria will be used by reviewers to evaluate the application budget.

**Scoring Definitions**

Minimally Addressed or Does Not Meet Criteria - information not provided

Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria - requires additional clarification

Addressed Criteria but Did Not Provide Thorough Detail - adequate response, but not thoroughly developed or high-quality response

Met All Criteria with High Quality - clear, concise, and well thought out response

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Part III: Narrative****Proposed Implementation Enhanced Supports** | **Minimally Addressed or Does Not Meet Criteria** | **Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria** | **Addressed Criteria but Did Not Provide Thorough Detail** | **Met All Criteria with High Quality** | **TOTAL** |
| 1. Briefly describe the current improvement strategies for which your district or school is applying for supplemental funding to enhance implementation. Please include a short description of the original strategy(s) and the current status of implementation, including any notable successes or challenges.
 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 |  |
| 1. Describe the proposed implementation support your district or school will be seeking from an external provider (e.g., consulting, coaching, professional learning, etc.).
 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 10 |  |
| 1. Describe how the proposed implementation support from the external provider will increase the likelihood of success and/or impact of the district or school’s improvement strategies.
 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 10 |  |
| 1. Describe the process you used or will use to select a provider. Please include the name of the proposed CDE approved external provider (if known).
 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 10 |  |
| 1. Describe how your district or school will track implementation of the improvement strategy and what measures you will use to determine success.
 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 |  |
| 1. If available, upload a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (e.g., duration, expectations, deliverables, timeline) and/or and scope of work with the selected provider and/or facilitator that aligns with the budget request on the “Supporting Documentation Uploads” page. ***If a finalized MOU is not available prior to award, that may be provided at a later date following grant approval.***
 | **Included/Not Applicable** | **Included** |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| **Section A Total** | **/40** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Part IV: Budget****Workplan and Budget Request** | **Not Addressed or Met No Criteria** | **Met Some but Not All Identified Criteria** | **Met All Criteria with High Quality** |
| Using the Excel budget template create a work plan and budget request. For each grant activity in the work plan:* Provide the strategy name this line links to, a school-level location contact, a description of each activity, start/end dates, and person(s) responsible for the activity.
* Input the amount requested, the associated program and object codes, and fiscal year. Input the salary position and FTE amount, if applicable.
* Ensure that activities are aligned with the allowable use of funds listed
* Ensure that costs are clearly tied to the grant activities and are calculated with detail in the “description of activity” field.
 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| **Total:** | **/10** |