
What is the Project SERV Grant?

This program funds short-term and long-term education-related services for local educational agencies (LEAs) to help them recover from a violent or traumatic event in which the learning environment has been disrupted. The short-term grant is called Immediate Services grant and is the grant awarded to Colorado. A longer-term grant, Extended Services grant, provides for the longer-term needs of an LEA.

What is the scope of the Project SERV (Immediate Services) Grant?

Project SERV can provide immediate assistance to a LEA to enable it to reopen or keep open a school disrupted by a traumatic event, and to begin the recovery process necessary for teaching and learning to continue. These funds are intended to serve the short-term needs of a LEA. Immediate Service grants are typically awarded, shortly after an incident occurs, and are designed to cover acute needs related to restoring the learning environment. Immediate Services grants under Project SERV are available for a period of 6 months.

Why is Colorado eligible for funds?

Colorado is eligible for the Project SERV grant because we met the following criteria established by USDE:

-Local education agencies (LEAs) that have experienced a traumatic event of such magnitude as to severely disrupt the teaching and learning environment.

Which districts are eligible to apply for funds under Project SERV?

Any district that had the learning environment disrupted by the September, 2013 floods is encouraged to apply for reimbursement of expenses that are allowable under Project SERV.

To whom may services be provided? Who can benefit from these funds?

Services may be provided to students, teachers, and school staff, and to immediate family members of students, teachers, and staff. Services may be provided to individuals directly affected by the September, 2013 flood. Services may also be provided to those who are not directly injured or victimized but who are indirectly affected, for example, by attending or working in a school where a natural disaster has occurred.

For instance, students that lost their homes may need mental health services to recover from the effects of this, so that they're ready to maximize their time at school.

NOTE: Counseling services for school staff may only be requested if those services are not covered by the insurance policy provided by the school district or offered by a community-based, public provided service.

Who in the district should coordinate the application for Project SERV funds?

The federal programs contact is encouraged to be involved in the completion of the application, since Project SERV is a federal grant and many of the assurances, consultation requirements, etc. apply to this program.

For what type of activities can these funds be used?

Project SERV will fund costs that are reasonable, necessary, and essential for services and activities that are intended to restore a sense of safety and security help the victims/students stabilize their lives, and assist LEAs in managing the practical problems created by the traumatic event. Project SERV funds are available to supplement, not replace, resources

provided for these purposes by other Federal, State, local and private agencies and organizations. After a district has determined what its insurance will cover, and after it has been determined what FEMA will cover, the following activities apply to Project SERV funds:

- Technical assistance on developing an appropriate recovery plan for addressing student needs and assessing the federal, state and local resources available to the LEA, IHE, and community to carry out this response.
- Mental health assessments, referrals and services related to the traumatic event (with the goal of restoring victims/survivors to their pre-incident levels of functioning)
- Overtime for teachers, counselors, law enforcement and security officers, and other staff
- Substitute teachers and other staff as necessary
- Emergency transportation such as expenses incurred during evacuation
- Transportation and other costs to operate school at an alternative site
- Temporary security measures such as non-permanent metal detectors and additional security guards and security cameras.

What activities are not allowable?

- Any activity for which other resources are available, e.g. insurance; construction, or renovation funding;
- Claims recoverable under insurance coverage, including Medicaid reimbursements for related services to school staff;
- Payments of fines assessed upon the school district or charter school, employees and/or members of employees' or students' families;
- Payment of settlements assessed against the school district or charter school, employees and/or members of employees' or students' families;
- Emergency management planning;
- Services of existing County/public/private nonprofit mental health agency staff whose role is to respond to emergency mental health needs of children; services normally provided by the school district or charter school;
- Mental health services for persons other than teachers, students, faculty or members of the immediate families of students, faculty, and teachers;
- Costs for hospitalization, treatment of physical injuries, rehabilitation or prescription costs;
- Costs associated with public relations consultants or activities;
- Permanent security measures such as stationary metal detectors, permanent security cameras; construction;
- Violence and drug prevention activities or programs, except those specifically addressing hate crime issues.

Will the district be a subgrantee for Project Serv funds?

No. The guidelines for Project SERV prohibit the SEA from subgranting these funds. Instead, CDE will release funds to districts, based on approval of activities in the Project SERV application. Like most federal funds, funds are to be drawn down on reimbursement basis.

How do these funds work in conjunction with a district's insurance and FEMA?

Project SERV funds may be used to reimburse for allowable activities after the district's insurance and FEMA have been applied to activities. SERV funds are the final level of funding that can be applied to activities related to disruption of the learning environment.

To whom may services be provided?

Services may be provided to students, teachers, and school staff, and to immediate family members of students, teachers, and staff. Services may be provided to individuals directly affected by the September, 2013 flood. Services may also be provided to those who are not directly injured or victimized but who are indirectly affected, for example, by attending or working in a school where a natural disaster has occurred.

NOTE: Counseling services for school staff may only be requested if those services are not covered by the insurance policy provided by the school district.

What is the last date for requesting funds?

The last date for releasing funds is April 30, 2014.

Can a district request funds for approved Project SERV activities prior to completion of the activity?

No. The request for funds is based on reimbursement of costs. If the district needs to request a partial amount to cover a portion of the activity that's already occurred, then this is allowable. For example, if the district anticipates greater transportation costs for the next 4 months, it could request funds on a monthly basis, as the costs are incurred.