

## USDE Emergency Grant Slated for Colorado's Flooded Districts

CDE received preliminary approval from USDE for a grant award of \$750,000 to administer the emergency grant program Project SERV. The funds will likely be block-granted to CDE which will set up the process for dispersing them to districts according to the grant requirements. CDE is establishing the grant process so impacted districts can begin the work of accessing those funds as soon as we get final approval from USDE.

Flood-impacted districts should begin thinking about these issues to shape their requests:

- How funds might be utilized to restore the learning environment for students; and
- Who in the district will be the point person for applying for the funds.

Meetings and/or webinars will be offered to assist districts with identifying the best use of the funds taking into account the different fund options including Project SERV, insurance and FEMA aid. Details will be sent to you once those are determined.

### What Project SERV covers

Project SERV funds are for short-term, education-related services for local educational agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to help recover from a violent or traumatic event in which the learning environment has been disrupted. For example, New Jersey recently received these funds for districts impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Project SERV will fund reasonable costs that are necessary and essential for services and activities to restore a sense of safety and security, help the victims/students stabilize their lives, and assist LEAs and IHEs in managing the practical problems created by the traumatic event. Project SERV funds can **supplement, not replace**, resources provided for these purposes by other federal, state, local and private agencies and organizations. Examples of allowable services and activities are:

- 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.

This list is not exhaustive. Other services may be eligible as long as they are not on the list of ineligible activities, and as long as they are in addition to costs the school district, non-public school, or charter school would have incurred in the absence of the September floods.

### For more information

More details on this grant will be forthcoming soon. If you have immediate questions, please contact Trish Boland, 303-866-6998 or [boland\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:boland_t@cde.state.co.us).