

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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Coronavirus Relief Funds for Schools

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to share information regarding funding for schools through the Governor's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) contained in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act").

On July 15, Governor Bullock announced \$75 million to schools for the purposes of reopening schools this fall. \$10 million will be set aside to assist schools with incremental transportation costs. The remaining \$65 million will be distributed on a per ANB basis to 155,294 budgeted ANB. This is approximately \$418.50 per budgeted ANB.

CARES Act

The CARES Act provides that payments from the CRF may only be used to cover costs that:

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and
2. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

Application and Deadlines

The application is available on Friday, July 24, 2020 at <https://www.covidreliefmt.org/submit>.

Applications submitted by July 31 will receive funding August 7.

Applications submitted by August 14 will receive funding August 21.

There are only two deadlines and two payments.

Reporting

Per the federal government guidelines, the state of Montana must report quarterly any Coronavirus Relief Funds that have been allocated. Schools will be asked to report any funding that has been expended and what the funding was used for, keeping in mind only COVID-related expenditures are allowed (see below).

We recommend that schools use the CRF funds prior to any other funding, as CRF funds must be expended by December 30, 2020. A final report of expenditures will be due January 15, 2021. Funds that are not expended will be returned to the federal government through the state of Montana.

Allowable Expenses

Expenses must be specifically related to adjusting, adapting, and providing accommodations for students, parents, educators, and schools and their learning environment due to the needs generated by COVID 19.

1. Public Health Expenses Such As:
 - Expenses for communication by education officials to students, families, staff, and other related parties about public health orders related to COVID-19.
 - Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Expenses for disinfection of public areas in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
 - Expenses for quarantining individuals.
2. Additional Expenses Such As:
 - Expenses for providing nutritional programs to students in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Expenses to improve remote learning for students and staff required due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
 - Expenses required due to COVID 19 to provide instructional materials to students which can include items such as internet services.
 - Expenses for providing instructional materials, supplies, and software licenses necessary due to COVID 19.
 - Expenses for providing technological equipment purchased by the school district and loaned to students and staff without such equipment to accommodate COVID 19.
 - Expenses to improve services to students with an IEP in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Expenses for staff and personnel in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Expenses related to modifications to satisfy social distancing requirements related to COVID 19.
 - Other expenses specifically documented and necessary related to COVID 19.

**Questions? Please reach out to McCall Flynn, Governor's Education Policy Advisor,
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