

U.S. Department of Education Approves First Seven State Plans for Use of American Rescue Plan Funds to Support K-12 Schools and Students, Distributes an Additional \$6 Billion in Funds to Approved States

Today, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced the approval of seven American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) state plans and distributed remaining ARP ESSER funds to those states.

Earlier this year, the Department distributed two thirds of the ARP ESSER funds, totaling \$81 billion, to 50 states and the District of Columbia. The remaining third of the funding to states is being made available once their plans are approved.

"It is heartening to see, reflected in these state plans, the ways in which states and Washington, D. C., are planning to use American Rescue Plan funds to continue to provide critical support to schools and communities, particularly as we move into the summer and look ahead to the upcoming academic year," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.

Highlights of how states plan to use ARP ESSER funds include:

Arkansas has developed an Arkansas Tutoring Corps that will create a system to recruit, prepare, and support candidates to become qualified tutors who provide instruction or intervention for students to meet academic needs of at-risk learners, or students most impacted by lost instructional time.

Washington, D.C.'s Out of School Time grants, funded by ARP ESSER funds, will enable

community-based organizations to provide summer learning programs to students, designed to improve academic performance through evidence-based interventions.

Texas plans to use ARP ESSER funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time for Texas students, and plans to offer high-dosage tutoring, high-quality instructional materials, and job-embedded professional learning to help address the academic impact of lost instructional time.

In South Dakota, the state education agency will use ARP ESSER funding to focus on strategies designed to engage and re-engage students that may have missed out on instruction and educational opportunities over the last year.

With a portion of ARP ESSER funds, Massachusetts will help schools fund Acceleration Academies this summer (2021), which will allow students to learn and build skills working intensively on one subject in small, hands-on learning environments with excellent teachers.

Utah will award ARP ESSER funds for evidence-based summer learning and afterschool programming through a competitive grant process to both districts and community-based organizations which will support students' academic and social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Rhode Island will significantly expand summer learning options statewide through its All-Course Network platform, which provides free instruction to students on topics ranging from AP classes to animation courses.

The following remaining ARP ESSER funds will be distributed today to the seven states and territories with the approval of the state plans:

- Massachusetts: \$611,331,608
Rhode Island: \$138,468,766
Texas: \$4,148,464,081
South Dakota: \$127,339,745
Utah: \$205,578,303
Washington, D.C.: \$128,932,230
Arkansas: \$418,634,738

A total of 40 states have submitted their ARP ESSER state plans to the Department. The Department is reviewing the plans expeditiously and is in contact with states to ensure their plans meet all necessary requirements in order to access the remaining funds, as outlined in the ARP.

Distribution of ARP ESSER funds is part of the Department's broader effort to support students and districts as they work to reengage students impacted by the pandemic, address inequities exacerbated by COVID-19, and build our education system back better than before.

schools and meet the needs of all students, the Biden-Harris Administration also has:

Released three volumes of the COVID-19 Handbook.

Held a National Safe School Reopening Summit.

Prioritized the vaccination of educators, school staff, and childcare workers. As of the end of May, an estimated 84% of teachers and school staff were fully vaccinated.

Provided \$10 billion in funding for COVID-19 testing for PreK-12 educators, staff, and students.

Launched a series of Equity Summits focused on addressing inequities that existed before but were made worse by the pandemic.

Released a report on the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on underserved communities. Devel-

oped a Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse elevating hundreds of best practices to support schools' efforts to reopen safely and address the impacts of COVID-19 on students, educators, and communities.

In addition to the actions the Biden Administration has taken to reopen schools, the President has proposed critical investments through his Build Back Better Agenda that will enable schools to rebuild stronger than they were before the pandemic, such as investing billions to build a diverse educator workforce, expand access to pre-K to all families, and invest in school infrastructure, among other provisions.



Governor DeWine Awards Recovery Ohio Grants to Local Drug Task Forces

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) - Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today that more than two dozen local drug task forces in Ohio will receive RecoveryOhio grant funding to support efforts that disrupt the drug trade and promote substance use awareness, prevention, and recovery.

A total of \$2 million in grants from Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will be awarded among 27 existing drug task forces to intensify their efforts to identify high-level drug traffickers, dismantle large drug trafficking organizations, interrupt the flow of money and drugs from Mexican cartels, and prevent the sale of illegal narcotics to those suffering from substance use disorder.

Grant funding will also be used to support the mission of Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative which aims to increase substance use and mental health awareness, implement age-appropriate prevention education in schools, connect those who need help with treatment, and promote recovery.

Fund grants include:

- \* Central Ohio Drug Enforcement Task Force (\$35,859.30) in Licking, Coshocton, Knox, Guernsey, Muskingum, and Perry counties will use funds to reduce the availability of illegal narcotics in the six-county region and to provide professional training and information-sharing opportunities for the task force and community partners in addiction and recovery.
\* Hamilton County Heroin Task Force (\$230,577.81) will use funds to expand services offered by its Quick Response Team (QRT) of social workers and counselors to include overdose hotspot outreach partnerships and programs with social service agencies.
\* Lawrence Drug & Major Crimes Task Force (\$60,568.94) will use funds to increase efforts in drug prevention and education as well as treatment for substance abuse disorders.
\* Multi-Area Narcotics (MAN) Unit (\$18,371.25) in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties will use funds to provide training by MAN Unit officers for area law enforcement, schools, county workers, retail personnel, community administrators, and public agencies for awareness of local drug trends, heroin abuse, and overdose and meth components.
\* Westshore Enforcement Bureau (\$42,981.62) in Cuyahoga County will use funds to support the retention of a youth prevention specialist and continue annual contracts with two separate prevention/education agencies that provide training throughout the school year on subjects such as leadership, anti-bullying, suicide, and drug addiction prevention.

Table with 3 columns: Task Force, Grant Amount, Counties Served. Includes 27 entries for various drug task forces across Ohio.

"Local drug task forces are the first line of defense against the traffickers who are putting drugs into the hands of those battling addiction," said Governor DeWine. "This funding will provide vital tools in the area of drug use prevention, education, and treatment that will promote effective strategies to reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders and overdoses."

Examples of programs that will be created or expanded with RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement

Governor DeWine established the RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund to provide existing drug task forces with additional resources to intercept illegal drugs and enhance their role in substance use awareness, prevention, and recovery. Funding for these grants was awarded as part of the biennium budget approved by the Ohio General Assembly for 2020-2021.

A full list of award recipients can be found at www.governor.ohio.gov.

The program is being administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.



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