



Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)

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CARES ACT / CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) OVERVIEW

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RELIEF

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed on March 27th, provides over \$2 trillion in federal economic relief to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserves jobs for American industries.

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF)

Section 5001 of the CARES Act established the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), providing payments to State, Local, and Tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. The CARES Act sets criteria that expenses must meet to be eligible for CRF funding.

Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)

The CARES Act specifies that payments can be made from the CRF for:

- Expenditures must be a necessary result of the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Costs must not be accounted for in the current biennial budget
- Funds must be expended by December 30, 2020

The CRF cannot be used to fill behind lost revenues or pay for expenditures that will be reimbursed under another federal program.

Goals for a Safe Return to School

1. Prioritize the safety of students and staff
2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners and those with most need
3. Recognize differences in potential spread among different ages
4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts
5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local level

Health Requirements & Best Practices

- Social distancing of 6 feet (as much space as possible for all in-person, **required** in hybrid model)
- Masking policy (required)
- Cohosting(recommended to the extent feasible)
- PPE for direct support student services (required)
- Build routines of hygiene education & practices (required)
- Ventilation system improvements
- Daily cleaning and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day (required)
- Building level COVID-19 program coordinator (required), with optional student counterpart
- Limiting nonessential visitors/volunteers/external groups (required)
- Discontinue large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing (required)
- Daily health monitoring & adherence to exclusion policy (required)

Total CRF Funding Requested for Schools

Total Request - \$256 Million

- Addressing Operating Costs and Supporting Student, Family, and Educator Needs - \$244.8 Million
- Supplies for Schools; Flexibility for Critical Care Supplies - \$5.2 Million
- Educator and School Staff Saliva Testing - \$6 Million

Face Coverings for Every Student, Educator, and School Staff

- All students, staff, and others present in school buildings and districts offices or riding on school transportation vehicles are required to wear face coverings.
- Cross agency effort to procure the following supplies to all Minnesota school districts and charter schools:
 - Every K-12 student will receive one cloth face mask
 - Every educator and school staff will receive one cloth face mask
 - Every school will receive three disposable face masks per student
 - Every school will receive face shields for every licensed teacher and 50% of non-licensed staff

Testing Educators and School Staff

- Home test available for every educator and school staff this fall at no cost
- MDH Guidance prioritizing testing for educators and school staff by health providers exposed to COVID-19
- Coordination and support for events due to any school exposure, including state implementation of larger events

Department of Education CRF Request

\$244.8 million in additional funding from Coronavirus Relief Funds

- Operational Costs
- Supporting Student, Family, and Educator Needs
- Administration

* Funds are available from July 1st through December 30th.

Operational costs associated with the learning model chosen –regardless of in-person, hybrid or distance learning including but not limited to:

- Daily cleaning supplies and disinfectant sprayers.
- Screening supplies including no-touch thermometers.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings.
- Increased costs for transporting students at limited capacity.

Supporting Student, Family, and Educator Needs

Boost student, family, educator support, prioritizing equity. Funds can be used for (not limited to):

- Digital navigators: training for educators, students, or families on use of technology/digital literacy.
- Technology devices and internet access.
- Tutors or mentors to address learning loss: supporting whole school, small group, and individual needs.
- Translation services.
- School-age care for essential workers.
- Professional development focused on: Academic Response to Intervention (RtI); Social Emotional Learning; competency-based learning; diversity, equity, and inclusion; anti-bias practices.

Digital Navigators are people who support individuals and families to connect to an adequate, affordable, sustainable Internet service so that all learners have access to education opportunities and resources by:

- Identifying barriers and providing ongoing support in the specific context of local conditions,
- Being part of a network that receives specific training and developmental support,
- Helping families communicate in their first language with service providers, schools and additional community services,
- Supporting K-12 learning, including digital literacy and online safety

MDE Administrative costs include \$300,000 for:

- Staff time to set up, review, monitor, and report on the use of these funds
- Support the SERVS application, which is used by the schools to draw and manage their funds.
- Fund staff to assist school districts with digital navigator support

Funds will be allocated to the schools based on the following:

1. 60% for operational cost –100% based on Average Daily Membership (ADM)
2. 40% for supporting student, family, and educator needs
 - 40% based on ADM
 - 60% based on number of historically underserved population served by each school or school district

* Funds may be spent in any amounts in either of the two categories.

School Application Process - Timeline

1. Funds are available July 1st through December 30th.
 - MDE will be proactive in monitoring balances so as to ensure we spend all funds available to us.
2. CRF proposal was submitted to the LAC on August 4th.
3. SERVS application loaded with CRF allocations – est. August 21st.
4. Applications and budget must be submitted by end of day October 1st.
 - funds not obligated through an application/budget will be swept for re-allocation on October 2nd.
5. November 13th all schools who have not drawn at least 75% of their funds will be contacted and asked to provide an updated estimate of how much they think they can realistically spend by December 30th.
 - Funds will be re-allocated based on historically underserved populations served.
6. Reporting will need to be done at some point before normal UFARS reporting

School Application

1. Application will be similar to the GEERS application and process.
2. Application will include:
 - LEA identification and contact information.
 - Plan creation narrative.
 - Steps to promote equal access and equity in experience.
 - Check boxes for broad categories of intended uses.
 - Statement of Assurances
3. Submit separate budget spreadsheet.
4. Application will not require a nonpublic participation.

UFARS CODES

154	Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)	01	001-999	030 Inst'l Administration 120 Cooperative Purchasing 200-203, 211 General Education 620-640 Instructional Support 710-740, 790 Pupil Support	140-146, 154-155, 163-164, 170, 175, 185-186, 199, 210-251, 270, 299, 303-304, 320, 366, 556, 820
154	Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)	04	001-999	570-584 Community Education 590 Community Education	120, 140-146, 154-155, 163-164, 170, 175, 185-186, 199, 210-251, 270, 299, 303-304, 320, 366, 556, 820
154	Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)	01	001-999	030 Inst'l Administration 108 Administrative Technology 620-630 Inst'l Support	163-164, 199, 210-251, 270, 299, 303-304, 315-316, 319-320, 330, 350, 355-358, 370, 380, 405-406, 455-456, 465-466, 505-506, 530, 580, 581, 590
154	Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)	01	001-999	760 Transportation	170, 186, 199, 210-251, 270, 299, 303-304, 320, 329, 360, 364-365, 401, 440
154	Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)	01	001-999	810 Operations and Maintenance	170, 186, 199, 210-251, 270, 299, 303-304, 401, 430-433, 530, 555-556
154	Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)	04	001-999	570 School Age Care 590 Other Community Programs	141, 144, 170, 186, 199, 210-251, 270, 299, 303-304, 401, 430, 433

Final CRF Funding Comment

Many of the identified uses for this new CRF money are also eligible uses for the ESSER money that has already been allocated. Wherever possible, use your CRF funds first.

Questions?

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Thank you!

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