Elementary and Secondary Relief – Digital Equity Grant

Equity ● Quality ● Collaboration ● Community
Agenda

• NOFO/RFP Overview
• Application Process
• Next Steps

Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community
Presenters

Erich Grauke
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Curriculum and Instruction Department
Illinois State Board of Education
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Executive Director
Learning Technology Center of Illinois (LTC)
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NOFO/RFP OVERVIEW
Purpose

• The purpose of the Elementary and Secondary Relief – Digital Equity RFP is to assist school districts in closing the Digital Divide and enabling digital-age teaching and learning. School districts may use funds to provide students with technology tools and home internet access necessary for technology-rich remote learning experiences.
Program Description

• Equitable access to technology devices and internet connectivity is one of the foundational components upon which today’s schools create enhanced and empowered digital learning experiences. In order for digital learning opportunities to continue beyond the school, especially in the event of e-learning or remote learning, students must have access to technology and reliable internet access at home.

• The Elementary and Secondary Relief – Digital Equity RFP is a one-time grant opportunity that utilizes Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to assist districts in reducing barriers to the continuity of education by addressing the technology and home connectivity needs.
Program Description

• Grant funds will be awarded based on the criteria as identified in the grant application. Grant application questions will assess device needs, the availability of home access for students, and the way in which additional funds will complement the district’s existing technology plan. In addition, the application will ask districts how they are supporting all students, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities, English Learners, and students from low-income families.

• Applicants can request funding for computing devices, home internet connection devices, or both. Applicants applying for only one of the two funding priorities should provide evidence via the technology survey and in the narrative section of the application that all students have equitable access to devices or internet connectivity – whichever one for which the applicant is NOT applying for funding.

• As part of the application process, applicants must complete the Illinois School District Technology Survey prior to the submission of the application.
CARES and GEER

• The CARES Act required that at least 90% of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund flow to local educational agencies, with no more than 10% reserved for state education agencies.

• Congress set aside approximately $3 billion of the $30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). The Department will award these grants to States (governor’s offices) based on a formula stipulated in the legislation.
Eligibility

• Illinois Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEA’s and have an EBF Final Percent of Adequacy level of 70% or lower are eligible to apply.
  – EBF data using the Full FY 20 EBF Calculation at https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ebfdistribution.aspx

• Eligible entities have received an IWAS broadcast and will see the grant by selecting System Listing in IWAS
APPLICATION PROCESS
Grant Application

• Online application accessible via IWAS
# Elementary and Secondary Relief - Digital Equity RFP

**Overview**

The application has been submitted. No more updates will be saved for the application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program:</strong> Elementary and Secondary Relief - Digital Equity Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)/Request for Proposals (RFP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> The purpose of the Elementary and Secondary Relief - Digital Equity NOFO/RFP is to assist school districts in closing the digital divide and enabling digital-age teaching and learning. School districts may use funds to provide students with technology tools and home internet access necessary for technology-rich remote learning experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> For the purposes of this NOFO/RFP, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) defines “digital equity” as the condition in which students have the technology capacity needed for full participation in educational opportunities.</td>
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<td><strong>Program Type:</strong> Federal Competitive Grant</td>
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<td><strong>CSFA Number:</strong> 568-42-2427</td>
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<td><strong>CFDA Number:</strong> 84.425D</td>
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<td><strong>CFDA Name:</strong> Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eligible Applicants:</strong> Illinois Local Education Agencies (including state-authorized charter schools, university lab schools, Regional Offices of Education on behalf of qualifying safe schools and alternative programs) with an Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Final Percent of Adequacy level of 70% or lower are eligible to apply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GATA Award Requirements:</strong> The State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requires applicants to complete pre-award requirements before receiving an award for a FY 2021 grant. This includes completion of the Grantee Registration and Pre-qualification process through the Illinois GATA Web Portal at the link below. Grant applications must be submitted by the deadline indicated in the NOFO/RFP.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grant and Bradstreet Number:</strong> Universial Numbering System (DNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grant System:</strong> (a) Provide a valid DNS number in its application: <a href="https://fedreg.dhs.gov/webform">https://fedreg.dhs.gov/webform</a> and (b) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal, federal pass-through, or state award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal or state awarding agency. ISBE may not consider an application for a federal pass-through or state award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DNS and SAM requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Merit-Based Process for Competitive Grants:</strong> ISBE is required to design and execute a merit-based review and selection process for applications. This process is incorporated by reference in all applicable funding opportunities. Applicants are advised to refer to the full text of the ISBE merit-based review policy, which can be found at <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Documents/merit-based-review-policy.pdf">https://www.isbe.net/Documents/merit-based-review-policy.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Award/Cost Sharing or Matching:</strong> The Elementary and Secondary Relief - Digital Equity NOFO/RFP may have up to a total of $80,092,677 in FY 2021 to assist applicants in purchasing technology devices and/or home connectivity as part of the applicants’ plan to close the digital divide and enable digital-age teaching and learning. There is no cost sharing or match requirement. Additional funding information can be found on the Funding Information tab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Period:</strong> The grant period will begin no sooner than August 14, 2020, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2021. No promise or undertaking made in this NOFO/RFP is an assurance that a grant agreement will be renewed, nor does this NOFO/RFP create any right to or expectation of renewal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Program Pre-Submission Requirements:</strong> Applicants must complete the Illinois School District Technology Survey (available at the link below). All surveys will be evaluated by the Learning Technology Center (LTC), and all surveys responses must be approved by the LTC prior to submitting the grant application.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pre-Submission Requirement

• Applicants must complete the Illinois School District Technology Survey at https://ltcillinois.tfaforms.net/7 prior to the submission of the grant application

• Survey must be submitted by August 1
Survey

• LTC?
Funding Information

• $80,092,677 is available
  – $65,452,770 for devices
  – $14,639,907 for connectivity

• Funding is subject to maximum award amount

• Districts can apply for funds for devices, connectivity, or both
  – Districts applying for only one funding category will need to provide information about district capacity of the other funding category
Funding Calculations

• For Devices:
  – Base of $20,000 PLUS
    • $35 for each student enrolled
  – A District of 1000 students would have a maximum budget of $55,000
    • $20,000 + (35 x 1000) = $55,000

• For Connectivity:
  – Base of $5200 PLUS
    • $10 for each student enrolled
  – A District of 1000 students would have a maximum budget of $15,200
    • $5200 + (10 x 1000) = $15,200
Review Criteria

• The selection of the grantees will be based upon the overall quality of the application.
• The scoring for each criterion is based upon the following criteria:
  – Need is defined as the identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose;
  – Capacity is defined as the ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the project requirements;
  – Quality is defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program;
  – Scope is defined as the relationship of the proposal to the purpose of the program and its goals.
• 5 to 25 priority points given based on district’s Final Percent of Adequacy.
• Proposals that score under 60 points will not be funded.
• In the event of a tie, the district with the higher proportion of low income students as indicated on the FY 2020 Full EBF Calculation spreadsheet will be given priority.
Review Criteria

The application has been submitted. No more updates will be saved for the application.

Criteria for Review and Approval of Proposals

Review and Selection Process:
The selection of the grantee will be based upon the overall quality of the application.
The scoring for each criterion is based upon the following criteria:
* Need is defined as the identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose.
* Capacity is defined as the ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the project requirements.
* Quality is defined as the totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicate its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program.
* Impact is defined as the relationship of the proposal to the purpose of the program and its goals.

Proposals that score under 60 points will not be funded.

In the event of a tie, the district with the higher proportion of low income students as indicated on the FY 2020 Full EBF Calculation spreadsheet will be given priority.

Click here to access spreadsheet

Criteria:
These overall criteria are built into the criteria below. The points for each criterion section are in parentheses.
Following the notification of grant awards, an applicant may request copies of reviewer scores and comments by contacting Erin Grauke at erin.grauke@illinois.gov

Priority points will be issued based on an applicant’s Final Percent of Adequacy as indicated on the FY20 EBF Calculation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Level</th>
<th>Very Limited</th>
<th>Somewhat Limited</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional resources have been provided to determine Adequacy Level at 70% or greater.

Adequacy Level is clear and district has been indicated as EBF Adequacy Level at 50%-70%.
Adequacy Level is clear and district has been indicated as EBF Adequacy Level at 65-69%
Adequacy Level is clear and district has been indicated as EBF Adequacy Level at 61-64%
Adequacy Level is clear and district has been indicated as EBF Adequacy Level at or below 60%

Section 1: The school district has a strong financial need. (25 points)
The proposal includes an EBF Final Percent of Adequacy Level that indicates a high need.

Response for narrative sections 2 through 5 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Requirement</th>
<th>Not Provided</th>
<th>Very Limited</th>
<th>Somewhat Limited</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Response provides very few details to meet the criteria requirement.
Response is unclear and lacks evidence to meet the criteria requirement.
Response provides moderate detail and conveys potential to meet the criteria requirement.
Response provides good detail and strong evidence to meet the criteria requirement.
Response exceeds expectations and provides a solid plan to meet project outcomes.
# Review Criteria

**Section 2: The school district has demonstrated an educational and equity need for the proposed projects and/or resources. (25 points)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

The proposal describes the status of the applicant’s ability to provide computing devices for digital remote learning and demonstrates a high educational need for additional computing devices. An applicant applying for only Internet connectivity must describe and provide evidence that all students have equitable access to computing devices to allow for full participation in any remote learning activities.

The proposal describes the status of the applicant’s ability to provide home connectivity options for digital remote learning and demonstrates a high educational need for additional connectivity options. An applicant applying for only computing devices must describe and provide evidence that all students have an internet connection from home with sufficient capacity to enable participation in all remote learning activities.

The proposal includes a clear indication of how grant funds will address digital equity issues and support remote digital learning. The proposal should include the number of computing devices and home connectivity technology that will be purchased, and the number of students who will be impacted.

The proposal describes how the applicant will coordinate activities funded through this grant with technology-related projects supported from other federal, state, or local funding sources in addressing the digital divide in the school district/community.

The proposal demonstrates that devices and/or home connectivity will benefit high-need students, including, but not limited to, students with disabilities, English Learners, and students from low-income families. Applicants applying for only computing devices or only Internet connectivity must describe and provide evidence that students with disabilities, ELs, and students from low-income families have equitable access to devices or Internet connectivity – whichever one for which the applicant is NOT applying for funding.

**Section 3: There is a clearly expressed relationship between the proposed projects and/or resources and the district’s educational goals, school improvement plan, or local technology plans. (20 points)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The proposal describes how devices and home connectivity obtained from the grant are consistent and/or compatible with existing technology and infrastructure.

The proposal states time-specific objectives and activities that are realistic and include all major activities needed to implement the projects and/or resources.

The proposal describes how the projects and/or resources compliment, align, or enhance the district’s plan for the user of technology and its integration into the curriculum.

The proposal description includes a design for overall evaluations that will use data to allow the projects to develop successfully and to drive refinements and improvements.

**Section 4: Receipt of funding under this program will contribute to the accomplishment of the district’s long-term plans for digital remote learning and technology. (15 points)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</table>

Budget allocations indicate a cost-effective use of funds related to and consistent with the overall goals, objectives, and activities of the proposed projects and/or resources.

The proposal indicates a clear plan for purchasing, implementing, and supporting devices and/or home connectivity devices.

The proposal describes how activities will continue after the end of the grant period, including the districts’ plan to support and finance the ongoing maintenance, support, and replacement of technology beyond the life of the grant.

**Section 5: Staff and/or outside entities chosen to be involved with the project were chosen in a manner congruent with the district’s educational goals, school improvement plan, or local technology plans. (15 points)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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</table>

A description of all staff and outside contractors involved in the proposed activities was provided.

Evidence of the staff and/or outside contractor’s prior delivery of quality outcomes on similar activities or a detailed description of expertise that will lead to the successful outcomes of activities was provided.

The proposal indicates how the district will leverage existing statewide initiatives, including the Learning Technology Center, to meet needs related to professional learning, technology services, technical support, and cooperative purchasing.
Program Specific Items - Abstract

Abstract

When completing this page, do not use special formatting created from Word, such as numbered or bulleted lists, charts, graphs, etc. Do not use special characters, such as single or double quotes, ampersand symbol, etc.

Provide a brief overview of the nature of the planned program and services to be provided.*

(180 of 1500 maximum characters used)
Please note that you must describe how devices and/or connectivity requested will benefit high-need students.
Program Specific Items - Activities and Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>General Information</th>
<th>Applicant Information</th>
<th>Amendments</th>
<th>PEATA</th>
<th>Program Specific</th>
<th>Budget Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Needs Assessment</td>
<td>Goals and Plans</td>
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<td>Activities and Evaluation</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activities and Evaluations**

*When completing this page, do not use special formatting copy/pasted from Word, such as numbered or bulleted lists, charts, graphs, etc. Do not use special characters. Provide all the requested details for each activity to be funded by this grant. At least one activity must be included.* Up to five (5) activities may be included.

**Activity 1**

1. ____________________
   - Activity Begin Date™
   - Activity End Date™
   - Provide the general timeline for activities, including key milestones with dates.™

2. ____________________
   - Position(s)/person(s) responsible to carrying out activities.™

3. ____________________
   - Technology purchase plan, including potential vendors and timelines.™

4. __________
   - Indicate the intended recipient(s) of the technology. Check all that apply.™
   - Students
   - Teachers
   - Parents/caregivers
   - Other #1 - Specify
   - Other #2 - Specify
   - Other #3 - Specify

5. ____________________
   - Provide the anticipated number of devices or cellular Wi-Fi hotspots to be provided, as applicable.™
   - Number of devices
   - Number of Wi-Fi hotspots

6. ____________________
   - Describe the evaluation measures and process for this particular program component.™
Program Specific Items - Staffing

Staffing - Employees and Contractors

Describe how staff and/or outside entities chosen to be involved with the project were chosen in a manner congruent with the district’s educational goals, School Improvement Plan, or local technology plans. Include the following information:

- A description of all staff and outside contractors involved in the proposed activities."

- Evidence of the staff and/or outside contractor’s prior delivery of quality outcomes on similar activities or a detailed description of expertise that will lead to the successful outcomes of activities."

- A description of how the district will leverage existing statewide initiatives, including the Learning Technology Center, to meet needs related to professional learning, technology services, technical support, and cooperative purchasing."

*Required field
Program Specific Items – Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Plan

When completing this page, do not use special formatting created from Word, such as numbered or bulleted lists, charts, graphs, etc. Do not use special characters, such as single or double quotes, ampersand symbol, etc.

Describe the overall evaluation plan, including:

- How data will be collected,
- How the data will be monitored and evaluated,
- How the plan will be adjusted as needed to ensure successful completion of the overall plan, and
- How results will be reported.
Program Specific Items – Funding Calculator

Funding Calculator

**CONNECTIVITY Award Calculation:**
Enter the requested information in the white cells below and click on the Save Page button to calculate your Connectivity maximum award request.

- **165** Enter the number of students enrolled
- **1650** Number of students x $10 each
- **5200** Base award per awardee = $5,200
- **6850** Maximum amount to request for Connectivity

For example, a district with a student enrollment of 3,000 students would have an available budget of $5,200 plus $30,000 (3,000x10) = $35,200

**DEVICE Award Calculation:**
Enter the requested information in the blank cells below and click on the Save Page button to calculate your Devices maximum award request.

- **165** Enter the number of students enrolled
- **5775** Number of students x $35 each
- **20000** Base award per awardee = $20,000
- **25775** Maximum amount to request for Devices

A. **Maximum Award (Connectivity + Device)**

- **32625** Maximum Total Funds Available

This page will allow you to calculate your maximum award amounts.
Appropriate consultation with nonpublic schools must occur and be documented if the district has students in nonpublic schools.
# Budget

Itemize and explain each expenditure amount that appears on the Budget Summary. Provide a complete breakdown of eligible employee benefits. Federal Funds: Please review the Instructions link for details that apply to your specific grant regarding teacher's retirement. Contact your program consultant with any additional questions you may have regarding TRS contributions. Click on the “Create Additional Entries” button to enter additional information.

## Description of Function Codes and Object Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function Code</th>
<th>Object Code</th>
<th>Exclude from MTDC**</th>
<th>Expenditure Description and Itemization</th>
<th>DlgEq4098-DT Funds</th>
<th>Delete Row</th>
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## Budget Breakdown

- Total Direct Costs: $0
- Less Functions 2530 and 4000, Capital Outlay Costs: $0
- Modified Total Direct Costs: $0
- Indirect Cost Rate: 0.0%
- Maximum Indirect Cost: 0

## Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Allotment</th>
<th>0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total Allotment Remaining</td>
<td>$30500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assurance Pages

• Be sure to read terms on each page and check the boxes indicating that you have read, understand, and will comply.
Next Steps

• Complete the LTC Technology Inventory Survey
  – This is due by August 1

• Complete the grant application in IWAS
  – Due by 4pm on Friday, August 14

• FAQ questions and responses will be posted to https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educational-Technology.aspx
Questions

Equity ● Quality ● Collaboration ● Community