

Federal COVID-related Grant Funding

A major factor in school finance over the past two years has been the influx of federal grant funds distributed through the state Department of Education to individual school districts. Over \$5.8M in multiple grants have been used in Scarborough to mitigate the extra costs and resources needed to keep schools open under pandemic conditions, and to protect the health and safety of our students, staff and community. The availability of these grant funds has allowed us to reduce the anticipated burden on local taxpayers while remaining on a solid financial footing.

On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was signed into law, providing emergency federal funds to states for the purpose of addressing COVID-19 related impacts to education. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) was made available to state education departments through the US Department of Education, and funding was allocated to local districts according to the Title IA funding formula under existing statute. Scarborough's ESSER I allocation was **\$106,145**, a relatively small amount due to the way the Title IA formula distributes the most funding to the neediest districts. School leaders developed a plan to use these funds to support supplemental staff positions for the 2020-21 school year.

On July 17, 2020, Governor Mills announced the distribution of a new round of federal funding to schools, through the state's **Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)**. School districts across the state were provided an allocation from this fund based on criteria developed by the Department of Education's finance office, using student enrollment as the primary determining factor rather than economic status. Benefitting from this new funding model, Scarborough's first CRF allocation was **\$2,120,670**. Our first CRF grant application was submitted to the Department of Education on August 26, 2020. The timeline for expenditure was extremely short: funds had to be committed by September 30, 2020, and had to be expended and items or services purchased in use by December 30, 2020. Small grants were also provided separately for Adult Education and Child Care services.

In mid-September of 2020, Governor Mills announced an additional \$164 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds to support Maine schools. Allocation of **CRF#2** funds was announced on September 20, 2020, with an application deadline of October 15, 2020. The restrictions and timeline for CRF#2 funds were the same as those for CRF#1. Scarborough's CRF#2 allocation was **\$2,216,442**. In January 2021, the expenditure deadline for both CRF grants was extended to June 30, 2021, allowing school districts additional time to thoughtfully manage the use of this funding.

A second round of Federal ESSERF grant funds (**ESSER II**) was allocated to school districts in January 2021 and made available for expenditures through September 30, 2023. Scarborough's ESSER II grant was **\$438,893**, which is being used in FY22 for supplemental staff positions to support school reopening and student transitions.

Finally, the **American Rescue Plan (ARP)** was passed in March of 2021, sending another round of grants (**ESSER 3**) to Maine schools, with funds available for use through September 30, 2024. This grant was targeted specifically toward addressing the academic impacts of lost instructional time as well as providing support and interventions for the social, emotional and mental health of students. Scarborough's ESSER 3 allocation was **\$985,994**, which is being used to fund supplemental teaching staff, specialists, software, and summer programs for both FY22 and FY23. ARP also provided additional targeted funding for Special Education, providing Scarborough with **\$165,254** in K-12 and **\$19,251** in pre-K grant funds.

FY23 Budget Proposal - Executive Summary

FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS SUMMARY

Date authorized	Amount	Funding period	Scarborough expense period	Used for:
ESSER I				
3/27/2020	\$106,145	03/13/2020 to 09/30/2022	01/01/2021 to 09/01/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental substitute wages & benefits Staffing & health services for summer 2021 programs
Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) #1 <u>CRF#1 expense detail</u>				
7/17/2020	\$2,120,670	03/01/2020 to 12/30/2020, extended to 06/30/2021	07/01/2020 to 05/07/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay for supplemental substitutes & extra hours for instructional staff Professional development & modification of instructional resources Instructional supplies & materials for hybrid and distance learning Tech devices, equipment & software to support remote & hybrid learning Five 8-passenger vans Facilities modifications: health clinics, HVAC, furnishings, outdoor learning spaces Safety protocol signage & storage Sanitizing supplies & equipment and PPE Equipment, software & supplies for remote ordering and "to go" school meal service
Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) #2 <u>CRF #2 expense detail</u>				
9/20/2020	\$2,216,442	03/01/2020 to 12/30/2020, extended to 06/30/2021	11/02/2020 to 06/30/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay for supplemental substitutes (continued from CRF #1) Classroom audio equipment to improve sound quality (hybrid & masks) Supplemental desks, tables & rolling barriers Outdoor shelters, furnishings & equipment Convert water fountains to bottle filling stations Floor scrubbers, vacuums & carpet cleaners Construct facilities garage to move stored equipment out of instructional space HVAC system review & maintenance Room air purifiers for all learning spaces
CRF Day Programming				
9/17/2020	\$59,160	03/01/2020 to 12/30/2020, extended to 06/30/2021	09/26/2020 to 02/22/2021	Support establishment of Community Services HUB program (staff, supplies, equipment) for students in hybrid learning model
CRF Adult Education				
9/14/2020	\$8,575	03/01/2020 to 12/30/2020, extended to 06/30/2021	10/07/2020 to 12/29/2020	Purchase of tech devices & peripherals to support remote instruction

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ESSER II				
1/21/2021	\$438,893	03/13/2020 to 09/30/2023	09/01/2021 to 09/30/2022	5 one-year teacher positions (salaries & benefits) to allow smaller class sizes and increased student transition support
ESSER III/ARP ESSER				
3/19/2021	\$985,994	03/13/2020 to 09/30/2024	06/14/2021 to 09/30/2023	FY22: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 classroom teachers (WS) • Quarantine transition specialists (WS) • Credit recovery specialist (HS) • Summer academies July – August 2021 • Assessment & instructional software • Tech specialist & equipment • SEL Professional Development FY23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 classroom teachers (MS) • 2 classroom teachers (WS) • Guidance Counselor (K-2) • Summer academies July – August 2022
ARP IDEA K-12 (Special Services)				
07/01/2021	\$165,254	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2023	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2023	Certified Orton-Gillingham specialist for specialized reading instruction
ARP IDEA Pre-K (Special Services)				
07/01/2021	\$19,251	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2023	07/01/2021 to 06/30/2023	Supplemental one-to-one ed tech for incoming K student

Federal Grant distribution

