CRF Operation Connectivity
Local Match Reimbursement
Program for LEAs

Cory Green, Associate Commissioner
Department of Grant Compliance and Administration
Texas Education Agency

© 2020, Texas Education Agency. All Rights Reserved.
This presentation is intended solely to provide general information and guidance to Texas LEAs, ESCs, and participating Private Schools and reflects the Texas Education Agency’s current understanding of the CARES Act and applicable federal guidance. The content of this presentation is subject to change as a result of further potential information and guidance provided by federal agencies with regulatory oversight of CARES Act programs. This presentation does not constitute legal advice, and LEAs are, therefore, advised to seek legal counsel regarding the information and guidance provided in this presentation before acting on such information and guidance.
Overview of CARES Act, Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF)
Bulk-order Local Match Reimbursement Program
Application/Reimbursement Process
Reimbursement Monitoring
Detailed Training end of August before Application Opens
CARES Act Stimulus Funding

Third stimulus bill
Many different sources of funding
Several fund sources that may impact LEAs
CARES Act, CRF Funding

- Section 5001, Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) – this funding is administered by the Governor’s Office and is designated for state, high population county and city government uses.

- Governor and legislative leadership have approved an amount of the state’s portion of the CRF for K-12 education.
CRF for Education

- reimbursing school systems for COVID-19 expenses as of May 20, 2020; program administered by TDEM
- purchasing eLearning devices and home internet solutions; administered by Region 4 for TEA
- **bulk purchase local match reimbursement; administered by TEA**
- reimbursing LEAs for technology purchases; administered by TEA
Key Dates

- **March 27, 2020**
  - CARES Act signed

- **August 24, 2020**
  - Detailed Training

- **September 7, 2020**
  - Local Match Reimbursement Application Opens

- **October 1, 2020**
  - Application Deadline

- **TEA processes reimbursements as received**

- **First in, First Out***

- **December 30, 2020**
  - CRF funding ends

*Reimbursement requests will be processed in the order received until all funds are expended.*
Allowable Uses of Reimbursement Funds

Reimbursement funds may only be used for:

- paying the local share of the LEA’s bulk order invoice
  - LEA will reclassify all eligible expenses originally charged to local funds to federal funds
- any other allowable, supplemental costs related to COVID-19 expenditures from March 1 to date the reimbursement is received
Specific Education Uses of CRF Grant Funds

- Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions

- Other eligible expenditures include payroll and benefits costs of educational support staff or faculty responsible for developing online learning capabilities necessary to continue educational instruction in response to COVID-19-related school closures
Unallowable CRF Uses of Grant Funds

- Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency (general LEA employees)

- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, such as, but not limited to, ESSER, TDEM’s LEA CRF Reimbursement program, or TEA’s Op Conn Reimbursement program
CRF is Federal Funding

- CRF funds retain their identification as federal funds and do not become State or local funds, even when reimbursing for something that State or local funds were originally expended for…
CRF Quarterly Reports

- Quarterly reports are required

- Data elements yet to be received from Department of Treasury, and we do not yet know what this might look like for this local match reimbursement program
No PNP Eq Svc

- Private school equitable services do not apply to CRF reimbursements (CARES Act, Section 5001)

- Private school equitable services only apply to GEERF and ESSER (CARES Act, Sections 18002 and 18003)
Eligibility

- Only LEAs who participated in the Op Conn bulk-purchase program, who receive CRF funding for connectivity devices from their county or city.

- In the event all the state funds are expended, the CRF bulk-purchase local match reimbursements will be awarded on a first come first serve basis.
Example 1 – no bulk-purchase local match

LEA total bulk order: $100,000
TEA state CRF fund contributes: $50,000 (base match)
LEA contributes: $50,000

Local city/county CRF contributes: $0
TEA state CRF bulk-purchase local match contributes: $0

*Final Costs:*
*TEA state CRF fund contributes: $50,000*
*LEA contributes: $50,000*
Example 2 – 10% bulk-purchase local match

LEA total bulk order: $100,000
TEA state CRF fund contributes: $50,000 (base match)
LEA contributes: $50,000

Local city/county CRF contributes: $10,000 (paid to the LEA)
TEA state CRF bulk-purchase local match contributes: $10,000

Final Costs:
TEA CRF fund contributes: $50,000 (LEA base match) + $10,000 (local match reimb) = $60,000
Local city/county CRF contributes: $10,000
LEA contributes: $30,000
Example 3 – 25% bulk-purchase local match

LEA total bulk order: $100,000
TEA state CRF fund contributes: $50,000 (base match)
LEA contributes: $50,000

Local city/county CRF contributes: $25,000 (paid to the LEA)
TEA state CRF bulk-purchase local match contributes: $25,000

Final Costs:
TEA CRF fund contributes: $50,000 (LEA base match) + $25,000 (local match reimb) = $75,000
Local city/county CRF contributes: $25,000
LEA contributes: $0
Application/Reimbursement Process

**Application**
- LEA Submit application
- Signed by LEA authorized official
- By October 1, 2020

**Documentation Upload**
- Document reflecting:
  - Proof of commitment from city or county to LEA,
  - amount, purpose “for bulk-purchase”, and signed by city or county official.

**Reimbursement Funding**
- Reviewed and approved by TEA Grant Compliance and Administration; first in, first out
- Payment
Application Contents

- LEA Contact Info
- Certification and Incorporation Statements
- Signature of Authorized Official
- Statutory and Program Assurances – LEA will select each checkbox
- Use of Reimbursement Funds – LEA will select appropriate checkbox
  - Reclassify all eligible expenses originally charged to local funds to federal funds
  - Other allowable CRF activities
- Number of additional devices to be purchased with funds made available – LEA enters numbers as appropriate or zeros
- Equitable Access and Participation – standard federal subaward format
Monitoring

FEDERAL  STATE  LOCAL
What do I do now?

- Focus on getting the reimbursement from your county or city

- Get the *signed* documentation that includes:
  - Date of allocation (before application is submitted)
  - Voted and approved
  - For bulk-purchase reimbursement
Cory Green
Associate Commissioner

Tamie Frierson
CRF Reimbursement Program Coordinator

Department of Grant Compliance and Administration
Texas Education Agency
(512) 463-8992
GrantSupport@tea.texas.gov