



SUMMARY OF

CARES Act: Instit. Resilience & Expanded Postsecondary Opp. (IREPO) - FIPSE

as of August 21, 2020

AUTHORITY

Department of Education (DoEd)

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Section 18004(a)(3) of the CARES Act directs the Secretary to allocate 2.5 percent of the \$14.2 billion Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funds appropriated by the Act to provide grants to institutions under part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), for institutions that the Department has determined have the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus. Part B of title VII of the HEA establishes the FIPSE. FIPSE grants, including grants under this program, are limited to institutions of higher education, as defined in section 101 of the HEA. FIPSE grants are required, by statute, to support improvements in higher education through reforms, improvements, or innovations in postsecondary education programs, opportunities, and delivery models. Section 18004(a)(3) of the CARES Act provides funding specifically for the FIPSE program, and section 18004(d) of the Act directs the Secretary to give priority to IHEs that received less than \$500,000 combined under the IHE formula grants authorized by section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act and the grants authorized by section 18004(a)(2) of the Act and that demonstrate the greatest unmet needs related to expenses associated with coronavirus.

To disburse the remainder of the \$348.8 million set aside for section 18004(a)(3) awards, the Department believes it should run a grant competition that complies with the requirements of the FIPSE grant program, in that the use of these funds will result in improvements in postsecondary education and opportunity, and that complies with the requirements of the CARES Act in giving priority to institutions with the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus.

The Institutional Resilience and Expanded Postsecondary Opportunity (IREPO) program is designed to help institutions of higher education emerge from the Coronavirus pandemic more resilient and expand educational opportunities for students. The grants can be utilized in a variety of ways, including resuming operations, supporting students, reducing disease transmission, and developing more agile instructional delivery models for students who cannot or choose not to attend classes in person. This grant program also recognizes the benefits to high school students of starting their college career early – while still in high school – and gives priority to applicants that plan to expand those opportunities to students who live or attend high school in an Opportunity Zone or rural community.

This notice contains one absolute priority and three competitive priorities.

- Absolute Priority: Expanding Opportunity and Building Institutional Resilience: Projects that will provide financial support to IHEs with the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus to enable them to resume



operations, serve the needs of students, reduce disease transmission, and/or implement safe and effective instructional delivery models, that will enable safe in-person learning and expand remote learning opportunities when necessary.

- **Competitive Preference Priorities:** The Department of Education will award up to an additional sixteen points to an application, depending on how well the application meets these priorities.
 - **Competitive Preference Priority 1: Developing Resilient Instructional Delivery Models (0-3 points):** Projects that propose to use grant funds to expand the institution's capacity to develop or expand instructional delivery models, such as remote learning opportunities, to students who cannot or choose not to attend classroom-based instruction both during and after the COVID-19 national emergency.
 - **Competitive Preference Priority 2: Providing Dual Enrollment Opportunities to Students Who Live or Attend School in a Rural Community or Opportunity Zone (0-10 points):** Projects that provide high-quality postsecondary dual enrollment opportunities, which may include career and technical education programs, to high school students who live in or attend high school (including students who are homeschooled) in rural communities or Opportunity Zones.
 - **Competitive Preference Priority 3: Title III and Title V Participating Institutions (0-3 points):** Projects that:
 - are led by an institution that is eligible to receive assistance under title III and title V of the Higher Education Act (3 points)
 - include as a consortium partner more than one such institution (2 points)
 - include as a consortium partner one such institution (1 point)

ELIGIBILITY

The eligible applicant is an IHE as defined in section 1010 of the HEA, or a consortium of such IHEs.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

There is an estimated total of \$28 million available to fund approximately 19 grants under this funding bucket. Individual awards are estimated to range from \$1 million to \$3 million, with an average award of \$1.5 million. Projects may last up to 24 months.

DEADLINE DESCRIPTION

Applications are to be submitted by October 20, 2020.

HISTORY OF FUNDING

None is available.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Department of Education has established the following performance measures for the IREPO Grants program:

- number of online classes offered prior to and during the project period
- number of students enrolled in online classes prior to and during the project period
- average annual cost of tuition and fees paid by students during 2019-2020 school year and during the project period
- average annual Federal student loan size among students and parents who took title IV loans during 2019-2020 school year and during the project period
- total enrollment at the beginning of the term in which the novel coronavirus national emergency was declared and during each term during the project period
- for projects that include dual enrollment opportunities for students:
 - number of dual enrollment students served during 2019-2020 school year and during the project period
 - number of dual enrollment classes completed by students served by the project
 - cost per student of each successfully completed dual enrollment class supported by these grant funds
- project-specific performance measures defined by the applicant

For the purpose of this program, the Department of Education defines institutions with the greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus as those that:

- had a student population enrolled at the beginning of the term that included March 13, 2020 in which more than 30% of full-time students received a Pell Grant and/or
- were underserved by other CARES Act programs either because:
 - the institution did not receive a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program established by the CARES Act and/or
 - the institution serves large numbers of part-time students and
 - had other unmet needs due to the novel coronavirus, as described by the institution in its application



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WEB LINKS

Announcement/Press Release: https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-launches-grant-program-promote-institutional-resiliency-and-expand-educational-opportunity-students?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=
Application Guidance: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-21/pdf/2020-18531.pdf>
Program Page: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfirepo.html>
Grants.gov Posting: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=328761>

**Consult the program guidance by following the links provided at the above URLs. Additional relevant POCs are provided in the program guidance.*