



Updated September 9, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

CARES Act - GEER Funds

Q1. Are the three components intended for different types of educational entities?

Yes. Component 1 is for any regionally accredited, undergraduate public and private not-for-profit colleges and universities eligible for title IV funding and domiciled in Iowa. Component 2 is for eligible institutions, or a consortium of eligible institutions as defined for Component 1. Component 3 is for providers of adult education and literacy under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Q2. Is there a deadline to apply for GEER funds?

Yes. The Component 1 application deadline is Tuesday, September 30, 2020 by 4:30 pm. Component 2 application information will become available later in September.

Q3. May education-related entities (community organizations, vendors, curriculum providers, etc.) serve as lead applicant for GEER Fund proposals?

No. Only eligible Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) may apply.

Q4. Will award recipients be able to back-date expenses to a date prior to GEER Fund award notifications?

Yes. The grant submission can include eligible costs that revert back to March 13, 2020 when the pandemic was named a national emergency.

Q5. Will these funds be awarded on a lump sum or reimbursable basis?

GEER funds will be awarded on a reimbursable basis. Institutions will receive information on how to submit for reimbursement of eligible expenses along with their award notification after the application deadline.

Q6. Are applicants allowed to request program licenses (e.g., Zoom, Webex) as part of their connectivity strategy under Component 1?

Yes. Applicants may include program licenses as a creative solution to a lack of connectivity access. This information should be included in the narrative portion of the application for Component 1.

Q7. Are institutions limited as to the types of students that may be served?

Current GEER guidance from the United States Department of Education is silent as to the types of students that may be served with GEER funds. Therefore, an IHE may provide support to any student that meets the institution's criteria for need as outlined in its component 1 application. An IHE may wish to solicit advice from legal counsel on the matter.

Q8. What is the timeline for GEER Fund grant award notifications?

Within a few weeks after the application deadline. Institutions that are approved to receive funding from Component 1 will receive notification within a few weeks after the September 30, 2020 application deadline. Information on how to submit claims for reimbursement through Iowa Grants will also be sent at that time.

Q9. Who can I contact with any additional questions?

Component 1 and 2 questions may be directed to either Eric St.Clair at eric.stclair@iowa.gov or Kelly Friesleben at kelly.friesleben@iowa.gov. Component 3 questions may be directed to Alex Harris at alex.harris@iowa.gov.