



Dirty Ducts Cleaning & Environmental Inc.



“Clean and Healthy Air, Breath after Breath”

Duct Cleaning/Dryer Vent Cleaning • Specialized/Industrial Cleaning • Asbestos/Lead/Mold Abatement • Interior Select Demo

October 28, 2021

Re: ESSER Funds For Duct Cleaning

To: WI Areas Schools

Many school districts (both public, private, and charter) are having us clean ductwork, AHU coils, etc. using ESSER funds.

Some school districts are surprised to know that ESSER funds can be used for duct cleaning, cleaning of AHU coils, etc. There are several documents associated with ESSER funds and those can be found readily on the internet including this link:

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf

This document is a “quick reference” to certain areas of the above document link that discuss using the funds for duct cleaning.

A-3. How may an LEA (Local Education Agency) use ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds?

An LEA may use ESSER funds for the broad range of activities listed in section 18003(d) of the CARES Act, section 313(d) of the CRRSA Act, and section 2001(e) of the ARP Act. Although the lists of allowable uses of funds are not identical, any of the ESSER funds (ESSER I, ESSER II, or ARP ESSER) may be used to support all of the allowable uses of funds listed in any of the ESSER programs. We have consolidated below the three ESSER programs’ lists of allowable uses of funds.

The activities that are listed in section 18003(d) of the CARES Act, section 313(d) of the CRRSA Act, and section 2001(e) of the ARP Act that an LEA may support with ESSER funds are:

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- 17. School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
 - 18. Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

3025 Perry Street, Madison, WI 53713 • P: (608) 204-3828 • F: (608) 204-3826 • DirtyDuctsCleaning.com • info@ddclean.com





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B-7. May ESSER and GEER funds be used for renovation, including for such projects as making improvements to a school facility to improve indoor air quality (such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems), and projects that would promote social distancing and safe in-person instruction?

Yes. ESSER and GEER funds may be used to make necessary improvements, for example to improve air quality and support social distancing, so that teachers and students may safely return to and continue in-person instruction. As is the case with all activities charged to ESSER or GEER, costs must be reasonable and necessary to meet the overall purpose of the program, which is “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to” COVID-19. (See [2 CFR §§ 200.403-200.404](#).) Therefore, renovation or remodeling activities that are necessary for an LEA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 would be permissible. This might include renovations that would permit an LEA to clean effectively (e.g., replacing old carpet with tile that could be cleaned more easily) or create a learning environment that could better sustain social distancing (e.g., bringing an unused wing of a school into compliance with fire and safety codes in order to reopen it to create more space for students to maintain appropriate social distancing). This might also include, for example, as noted in section 2001(e)(2)(O)-(P) of the ARP Act:

- School facility repairs and improvements to enable schools to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
- Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

E-2. What is the timeline for a Governor, SEA, or LEA to obligate funds under ESSER II and GEER II?

A Governor, SEA, or LEA, as applicable, has until September 30, 2023, to obligate the ESSER II and GEER II funds it receives. This includes the 12-month Amendment period. (Note that the timeline for obligating funds is distinct from the timeline for a State to award funds within one year of receipt or return them to the Department for reallocation (sections 312(f) and 313(g) of the CRRSA Act).) For additional information on awarding and obligating funds, please see Question 10 in the ESSER FAQs available at: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/05/ESSER-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf> and Question A-19 in the GEER FAQs available at: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/10/FAQs-GEER-Fund.pdf>. Although funds must be obligated by September 30, 2023, grant activities carried out through a valid obligation of funds may continue beyond that date. Under 2 CFR § 200.344(a), ESSER funds must be liquidated within 120 calendar days after the end of the performance period.

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FACT SHEET
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND II
CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

This chart outlines the primary differences between the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted on March 27, 2020, and the ESSER II Fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, enacted on December 27, 2020.

Topic	ESSER Fund (CARES Act)	ESSER II Fund (CRRSA Act)
Authorizing Legislation	Section 18003 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act	Section 313 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021
Period of Funds Availability	May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared. Available for obligation by State educational agencies (SEAs) and subrecipients through September 30, 2022.	Same as ESSER Fund (CARES Act): May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared. Available for obligation by SEAs and subrecipients through September 30, 2023.
SEA Deadline for Awarding Funds	SEA must award the funds within one year of receiving them, which will be April through June 2021, depending on an SEA's award date.	SEA must award the funds within one year of receiving them, which will be January 2022.
Definition of "Awarded"	For the 90 percent of funds for local educational agencies (LEAs), funds are generally considered "awarded" when the SEA subgrants the funds to an LEA. For the SEA reserve (see section 18003(e) of the CARES Act), funds are "awarded" when the SEA awards a contract or subgrant, or when it retains funds to provide direct services.	Same as ESSER Fund (CARES Act): For the 90 percent of funds for LEAs, funds are generally considered "awarded" when the SEA subgrants the funds to an LEA. For the SEA reserve (see section 313(e) of the CRRSA Act), funds are "awarded" when the SEA awards a contract or subgrant, or when it retains funds to provide direct services.
Uses of Funds	The CARES Act includes allowable uses of funds related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. Note that the "additional" LEA allowable uses of funds under the CRRSA Act already were permitted under the CARES Act.	Same as ESSER Fund (CARES Act): Note that the "additional" LEA allowable uses of funds under the CRRSA Act (addressing learning loss, preparing schools for reopening, and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings) already are permitted under the CARES Act.
Equitable Services	An LEA that receives ESSER funds under the CARES Act (Section 18005) must provide equitable services to non-public school	The CRRSA Act includes a separate program of Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools for which eligible non-public

Topic	ESSER Fund (CARES Act)	ESSER II Fund (CRRSA Act)
	students and teachers in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of Title I, Part A of the ESEA.	schools may apply to an SEA to receive services or assistance. Consequently, LEAs are not required to provide equitable services under ESSER II.
Maintenance of Effort (MOE)	Under the CARES Act, a State that receives ESSER funds must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and State support for higher education in each of fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021 at least at the level of such support that is the average of the support for elementary and secondary education and higher education provided in the three fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of the CARES Act (FYs 2017, 2018, 2019).	Under the CRRSA Act, a State that receives ESSER II funds must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and higher education in FY 2022 based on the proportional share of the State's support for elementary and secondary education and higher education relative to the State's overall spending averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019.
Reporting	Under the CARES Act, each SEA that receives ESSER funds must meet the reporting requirements of section 15011 of the CARES Act, which are satisfied through the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting, and other reporting as the Secretary may require (Annual Reporting).	Under the CRRSA Act, each SEA that receives ESSER II funds must meet the CARES Act reporting requirements that apply to ESSER funds and submit a report to the Secretary within six months of award that contains a detailed accounting of the use of ESSER II funds, that includes how the State is using funds to measure and address learning loss among students disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and school closures, including: low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.
Tracking of Funds	ESSER funds must be tracked separately from ESSER II funds.	ESSER II funds must be tracked separately from ESSER funds.