

CRF Operation Connectivity Local Match Reimbursement Program for LEAs



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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.



Agenda

- ▶ 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

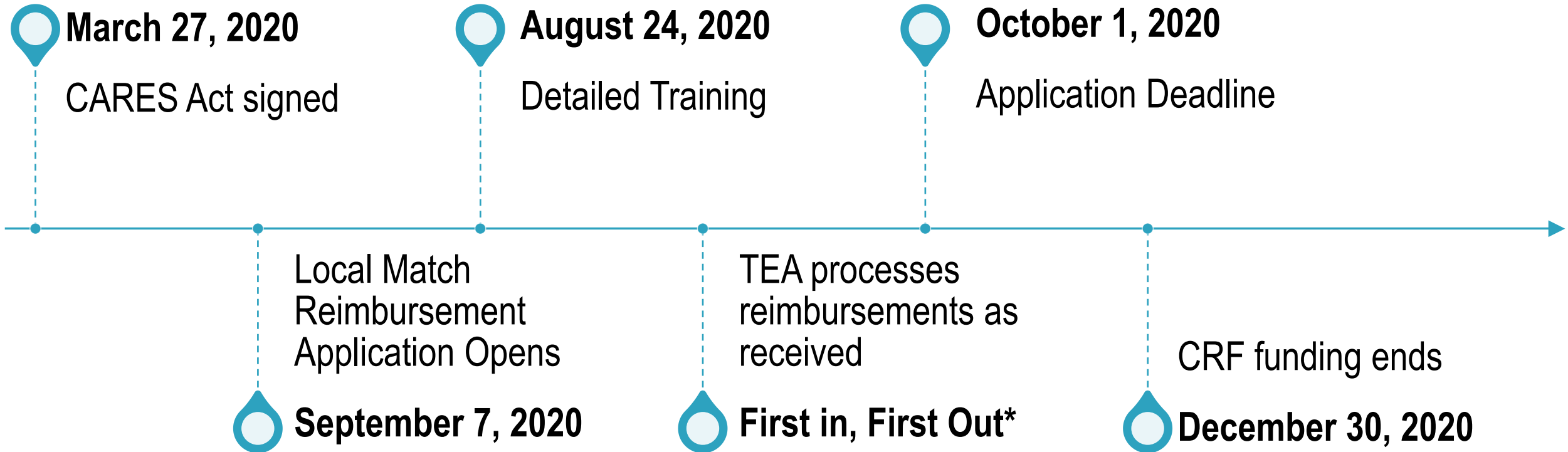


CRF for Education

- 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



*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





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