

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Organization Heads, Business Managers
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education 
SUBJECT: ARP ESSER Act 112 Mental Health and Well-Being Grant
DATE: October 18, 2022

Purpose

By this memo you are notified that the application for the ARP ESSER Act 112 Mental Health and Well-Being Grant is now available in the [Grant Management System](#) (GMS). ARP-ESSER funds are available as part of the [ARP Act of 2021](#). The applications for this competitive grant opportunity are due Nov. 15, 2022. Eligible applicants include Vermont's SU/SDs, schools, and relevant community partners.

Overview

This competitive grant was created through [Act 112](#) of 2022: *An act relating to the provision of mental health supports*, to support two-year programs that utilize a tiered-support approach to ensure continuous support to children and youth in a variety of settings. Eligible applicants include supervisory unions and districts, in school, community technical education centers, and afterschool programs, and other non-profit entities that provide mental health services and supports.

Applicants may request funding to expand existing school-based counseling services in underserved districts of the state. Alternatively, applicants may also request funding to develop school-based or community-based afterschool programs that support the mental health and wellness needs of students, families and staff. These programs may operate in a variety of settings outside the school day and over the summer, including before and after school or during in-service days and school vacation weeks.

This program is funded through ARP ESSER SEA funds, specifically, ARP ESSER Section 2001(f)(1) funds to address learning loss, with a period of performance from the date of execution of the Grant Agreement through Sept. 30, 2024.

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, please contact:
Tracy Watterson, Student Support Services, at Tracy.Watterson@vermont.gov

Within Vermont, this fund is being administered as a competitive grant program in line with Vermont's Education Recovery and Revitalization framework. The maximum award amount will be \$200,000. Applications may be partially funded.

The AOE will issue grants to in-school counseling programs and afterschool programs in geographically diverse regions when the applicant meets all three of the mandatory eligibility criteria and at least one of the additional eligibility criteria outlined in [Section 3 of Act 112](#).

Funds will be prioritized to programs that:

- Serve the needs of vulnerable populations and underserved regions;
- Plan for sustainability after ARP ESSER funds end; and
- Collect and use data to measure how the ARP ESSER funds supported improved student mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

The deadline to apply for this grant is Nov. 15, 2022.

Creating and Editing the Application in the Grant Management System

All superintendents and business managers have permissions in the GMS to create and edit the application. Other non-SU/SD entities interested in applying for this grant must first complete the required steps to access the GMS. Please complete the [Grants Management System Registration webform](#) as the first step in this process and contact [Tracy Watterson](#) for additional information.

Please note: applicants must complete all registration steps in GMS before they can create the ARP ESSER Act 112 application.

LEAs should direct programmatic questions or questions about object/function codes and the Budget Detail page to [Bob Coathup](#) (function and object codes) or [Tracy Watterson](#) (programmatic questions). Any technical questions pertaining to budgets or other financial topics should be sent to [Julie Morse](#).