

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Business Managers
FROM: Bill Bates, Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Education
SUBJECT: Coronavirus Relief Fund Allowable Costs
DATE: October 8, 2020

Purpose

This memo conveys updates to allowable costs in the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) LEA grant. Sec. B.1113 of H. 969, as passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, includes an additional \$7,000,000 appropriation to Efficiency Vermont for the Indoor Air Quality Grant to upgrade HVAC systems. Due to these additional funds for indoor air quality projects, the Agency of Education (AOE) will disallow HVAC and indoor air quality costs in CRF-LEA grant applications and budgets.

Funding for Indoor Air Quality Projects

Efficiency Vermont, in discussions with AOE, has stated their intent to fully fund all indoor air quality projects they have initiated and partially funded to date, as well as fully funding those projects with scopes of work currently in the review process to a COVID-19 necessary standard. Efficiency Vermont is already in contact with LEAs that had included indoor air quality projects in their CRF-LEA grant applications and will work with these LEAs to implement these projects to a COVID-19 necessary standard.

Efficiency Vermont is using ASHRAE and CDC guidelines to determine the cost of HVAC projects required to raise indoor air quality to levels deemed necessary to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These are the necessary HVAC costs Efficiency Vermont will fully fund. Any HVAC expenditures over and above the necessary costs that are included in the CRF-LEA grant applications will be disallowed. However, if supplies such as high efficiency filters for an HVAC system are needed in response to the COVID-19 emergency, those will be allowed.

Questions regarding whether a cost is eligible or ineligible in the CRF-LEA grant, should be directed to Brad James via e-mail at: aoe.crfapplication@vermont.gov. Please include, "HVAC question" in the subject line.

CRF-LEA grant applications and budgets must be revised by those LEAs that included HVAC or indoor air quality expenses in their proposed budgets. Please highlight any changes in the Excel budget spreadsheet and update the narrative and budget total in the application as necessary.