

COVID-19 Emergency Funds and Supports Overview for Vermont's Independent Schools

Updated: August 27, 2021

Updates from Previous Overview (June 2021)

- GEER EANS August 23, 2021 deadline for seeking reimbursement and starting procurement process has passed
 - Schools continue to work with AOE for reimbursement and to procure goods/services
- FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund application deadline passed
 - Second round of funding becoming available (see slide 5)
- FEMA deadline has been extended to December 31, 2021
- ARP Indoor Air Quality Grant II (Efficiency Vermont) was delayed by state planning process

Upcoming Federal Sources of Funding/Support

- ARP EANS
- Round II of FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund
- ARP Indoor Air Quality Grant (Efficiency Vermont)

ARP EANS

US Department of Education Requirements:

- Procurement only, **no reimbursement**
- Same allowable cost categories as GEER EANS
- AOE must submit state plan/application by 9/9/21.
 - Includes more specific requirements to target low-income students and “most impacted by COVID-19”
- \$2,628,000 (estimate)
- From date of award, AOE will have 6 months to obligate funds (same timeline as GEER EANS)

FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

Second window for applications open **September 28 to October 13, 2021**

- Eligible applicants include non-profit independent schools that currently qualify for e-Rate or [*would be able to qualify*](#)
 - Must meet the statutory definition of elementary & secondary schools in Elementary & Secondary Education Act
 - Must get/have an FCC registration and sam.gov registration
- Eligible costs include laptop, tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, routers, modems, and broadband connections/internet access services for students, staff for off-campus locations
 - Purchased between **July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022**
 - \$400 per laptop; \$250 per hotspot
- Please contact [Lisa Helme](#) with questions.

FEMA Updates

- Deadline to apply for FEMA public assistance extended to December 31, 2021
- Still 100% reimbursement for [FEMA eligible costs](#)
- FEMA may be extending eligible costs back to the start of the pandemic. No official statement as of August 27, 2021.
- A dedicated team is available to help schools complete FEMA applications.

ARP Indoor Air Quality Grant

- Act 9 (H.315) appropriated an additional \$15 million to continue the IAQ grant through Efficiency Vermont for **HVAC projects** (through ARP State Recovery Fiscal Fund)
- Eligible entities include Approved Independent Schools
- Period of performance through December, 2024
- AOE is working with EVT to draft out the program and will communicate more details early fall 2021

State Resources and Programs

- COVID-19 School Surveillance Testing Program
- HEPA Portable Air Purifier Resource Distribution
- COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics
- PPE Resource distribution

COVID-19 School Surveillance Testing Program

- School Surveillance Testing Program:
- Free COVID-19 tests for students (ages 5 and up) and staff, *regardless of vaccination status*.
- Complete [Intent to Participate](#) as soon as possible.
- [Visit website](#) for more information

HEPA Portable Air Purifiers for Schools

- HEPA Portable Air Purifier resource distribution: **DUE September 7, 2021.**
- [Complete webform.](#)
- Follow up information will be provided once the state procures the purifiers and delivery will be arranged.
- No cost to schools.
- CDC and ASHRAE recommended for classrooms with inadequate ventilation.
- Contact [Jill Briggs Campbell](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

- Clinics at schools across the state open to students and staff from independent schools.
- New clinics at schools posted weekly.
- Resources for schools:
 - [Letter from Secretary French and Dr. Levine to families](#)
 - [Talking points from the Health Department](#)
 - [A set of posters and social media-sized graphics for your use.](#)
 - [Map of clinics and link to register](#)

PPE Resource Distribution

- PPE - [easy webform](#) to order masks, gloves, hand sanitizer (delivered to school)
- Current deadline is September 10, 2021 (may be extended)

Weblinks and Resources

[COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funds Hub](#)

[ARP EANS](#)

[FEMA](#) (eligibility, how to apply)

[Broadband Resources](#) (extensive list of programs and resources)

[Education Recovery Hub](#) (planning, statewide resources, construction)

School Health Guidance

- [AOE and Department of Health](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Schools](#)

Contact List

- GEER or ARP EANS: aoe.geereans@vermont.gov
- ESSER I Equitable Services: [Jesse Roy](#)
- FEMA: [Jill Briggs Campbell](#)
- Indoor Air Quality Grant: [Jill Briggs Campbell](#) (AOE) or [Jody Lesko](#) (EVT)
- Broadband and Connectivity: [Lisa Helme](#)
- HEPA Portable Air Purifiers: [Jill Briggs Campbell](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics: AOE.vaccine@vermont.gov
- COVID-19 Testing or PPE: aoe.COVIDTesting@vermont.gov