



ARPA Summer Enrichment Grant

Updates and Question Responses

6/20/23

Q - "Increased staff for special needs students" - Is the intent to get reimbursed for staff working with children that have special needs and a diagnosis and require additional support in order to be successful in the program? Or does it have to be additional staff and or hours than what we provided for this student compared to 2022 Summer?

A - To meet the intention of supporting students with special needs impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Personnel Expenses category can include any paraprofessional for a student with special needs, even if it is not an "increase" from the previous year, as long as the paraprofessional is not counted in ratio.

Q - "staff salaries," - Does the increase compared to 2022 Summer pertain to bodies or hours? It is extremely difficult to hire enough people to meet the need in this economy. Do we only get to count an increase in staff compared to summer 2022? If so, does it have to be in bodies or can it be total hours? Since we can not find enough people to hire this year, we might have increased total hours scheduled. Would increased hours meet the criteria?

A - The intention of this item is to help cover expenses that show an increase in staffing. The original interpretation was increased number of staff, but as a result of this question/comment, it makes sense to broaden the interpretation to be increase staff time. Applicants can document an increase in total hours

Q. Are licensed exempt programs, including summer camps that are not required to be licensed, eligible for these funds?

A. Not-for-profit, licensed exempt programs, including summer camps, are eligible for this funding opportunity. Summer camps that are not required to be licensed should still submit the Program Evaluation Questionnaire (PEQ) to the Office of Childhood to document their legal exemption. The date that the PEQ is submitted can be entered into the application if the site does not yet have a DVN documenting the exemption.

6/21/23

Q – Are there any priorities for funding within the items included in Option 1?

A – There are no priorities or ranking of the potential funding items in Option 1. Programs should choose which items they would like to apply for funding for based on their individual site needs from the list provided.

Q – Can the Option 1 funds be used by programs currently in operation as long as they do not supplant currently funded items - so enhancing our current programs?

A - Yes, the Option 1 funds are for “more” compared to 2022, including new curriculum added, increase in staff hours, etc.

Q. – Our program takes enrollment fees. Can we still apply?

A. – Yes, we recognize that costs have increased since the pandemic, even though programs have not been able to raise fees at the same rates. The ARPA Summer Enrichment funds are intended to help increase the activities and services closer to pre-pandemic levels and can be used to help close that gap between what parents can pay and the true cost of services.

Q - How will the reimbursement work? What would we need to submit for reimbursement?

A – If awarded an ARPA Summer Enrichment Grant, the program will receive a consulting agreement (Option 1) or a contract (Option 2). All payments will be made on a reimbursement basis. The awardee will submit an invoice along with supporting documents. The application allows for the program to propose the documentation that they plan to submit with the invoice. MASN will follow-up on an individual basis if the proposed documentation is not sufficient.

Q - Is there someone I can contact to clarify some of these questions?

A – Questions should be sent in writing to Terri Foulkes at foulkest@missouri.edu. Questions will be added to the Updates and Question Responses document posted in the ESSER III Summer Enrichment blog on the MASN website.

6/27/23

Q – For field trips, the grant guidance shows the two budget categories for field trips as transportation and salary non-certified. Could we include the ticket price for entrance to the field trip as well? Could we include T-shirts for student safety?

A – For field trips, entrance fees can be included as purchased services, but t-shirts should not be included as a field trip expense.

Q - What is the CDFA # for this grant? I am asking because we will be having a single audit either this year or next for another ARPA grant that we have been awarded.

A – The contract between DESE and MASN is still being signed. Once we have a copy of that, the CDFA # will be added here.

Q – Can a program apply for both Option 1 and Option 2?

A – If a program has more than one site, it may apply for more than one option; but, any given site can only be in one application. The overall program limit is \$100,000 combined between

Option 1 and 2. For example, if a program has 4 sites, they may apply for Option 1 for Site A (\$10,000/site) and include Sites B, C, and D in an application for Option 2. The application for Option 2 would be limited to \$90,000 for the 3 sites in that application because the total limit for one entity is \$100,000.

Q – Is the budget for Option 2 limited to the same budget items that are listed in Option 1?

A – No, Option 2 is a more comprehensive grant that can cover other expenses that are necessary for the operation of the summer program, but not specifically listed in Option 1. For example, an application for Option 2 may include a storage cabinet (under the \$1000 equipment threshold) to store the materials

Q – Are there guidelines for the materials and equipment that can be purchased?

A – Materials and equipment should be specific to the broad array of enrichment activities being provided during the summer program. Materials and equipment must be purchased early enough in the program to be used by the students at the summer program. The program should list the purpose of the activities, amount of the supplies/equipment, and the documentation that will be submitted with the reimbursement invoice.

Q – Are field trips allowed in Option 2?

A – Yes, field trips are allowed in Option 2.

Q – Does professional development have to happen during summer? Can the grant pay for MOSAC registrations?

A – Professional development in Option 1 should take place during the summer. Option 2 requires staff to attend the MOSAC conference so the budget for Option 2 can include MOSAC costs for staff that were part of the summer program.

Q – Could the Option 2 grant include office and front desk equipment?

A – No, both Option 1 and Option 2 should not include general administrative costs, but Option 2 can include “indirect” up to the organization’s established, negotiated rate, but not more than 10%. The lower rate of 10% or the organization’s established rate should be used.