



# Stronger Connections Grant

## Webinar Q&A

**Could you talk a little bit about supplanting and supplementing? Could the funds be utilized for another homeless coordinator to help with the more homeless families in our district? Can the current McKinney-Vento coordinator be funded through this grant?**

- Could I use the funds for an additional homeless coordinator to help with the more homeless families in Natrona #1? If the district is requesting funding for a new position then yes, it is supplementing and not supplanting.
- Can the current required McKinney-Vento liaison funded positions be paid with this funding? No. Since this position is required by McKinney-Vento this would be supplanting, but additional people would be OK.

**Can we continue a position funded with ARP/ESSER funds with Stronger Connections Grant funds?**

The supplement not supplant clause in Title IV-A reads “these funds are to be used to supplement, not supplant non-federal funds that would ordinarily be used for this purpose.” This would not be supplanting since this is a federally funded position, and since this funding source is coming to an end there will be no funding source to supplant after September 30, 2023.

**Do we need to wait for ESSER funds to end/expire first and then engage this grant?**

No, you do not need to wait for a program to expire. Go ahead and utilize these potential funds when ready. Going from one federal funding source to another is OK with Title IV-A.

**Equitable share. In communicating with private schools - should a form similar to the Consolidated Grant application be used? How to gather this data? Do districts need to utilize certified mail? Does this include homeschool students?**

Mary will look to Title IV ‘technical desk’ to learn what evidence is needed and how other states have met this requirement in the most cost effective way possible.

**Equitable services amount for private schools. When visiting with private schools, how do districts estimate funds for these schools? Do we follow the Title IV ratio?**

Yes, use formula from Title IV to estimate the amount for equitable services. The official total will be sent to districts in the award packet and will be based on that same formula.

**Are “non-public” entities only those entities with students? Or other community entities that could possibly partner with the district?**

Yes, equitable share requirements apply to non-public students (private schools and homeschools) ages 5 to 17. Community-Based Organizations like Boys and Girls Club are not eligible.

## **WY-BILT could not use all funds in the first year because funds were not originating from USED so we split between years. How will funds be received in this grant? Do we need to separate funds equally between years?**

According to the guidance we have received from the USED, there is not a requirement that a certain % has to be split equally between fiscal years. However, there is a requirement that funds must be obligated by 9/30/2026.

## **When is the first drawdown date for these funds?**

We anticipate funds will be ready by March 2024. The WDE may place this grant in LINQ so there will be the ability to complete cash requests and expenditure reports online in late March or early April.

## **If the grant must be obligated by September 30th, districts cannot pay salaries past this point, correct?**

Correct - Funds must be obligated by September 30th and districts cannot pay salaries past this date because salaries for district employees are obligated when the services occur.

## **Will slide presentation and recording be sent out?**

Yes, we need to publish/edit the recording first with our COMMS team and we will then include the slides and send it to all participants who attended this meeting.

## **Can the due date be extended for this grant to allow for more time for meaningful consultation with stakeholders?**

Yes. We appreciate the thoughtful responses districts are putting into their applications and the efforts the districts are making to communicate with stakeholders. We have revised the due date for this grant.

The new timeline is:

- Application Period- November 6, 2023 - February 9, 2024
- Submit completed application by 5:00 p.m. (MST) on February 9, 2024 via Jotform
- Awards announced by WDE: March 1, 2024
- Award Period - One time award to be obligated between March 1, 2024 and September 30, 2026