

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

April 20, 2021

SUBJECT:

Aiken County Public School District Head Start / Early Head Start Program CRRSA Act Grant Submission – FY21

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, approximately \$250 million is available for grants to Head Start grantees for one-time activities in response to COVID-19. All Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees are eligible to receive this funding. The Aiken County Head Start/Early Head Start Program has been allocated \$115,572.00 in CRRSA grant funds.

The following activities are allowable with these funds:

1. Mental health services, supports, crisis response, and intervention services.
2. Coordination, preparedness, and response efforts with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments and other relevant agencies.
3. Provision of meals and snacks not reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
4. Training and professional development for staff on infectious disease management.
5. Purchasing necessary supplies and contracted services to sanitize and clean facilities and vehicles.
6. Other actions that are necessary to maintain and resume the operation of programs, such as hiring substitute staff, investing in technology infrastructure, making improvements to air conditioning systems, or other emergency assistance.

The ACPSD Head Start/Early Head Start program proposes to make purchases and conduct activities to include the following to support children, families, and staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Purchase and replace HVAC systems, install filtration systems and purchase supplies to enhance air quality
- Removal of existing carpet at the Williston and Aiken ELCs and replace with vinyl tile flooring
- Purchase Partitions for HS/EHS Director, Family Services/Content Manager offices at Aiken, Monetta, Macedonia Elementary, and parenting/breastfeeding rooms @ Wagener and Gloverville
- Purchase sanitizing/disinfecting extractor-fogger machines and chemicals to operate the machines
- Purchase laptops for all managers and specialists to support virtual/remote instruction and timely communication with families and staff
- Hot spots for families with no internet access (service fees included)
- Purchase and install Internet booster packs at early learning centers to support stronger internet connectivity

- Purchase walkie-talkies and megaphones
- Provide families with Health & Nutrition Care packages to address food insecurities, promote healthy eating and physical and oral health needs
- Purchase food warmers and other kitchen equipment to maintain food temps for remote food distribution
- Services of contractual janitorial company for enhanced weekly disinfecting at early learning centers
- Purchase virtual, non-contact recruitment activities to include radio and newspaper ads, billboard/kiosk ads, recruitment yard signage,
- Staff wellness activities & stress relief/wellness workshops, tools/gadgets
- Over-sized envelopes for weekly educational packets
- US postal stamps for mailing of educational packets and intent to return letters
- Touchless hand sanitizing stations for parenting and breastfeeding rooms
- Handheld touchless thermometers
- Plexi glass dividers/shields for staff desks and children's tables
- Individualized educational/curriculum implementation totes/bags for children
- Headphones for child laptops
- Hands-free covered trash cans
- Shoe covers
- PPE (Adult Masks, Children's Masks, Face shields, Goggles, Gloves, Disposable and washable Smocks, Spray Bottles, Cleaning Cloths)
- Social Distancing Signage
- COVID-19 prevention and social distancing signage
- Additional cleaning & disinfecting supplies (hand sanitizer, anti-bacterial soap, disinfecting wipes, cleaning cloths, disinfectant cleaners and spray, spray bottles) in response to enhanced cleaning protocols
- Touchless soap dispensers
- Copy paper for educational learning packets/worksheets,
- Single serve disposable paperware and utensils
- Water dispensing pitchers

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Administration has reviewed the requirements of the Head Start CRRSA Act Grant and finds the proposal in alignment with such requirements and local district guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of the Office of Head Start CRRSA Act Additional COVID Funding Grant application and the receipt of funds.

PREPARED BY:

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