



# Federally-funded ESC Grants

April 23, 2020

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[tea.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus)

For information on general federal funding and federal grant issues please see the **Federal Funding & Grants FAQ** located on the [TEA Coronavirus webpage under Funding and Waivers](#).

1. Does the ESSA period of availability waiver approval include the corresponding ESC grants (i.e. Title I, Part A Basic Services, Title IV Capacity Building, School Improvement Grant, etc.)?

It depends, most will be extended but it is not guaranteed. Each TEA program office will determine if the individual ESC grant should be extended. In cases where the ESC grant is up for competition, i.e., an LOI is planned for this spring/summer, the grant will most likely not be extended.

If the ESC grant end date is extended, it will likely be extended to 6/30/2021 and the funds will be used to implement the 2019-2020 required activities or the 2020-2021 required activities. Each individual grant that is extended will receive an updated NOGA with the new end date by email. Note that this is a labor-intensive process and will take time to extend end dates and issue new NOGAs.

2. The FAQ states waiver would be requested to surpass the carryover limit. Will there also be a similar request made for ESC Grants, namely Title I Part A and ESSA Basic Services, Comprehensive Support Grant for ESCs, and the School Improvement Facilitation Grants and other grants?

No, ESC grants are state-level activity grants and do not operate with the same carryover provision as LEA formula grants. TEA has the option to extend the end date of the grants. See question 1 above.

3. ESC Grant Obligations – some ESC grants require trainings scheduled in April and May. If we end up having to cancel these trainings, what is the expectation for us? Rescheduling may cause the sessions to not be timely (for example, the spring federal director update where we train in the application/compliance report). Will these obligations be waived, or must we still provide the training, knowing that attendance may be very poor?



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ESC staff should follow the procedures identified by your ESC for conducting virtual trainings during this time. ESC staff should also strive to meet the intent of the grant activities and should consider all viable options for offering the required trainings. This may include converting trainings to online trainings or recorded voice-over Power Point presentations. Many of the requirements pertain to planning for the next school year, which must still occur as no federal waivers have been granted in this area. TEA understands that attendance at virtual training may be lower than normal, but the trainings should be made available when they can be.

4. ESC Trainings “on demand” - May ESCs record required trainings and allow districts to view at their convenience? In the past, we’ve been told trainings must be “live” so questions can be asked, but that may not be feasible right now.

Live face-to-face trainings were expected when LEAs were not under the Governor’s executive order for school closure. ESC staff should follow the procedures identified by your ESC for conducting virtual trainings during this time. Some trainings may be offered as recorded voice-over Power Points when the topic is suited to that training option. Many of the trainings have always had the option of being offered/presented online when ESCs have inquired.