

December 8, 2021



# COVID Relief Funds

## ALASBO Presentation

An Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day



# Agenda

- Quick Overview
  - Review of Funding & District Requirements
- Grant Application Approvals
  - Review of Purpose & Allowable Uses of Funds
  - Budgeting Mechanics & Specific Object Code Scenarios
  - Reimbursement Considerations
- Trends
  - Trends of Budgeted Activities
- Resources & Support
  - Upcoming Webinars
  - Resources, Questions and Contact Us

# Overview of COVID Relief Funds & District Requirements

- Funding Sources/Legislation
- Funding Applications
- District Requirements

# 3 Funding Sources

## CARES

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
- Signed March 27, 2020—Expires September 30, 2022
- Amount distributed to districts: ESSER I \$34,567,200 & GEER I \$3,728,856
- Districts must provide equitable services to private schools

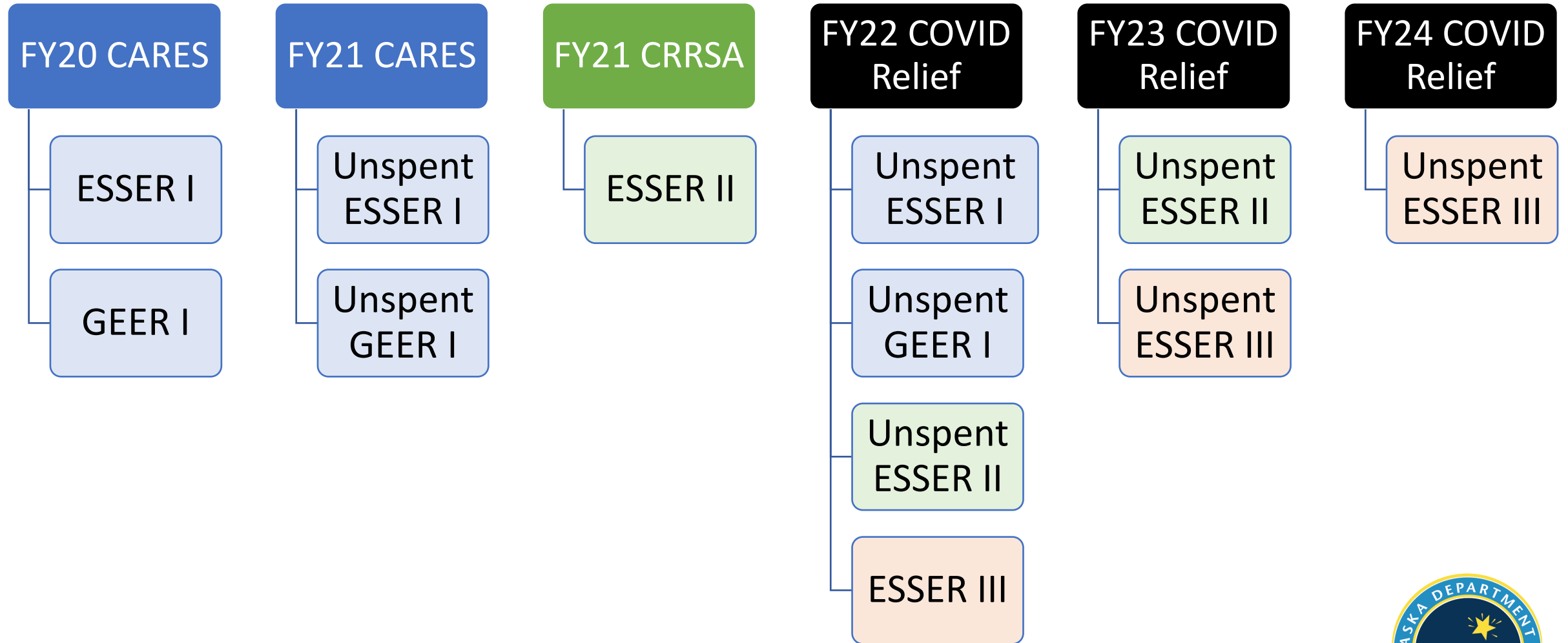
## CRRSA

- Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Signed December 27, 2020—Expires September 30, 2023
- Amount distributed to districts: ESSER II \$143,747,480

## ARP

- American Rescue Plan Act
- Signed March 11, 2021—Expires September 30, 2024
- Amount distributed to districts: ESSER III \$322,893,844
- Comes with specific mandates for states and districts

# Applications for Funds



# District Reporting & Other Requirements

## New Data Collections

- School Mode of Instruction/Operation for each month of the year- John Jones
- Maintenance of Equity (MOEquity) for federal fiscal years 2022 and 2023- Erica Cuzzort
  - *This only applies to 17 districts and those districts have been contacted.*
- Other reporting as the Secretary may require:
  - *Anticipate reports on how the district spent the 20% Learning Loss set aside for ARP funds*
  - *Anticipate reports on how the district targeted funds to special populations.*

# District Reporting & Other Requirements

## Written District Mitigation Plans

- Required as part of the ARP act
- Must be posted publicly on the district website
- Review, update, and revise the plan periodically, but no less than every 6 months
- DEED collects a listing and [publishes it here](#).
  - *DEED originally pulled this information from the program details page of your ARP ESSER III grant in the FY2022 COVID Relief Application in GMS. If you see errors or the link changes, please email [DEED.CARES@Alaska.gov](mailto:DEED.CARES@Alaska.gov)*

# District Reporting & Other Requirements

## Written District ARP Plans

- This is the program details page of the district's ARP ESSER III grant in the FY2022 COVID Relief Application in GMS. Completing these pages satisfies the federal requirement.
  - *Once DEED officially approves this, the district must publicly post it on their website, OR must post instructions on how to access this information in GMS.*
  - *If your district's FY22 COVID Relief application has not yet been approved, please work to get that submitted and approved quickly.*
- Seek public comment from stakeholder groups on the planning and use of ARP funds.
- Explain how the district will reserve 20% of ARP ESSER III funds to address learning loss.
- Explain how the district will take into consideration and address the needs of underserved student subgroups.



# Grant Application Approvals

- Purpose of Funds
- Allowability
- Budgeting Mechanics
- Reimbursement Considerations

# Purpose of Funds

- The CARES, CRRSA, and ARP Acts provide vital support to SEAs, LEAs, and schools as they work to **reopen schools safely**, **maximize in-person instructional time**, and **address the impact** of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, educators, and families.
- Allowable uses of funds may be used to implement actionable strategies to meet the urgent needs of students and educators as LEAs and schools work to **return to and safely sustain in-person instruction**, address the **educational inequities** that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and address **students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs**.

# Broad Allowable Activity Categories

|                                   |                          |                               |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Supporting other Federal Programs | Coordinated Responses    | Supporting Principals         | Supporting Special Populations |
| Preparedness & Response           | Professional Development | Supplies                      | Preparing for Closures         |
| Education Technology              | Mental Health            | Summer & Afterschool Programs | Learning Loss                  |
| Facility Repairs                  | Air Quality              | Continuity of Services        | Health & Safety Protocols      |

# Allowability

## 1. Prepare for or Respond to COVID-19?

- Is the use of funds intended to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its impact on the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students?

## 2. Allowable Activity?

- Does the use of funds fall under one of the authorized uses of ESSER or GEER funds?

## 3. Reasonable and Necessary?

- Is the use of funds permissible under the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200)?

# Budgeting Mechanics

## 4. Is it budgeted to the correct account code?

- Are items budgeted in accordance with the Uniform Chart of Accounts?
- Districts may budget for activities that have never been previously budgeted in a federal grant application (such as HVAC repair, window replacement, construction, etc). Please reach out to either your program manager or grant manager with activity coding questions.

## 5. Is sufficient narrative provided?

- Does the narrative indicate the item is in response to or to prepare for COVID?
- Do travel items contain # of trips, to/from location, number of lodging nights, purpose of travel?
- Do supply items indicate a general idea of anticipated supplies?
- Do contract items identify a vendor name?
- Do summer school events provide anticipated dates?

## 6. Are purpose codes and tags accurate?

- Tags are used for federal reporting purposes.
- The Learning Loss purpose code should be used exclusively for activities that respond to student learning loss.

# Specific Object Code Situations

- Conference registration fees
  - 410, travel is budgeted in 420
- Membership dues
  - 490
- Subscriptions to online programs for teachers and students
  - 450
- Technology repair/maintenance services not provided by district personnel
  - 440
- Student bussing to afterschool/summer learning loss sessions, approved in the COVID application. Contractor operated.
  - 440
- Purchase of a new bus to facilitate social distancing
  - 510

# Specific Object Code Situations (continued)

- Parts/materials/supplies for district office maintenance staff to repair HVAC, water heater, etc.
  - 450
- Parts/materials/supplies for a contractor to repair HVAC, water heater, etc.
  - Included in the contract in 440
- Purchasing a new HVAC unit
  - 510
- Installation of new HVAC units
  - If it is Capital (improving the facility, etc.) and not just a repair or maintenance, it would be best budgeted in 540. The "five-year rule of thumb" can sometimes be helpful here. If what's being installed will extend the life or last longer than five years, then use Capital (540).
- Design/assessment fees for using a contractor to replace your HVAC units
  - Design work gets budgeted in 410, whereas actual construction/repairs would be appropriately coded in 540.

# Reimbursement Considerations

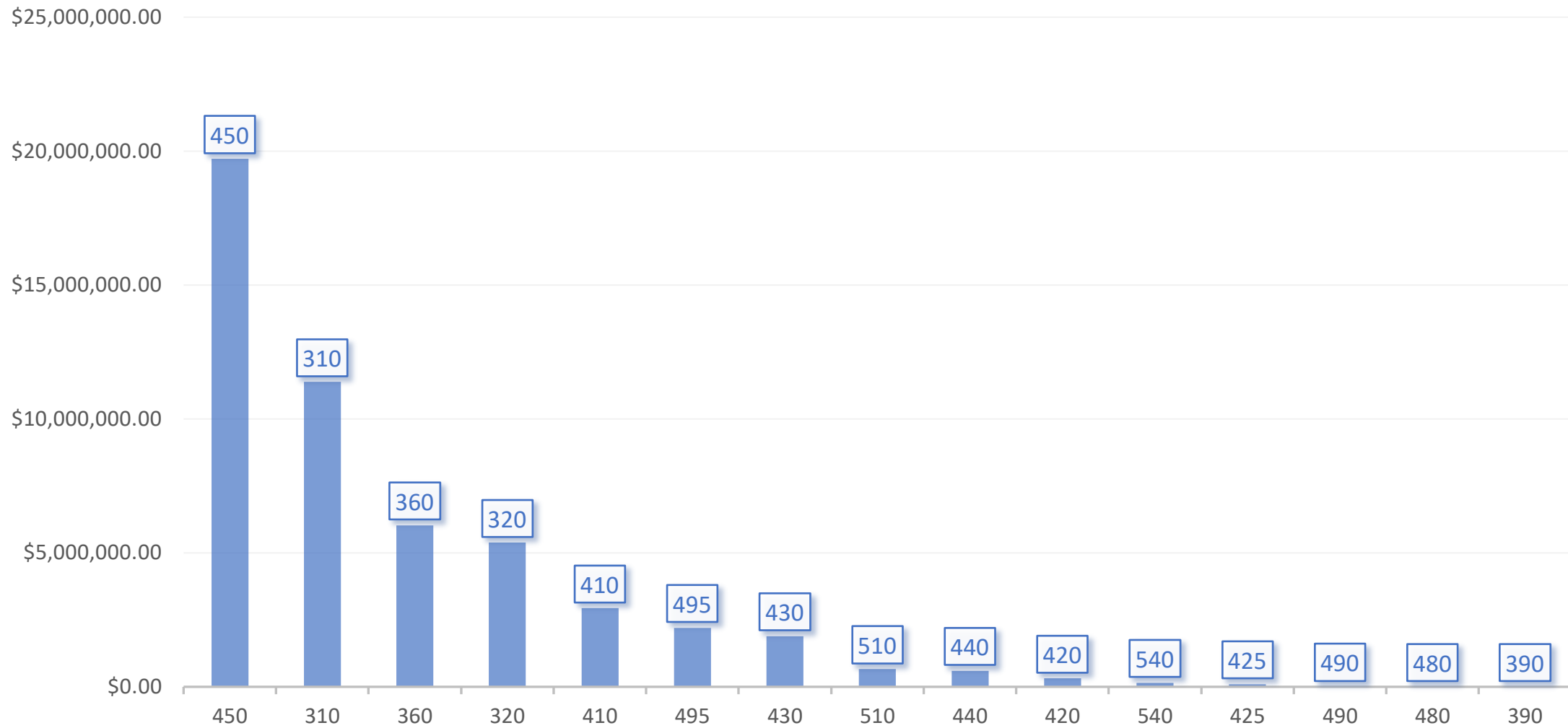
- DEED is encouraging districts to spend all CARES funds first as those funds expire September 30, 2022.
- The U.S. Department of Education has indicated that what is allowable for one COVID grant is allowable across all COVID grants.
- Consider doing budget revisions to move items to CARES (ESSER I and GEER I) to get those funds spent this fiscal year.



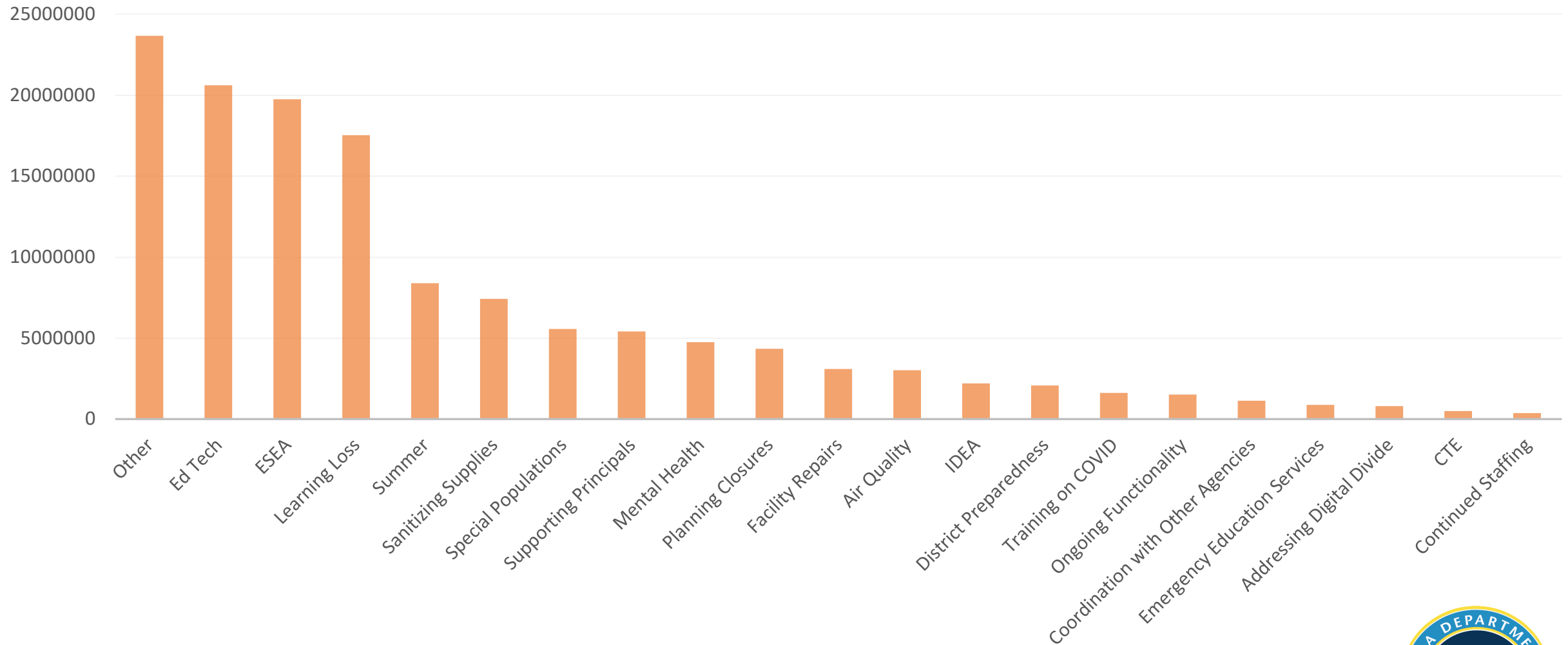
# Trends

- Trends of Budgeted Activities

# FY21 Snapshot Reimbursed CARES & CRRSA by Object Code

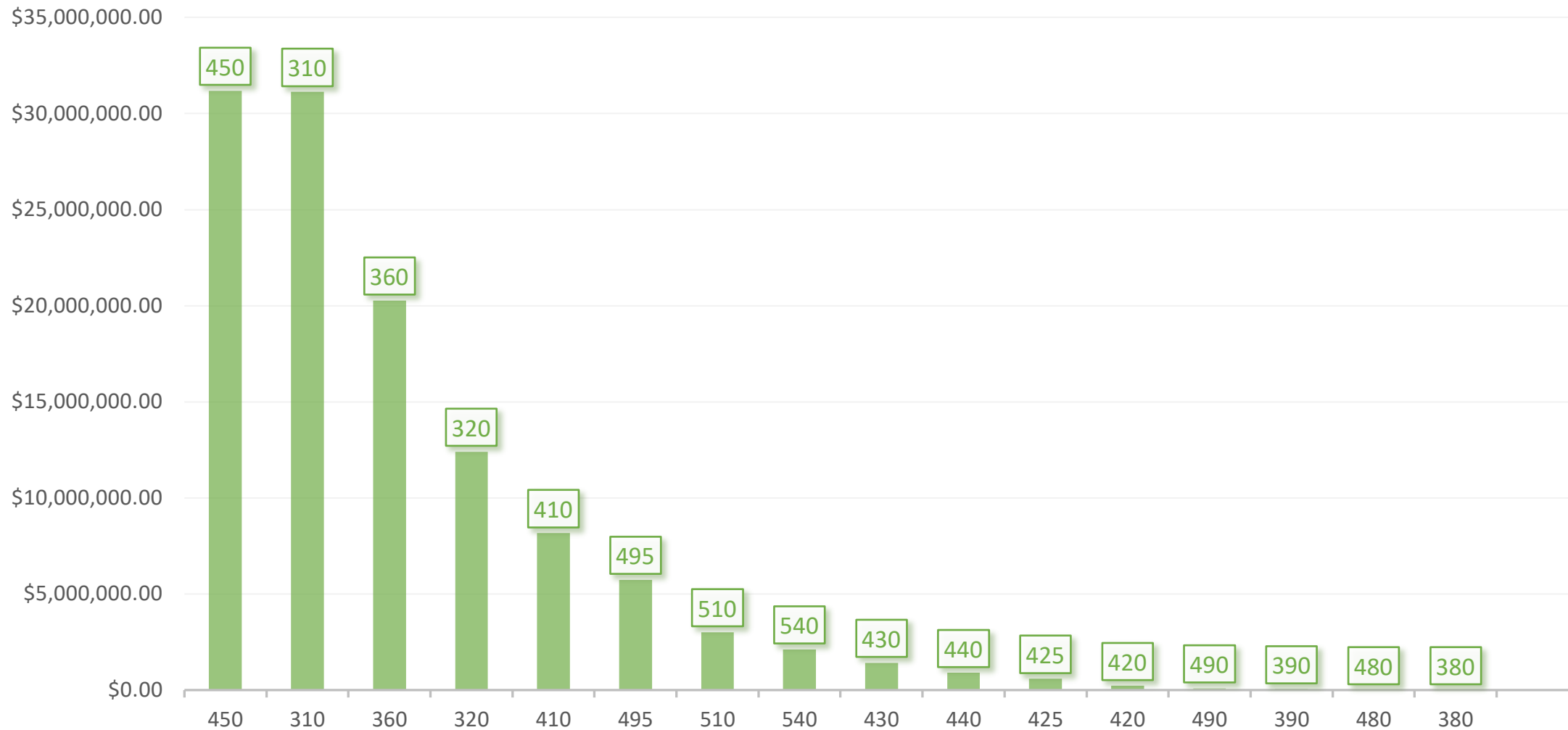


# FY21 Snapshot Reimbursed CARES & CRRSA by Tag

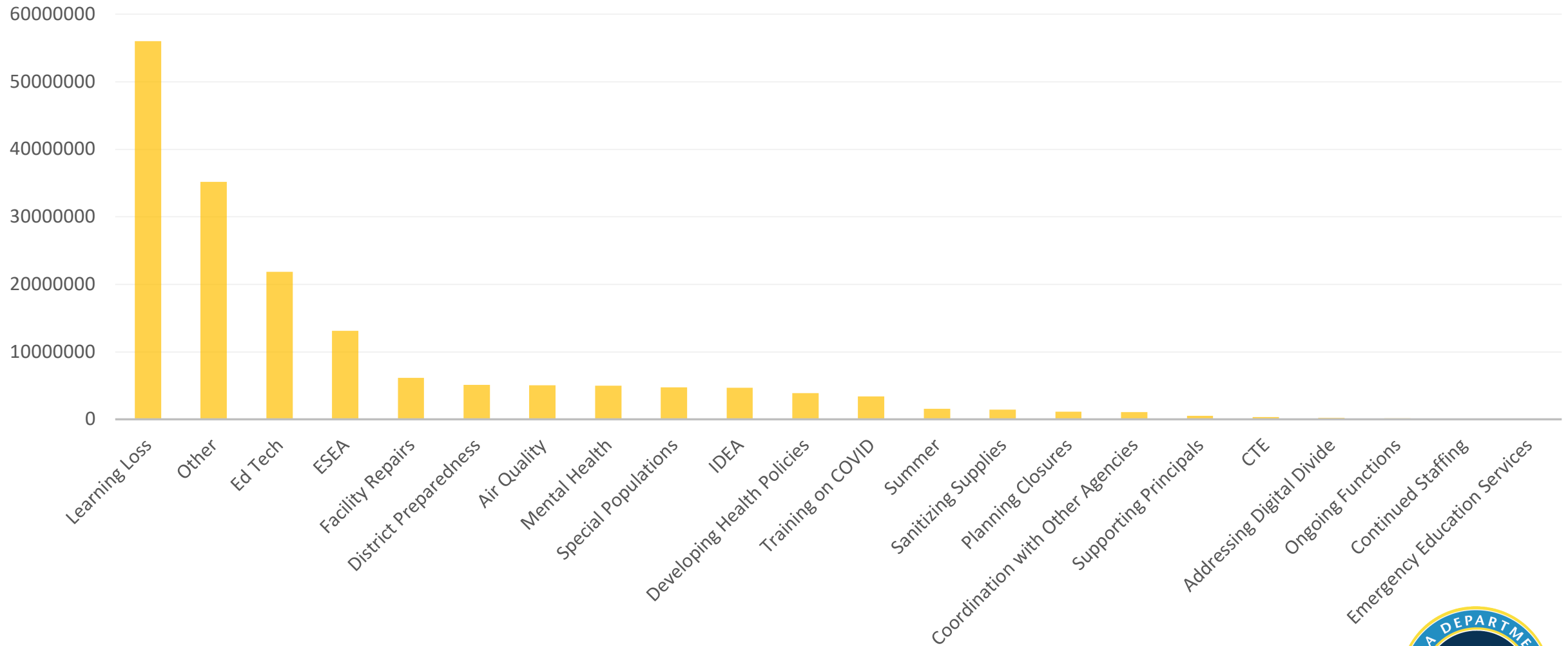


\*Districts may select multiple tags for each item budgeted

# FY22 Snapshot Budgeted CARES, CRRSA, & ARP by Object Code



# FY22 Snapshot Budgeted CARES, CRRSA, & ARP by Tag



\*Districts may select multiple tags for each item budgeted

# Resources & Support

# Upcoming Webinars & Meetings

First Wednesday of each  
Month

11:00-11:30 am

COVID Coffee Break- Drop in with  
questions and technical assistance  
needs

Breakout rooms available

Networking and troubleshooting with  
other districts available

# Upcoming Webinars & Meetings

Topic: COVID Relief Funding Discussions

Time: Jan 5, 2022 11:00 AM Alaska

Every month on the First Wed, until Jun 1, 2022, 6 occurrence(s)

Jan 5, 2022 11:00 AM

Feb 2, 2022 11:00 AM

Mar 2, 2022 11:00 AM

Apr 6, 2022 11:00 AM

May 4, 2022 11:00 AM

Jun 1, 2022 11:00 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZlkdOmorTMpH9DvrebYmnLEq-M2eBFuVDi/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzggGtedsxyDRpwAHYjCc\\_Tztlxegvp5ig3gASRqbw3aE\\_MPH-B6Mv7F](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZlkdOmorTMpH9DvrebYmnLEq-M2eBFuVDi/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzggGtedsxyDRpwAHYjCc_Tztlxegvp5ig3gASRqbw3aE_MPH-B6Mv7F)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86930038354>





# Resources: DEED & DHSS

## Information

- [DEED's COVID-19 Back to School Information Page](#)
- [DEED's COVID Education Landing Page](#)
- [DEED's ARP State Plan Page](#)

## Funding

- [COVID Relief Funding FAQs](#)
- [COVID Relief Funding: A Resource for Educators and School Districts](#)

**DHSS** is available to assist with questions you may have about CDC requirements

- They have a [Start Strong website](#) that provides a broad range of resources
- Email them at [schoolhealthandsafety@alaska.gov](mailto:schoolhealthandsafety@alaska.gov)

# Resources: Federal

## U.S. Department of Education

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [ARP ESSER Page](#)
- [Maximizing In-person Learning & Effective Practices for Quarantine](#)
- [Federal FAQ Document](#)

## CDC

- [School & Child Care Programs Page](#)
- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- [Toolkit for Student Quarantine](#)

## IRS

- [COVID Relief FAQ about hiring retired workers](#)

# Questions?



## Contact Us:

[DEED.CARES@Alaska.gov](mailto:DEED.CARES@Alaska.gov)

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