

RFA GC23-014 -- State-Supported Schools for the Blind and Deaf Facility Grant Program: 4201 Capital Grant Program

Questions & Answers – ROUND 2

NOTE: NYSED is reposting the Q&A from Round 1 with this Round 2 Q&A for potential applicants' reference.

1. It turned out that one of the awarded capital projects from the first round of the capital grant program (2019-20 appropriation) is overbudgeted by over \$800k due to inflation costs. Can this capital project be funded for the amount of the overbudgeted portion through the second round of the appropriation? Or, does this capital project have to be resubmitted with revised budget amounts - in partial for the overbudgeted portion amount or in full for the second round? It is very possible that this capital project will be rejected by the school and will not be funded in the first round since we are unable to find other sources of funds to supplement the amount of the overbudgeted portion of the capital project.

A: Please fill out a new application for Round 2 and identify the Round 1 award as a partial funding source. If awarded additional funds under Round 2 for the same project, the grantee must ensure appropriate accounting mechanisms are in place to differentiate between Round 1 and Round 2 funds. The grantee will be required to provide evidence that the combined amounts paid under Round 1 and Round 2 do not exceed the actual cost.

2. Emergency Set Aside Reserve - It is noted that the funds are set aside for emergency applications, these applications generally fall outside of the regular grant application cycle. When is the specific period of time that the 4201 schools can apply for funding for emergencies through this appropriation?

A: After all the awarded contracts have been signed and prior to the program's end date – March 31, 2029.

3. What happens if the funding runs out after \$5M?

A: The \$5M is all that is available as part of this program for emergency projects.

4. What happens if a 4201 school applies for an unexpected emergency project later in the timeframe and has not yet applied for an emergency project when the funds of \$5M runs out?

A: There is no guarantee that each school will receive an emergency grant. The emergency projects will be reviewed and awarded based on need in the order they arrive.

5. It is noted the emergency grant due date is based on the date of the emergency - what does the grant due date really mean? The emergency project form asks for estimated costs with a minimum of three quotes. It will take some time (likely several weeks) to find out what the net of any insurance reimbursement with backup documents and costs/quotes of the emergency would be. Do we submit the emergency project form several weeks later after the emergency happens so that we can get quotes and information from the insurance company to complete the form?

A: Yes, a complete package should be submitted once all the required items are available.

6. Can a 4201 school apply for an emergency grant more than one time? Example: \$200k for one emergency grant and another \$250k emergency grant for a total maximum of \$450k.

A: Yes.

7. It is noted that the maximum amount for an emergency request grant is \$450k. Is this per each 4201 school?

A: The maximum for an emergency grant is \$450,000; however, a school may apply for more than one grant up to \$450,000 per grant.

8. Q: As for the November 3rd deadline, the 4201 schools are applying for the \$25M of the appropriation (\$12.5M for projects totaling \$500k and \$12.5M for projects under \$500k). As for the emergency reserve, this can be done anytime throughout the grant period when an emergency occurs - there is no deadline on this one, correct?

A: This is correct, until the program's end date, or until funding is exhausted.

9. Would UV disinfection devices that mitigate the spread of diseases through air and surfaces be an eligible use of this grant?

A: NYSED does not consider portable air cleaners to be capital work and hence they are not eligible for building aid. Furthermore, NYSED and the State Department of Health recommend air cleaners with high-efficiency filters but do not recommend air cleaners that use UV light or ionization technologies.

UV light is permitted only in central system air handling units (AHUs) and for lighting in spaces, such as the nurse's office or isolation room, for use only when the space is unoccupied, and only with appropriate safety measures (e.g. safety switches that automatically turn off the UV light when an AHU access door is opened or when occupants are sensed entering a space) that would prevent unintended UV light exposure to workers. Students and staff shall not be exposed to UV, UV-A, UV-B, UV-

C, Far-UVC, or any UV light due to the known risk of damage to eyes and skin. Hence, UV lights in spaces (not AHUs) shall not be permitted to operate when the space is occupied.