



# ESSER 3.0 Funding Application Overview Webinar

**Debby Thompson | Assistant Commissioner**

*Division of Federal Programs and Oversight  
updated February 2023*





# Agenda

- Education Stabilization Fund Overview
  - ESSER 1.0 (CARES)
  - ESSER 2.0 (CRRSA)
  - ESSER 3.0 (ARPA)
- Allowable Uses
- Accountability & Oversight
- Other Federal Updates



# ESSER



# LEA Overview

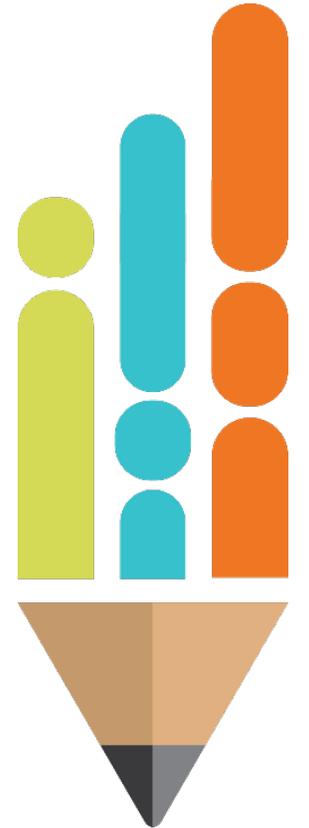
Revised 02/10/2023

Program	ESSER 1.0 (CARES)	ESSER 2.0 (CRRSA)	ESSER 3.0 (ARPA)
LEA Spending Requirements	No	No	Yes, 20% on learning loss
Supplement Not Supplant	No	No	No
Indirect Costs? Rate?	Yes Unrestricted	Yes Unrestricted	Yes Unrestricted
Equitable Services	Yes	No (EANS)	No (EANS)
Last Day to Obligate for LEAs (with Tydings Amendment)	June 30, 2022	September 30, 2023* <i>*See next slide for detailed timeline</i>	September 30, 2024* <i>*See slide 6 for detailed timeline</i>

# ESSER 2.0 Close-Out

- **Remaining Funds as of July 1, 2023, after state fiscal year ending:**
- Any LEA who has funds remaining as of July 1, 2023, that have not been either obligated or liquidated must follow the procedures below:
  1. Prioritize the submission of the FY23 ESSER 2.0 final expenditure report (FER).
    - a. The FER must be submitted and approved by the department in order for carryover funds to become available in the FY24 ESSER funding application.
  2. Complete the FY24 ESSER 2.0 funding application as soon as possible after it is available in ePlan.
    - a. The deadline for FY24 ESSER 2.0 funding applications is Aug. 15, 2023.
    - b. The funding application must be approved by the department prior to obligating funds.
  3. **Obligate all funds by Sept. 30, 2023.**
  4. **Ensure all funds are liquidated by Dec. 15, 2023.\***

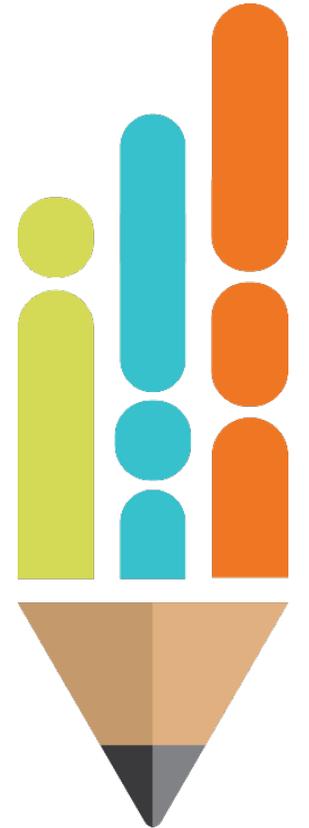
*\*Recommended deadline to ensure funds are reimbursed in ePlan for adequate time for grants to close. The Tennessee Department of Education (the department) is awaiting guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on the extension of liquidation for ESSER 2.0 and ESSER 3.0. Extension of liquidation will provide an additional 14 months for LEAs to draw down these funds, which will extend the period of performance for each grant.*



# ESSER 3.0 Close-Out

- **Remaining Funds as of July 1, 2024, after state fiscal year ending:**
- Any LEA who has funds remaining as of July 1, 2024, that have not been either obligated or liquidated must follow the procedures below:
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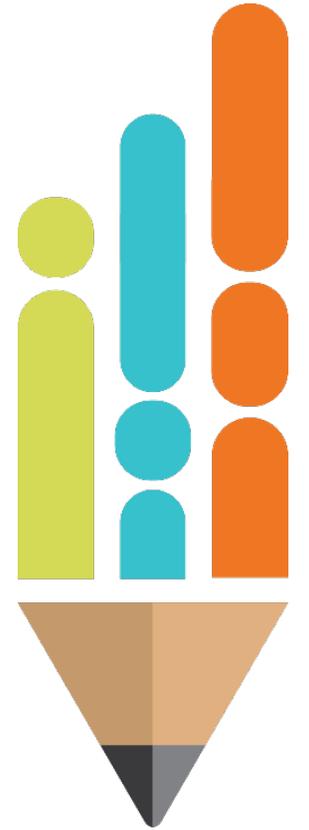
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# ESSER 3.0 – Additional Funding and Requirements

# Additional Funding for Homeless Students & Youth

- ARPA establishes a reserve of \$800 million to serve homeless students
- Identify and provide wrap-around services. These services should focus on needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and allow them to fully participate in school/extracurricular activities.
- The department is awaiting further guidance and will award these funds expeditiously in late spring.
  - Anticipating funds will be awarded to states by state homeless counts submitted in our EDFacts reporting
  - Will be awarded to states to subgrant



# Allowable Uses of ESSER Funds and Focus Areas

# ESSER 1.0—Focus Areas

**A summary of allowable uses of these one-time funds are listed below\*:**

- purchasing education technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity);
- providing summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs (including online learning);
- planning for long-term closures;
- addressing the unique needs of special populations;
- providing mental health services; and
- conducting other activities necessary to maintain operation of services and employing existing staff and coordination activities, including childcare and the needs of principals and school leaders.

***\*Including those uses of funds authorized under ESEA, CTE, IDEA, Adult Ed and McKinney-Vento; and it applies Title I equitable services provisions for students and teachers in non-publics.***

# ESSER 2.0—Focus Areas

- New allowable uses of these one-time funds are listed below\*:
- NEW Addressing learning loss  
Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.
- NEW School facility repairs and improvements  
School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
- NEW Addressing learning acceleration  
Addressing learning growth among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.

***\*Including those uses of funds authorized under ESEA, ESSER 1.0, CTE, IDEA, Adult Ed and McKinney-Vento; and it applies Title I equitable services provisions for students and teachers in non-publics.***

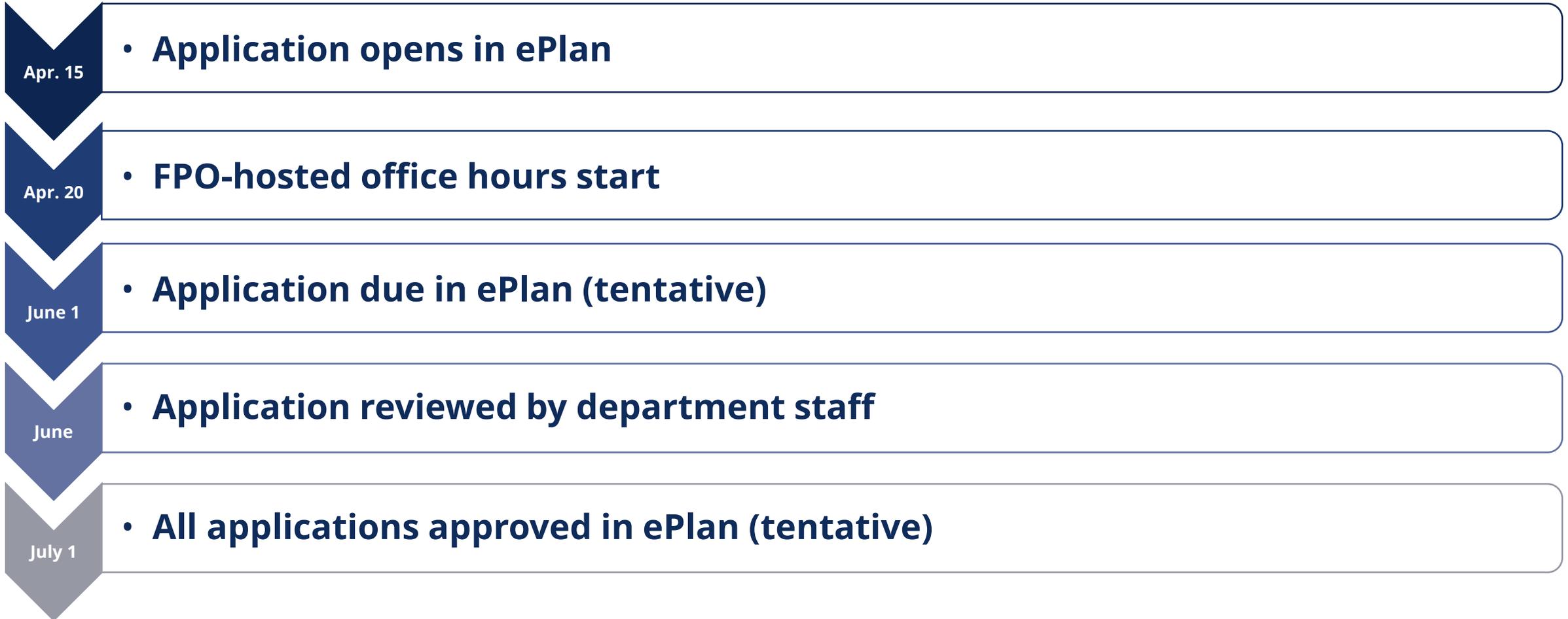
# ESSER 3.0—Focus Areas

- LEA must reserve at least 20 percent of funds to accomplish the following:
  - (1) address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions,
  - (2) ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs, and
  - (3) address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.
- Expectation is that this reservation is for regular school year, summer learning, extended day, or extended school year programs.
- New allowable uses of these one-time funds are listed below\*:
- NEW Reopen Safely & Remain Open  
CDC guidelines to reopen safely and remain open and give the resources needed to make up for lost time in the classroom.

***\*Including those uses of funds authorized under ESSER 1.0, ESSER 2.0, ESEA, CTE, IDEA, and Adult Ed.***

# Funding Application Overview

# Application Timeline





# Cover Page

## Point of Contact must complete:

- LEA Name and Number
- LEA Official Address and Phone Number
- LEA Website
- Director of Schools Name and Contact Information
- ESSER Fund 3.0 Point-of-Contact (POC) and Contact Information



# Spending Plan

- The amount of funds to be spent in support of focus area will auto-calculate from the budget tags.
- A validation error and auto calculation for LEAs to see minimum 20 percent of funds to be used.
- For each focus area selected, provide a clear narrative description of the activities, programs, and services to be funded, and the district plan strategy these activities support.
- The amount budgeted on this page must be equal the amount budgeted and tagged using budget tags in the line items.





# Program Details: Administration

- The reasonable and necessary costs to manage the federal grant in a compliant and effective manner.
- LEAs must select one of the following:
  - The LEA ***is not*** utilizing grant funds to administer the ESSER 3.0. Provide a summary of how the grant program will be administered, including the title of the staff responsible for the grant administration, the FTE(s), and the other funding sources that will contribute to administrative staff salaries/benefits.
  - The LEA ***is*** utilizing grant funds to administer ESSER 3.0.
- Provide a brief description of the reasonable and necessary administrative activities and personnel. This includes the FTE and amount deducted from the grant.



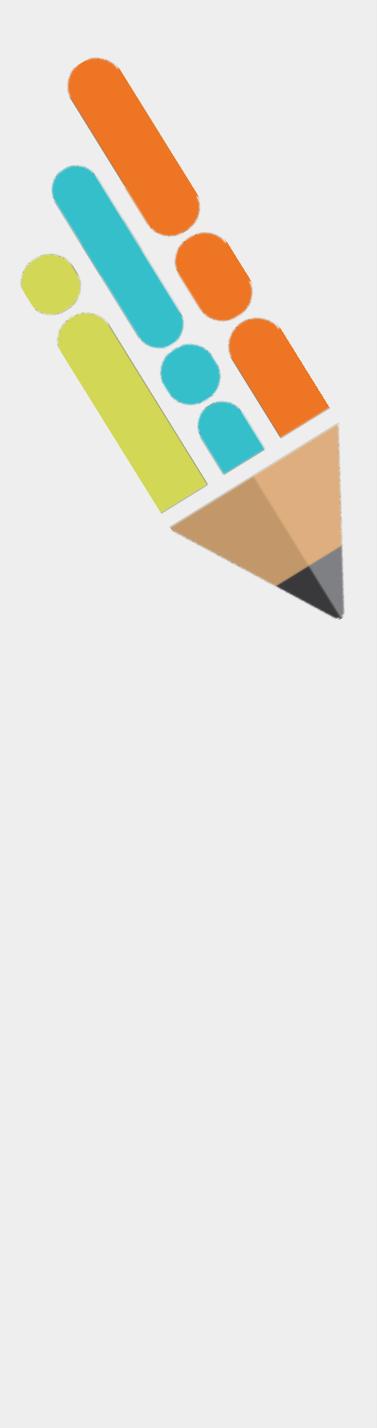
# Program Details: Planning

- Reflect on the challenges that the LEA faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. What prioritized needs did the LEA identify during the pandemic?



# Program Details: Learning Loss

- **Note: Required minimum of 20% of funds must be used to address learning loss through evidence-based interventionist that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs.**
- Provide information on how the LEA is measuring and addressing learning loss and how ESSER 3.0 funds will support these measures. Please include an overview of the evidence-based interventions the LEA will implement to address learning for students.



# Program Details: Oversight Plan

- LEAs must select one of the following:

- Does the LEA plan to hire new staff members for the purposes of reporting, monitoring, and or auditing ESSER 3.0 funds?

Yes       No

- Summarize the LEA's plan for reporting, monitoring, and auditing supports and capacity related to ESSER 3.0 funds.





# **NEW:** Personnel Charts

- Indicate headcounts (HC) for each staff member paid with grant funds. These must always be a whole number and must match throughout the section if mentioned more than once.
- Enter both a headcount and an FTE for all system-wide instructional and support staff supported with the ESSER Fund 2.0. System-wide staff are employees not assigned to a building and work across the LEA in multiple school sites as necessary, but not as part of a planned assignment.
- FTEs must match FTEs identified in budget narratives (individually and the sum). Titles of staff must match titles identified within budget narratives.
- Reference identified staff within the narrative description of administration within the Program Details page (titles and FTEs must match)



# LEA-Level Questions: Charter Schools Page

- Outline the process used to ensure charter schools are receiving ESSER Fund 2.0 benefits equal to their traditional public school counterparts.



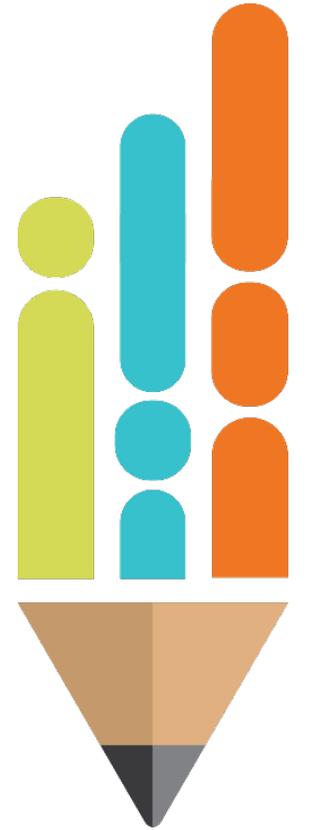


# Related Documents

- LEA Assurances
- Charter School Assurances

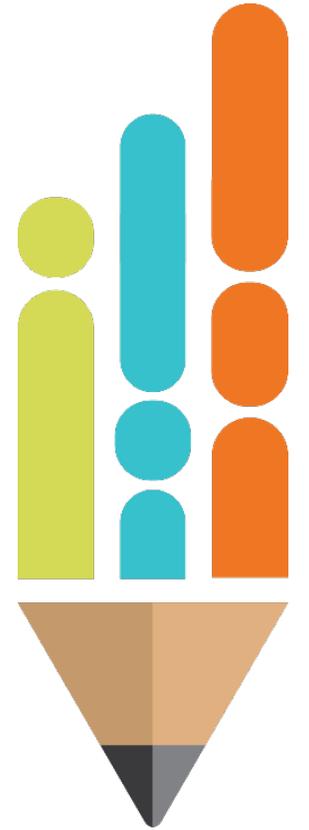
# School Re-Opening Plans

- Included in ARPA by amendment
  - LEA receiving funds shall develop and make publicly available no later than 30 days after receiving allocation, **a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction** and continuity of services
  - Before making plan publicly available, LEA must seek and incorporate public comment
  - Pre-existing plans that meet these standards will satisfy requirements
- Upload the Re-Opening Plan to the [Related Documents](#) page



# Assurances

- LEA Assurances
- Charter School Assurances



# Accountability & Oversight

# Accountability at All Levels

## ED to SEA

- Monitoring states on ESSER 1.0, including Tennessee (April 2021)
- Monthly reporting on spend downs

## SEA to LEAs

- Monitoring is embedded in the RBM monitoring tiers
- Additional focused-monitoring where concerns arise
- Ongoing review of spend down of funds and additional technical assistance as needed

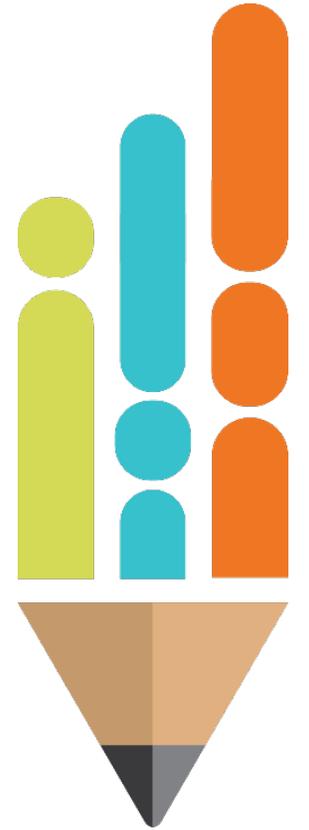
## LEAs

- Conducting self-monitoring
- Checking internal controls and policies
- Addressing staffing needs

# Resources & Closing

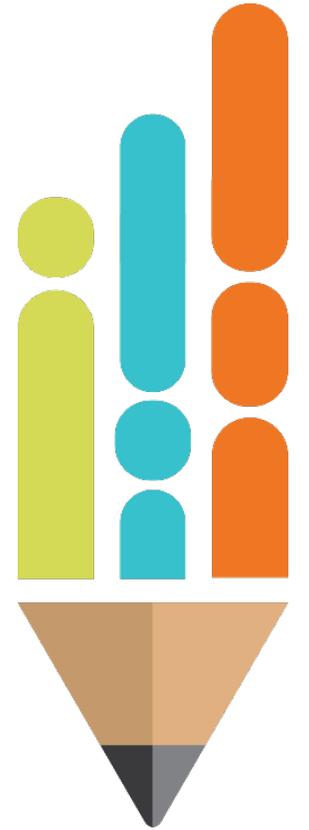
# Recently Released Resources

- In ePlan > TDOE Resources > ARPA Act/ESSER Fund 3.0
  - [ESSER 3.0 Technical Application Guide](#)
  - [ESSER 3.0 Webinar Slide Deck](#)
  - [ESSER 3.0 Office Hours Q&A](#)
  - [ESSER 3.0 Q&A](#)
  - [ESSER 3.0 Office Hours Schedule](#)
  - [ESSER 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 Recommended Account Numbers and Line Items](#)



# Office Hours

- Scheduled twice a week (T & Th) during the application window, alternating between the morning and afternoon (starting **April 20**).
- LEAs are encouraged to attend virtual office hours offered by FPO to ask questions and glean insights and ideas from other stakeholders.
- To make these office hours beneficial, please bring questions and plans for the development of the LEA's ESSER Fund 3.0 Application.
- Questions and ideas will be compiled and shared out daily via a Q&A document in ePlan.





# Thank You!

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# Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Citizens and agencies are encouraged to report fraud, waste, or abuse in State and Local government.

NOTICE: This agency is a recipient of taxpayer funding. If you observe an agency director or employee engaging in any activity which you consider to be illegal, improper or wasteful, please call the state Comptroller's toll-free Hotline:

**1-800-232-5454**

Notifications can also be submitted electronically at:

**<http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline>**