



BIE Listening Session

COVID-19 Response & Relief

Education Stabilization Fund

Blanket Waiver Authority

Overview

February 2021



BIE Presenters

- **Introduction by Tony Dearman, Director**
- **Sharon Pinto, Deputy Bureau Director**
- **Larry Palmer, Supervisory Budget Officer**



Statutory Authority

P. L. 116-260 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)

Education Stabilization Fund

“one-half of 1 percent to be allocated to the Secretary of the Interior for programs operated or funded by the BIE under the terms and conditions established for funding provided of the CARES Act P. L 116–136”

60 percent to Bureau-funded schools

40 percent to Tribal Colleges and Universities

ED/BIE agreement allows 10% Reserve for national-level support

Schools not required to submit spending plan prior to receipt of funding



BIE COVID-19 Response and Relief

Funding Process

\$409.4m

Transfer Process > Treasury

> ED > BIA > BIE > Schools > TCUs

Period of Funds Availability 09/30/2022



ED Transfer Funding

BIE Funding Calculation	
Description	Methodology
ED Total ESF-II Funds	\$81,880,000,000
1 Percent	\$818,800,000
BIE Receives 1/2 of 1 Percent	\$409,400,000
OMB Apportionment	2/8/2021

Holding Schools & TCUs Harmless – Methodology

- **Pre-COVID-19 WSU data**
- **SY 19-20 certified attendance counts**
- **Protects out-year funding formulas (3-yr average)**



Distribution Methodology

Process Unchanged from 2020

- **WSU for Schools K-12**
- **TCUs - Student Counts & Base Amounts**
- **Distribute funds within five days of approval**
- **Unused reserve funds may be reallocated**
- **Hold harmless attendance benchmark**
- **Distributions posted on BIE website**



Use of Funds

Guidance Unchanged – Addendum to ESF-I

- **Needs of Individual Schools**
- **Educational Technology**
- **Summer School and After-School Programs**
- **Planning and Coordinating Activities**
- **Mental Health and Behavioral Services**
- **Professional development**
- **Supplies and Sanitation**

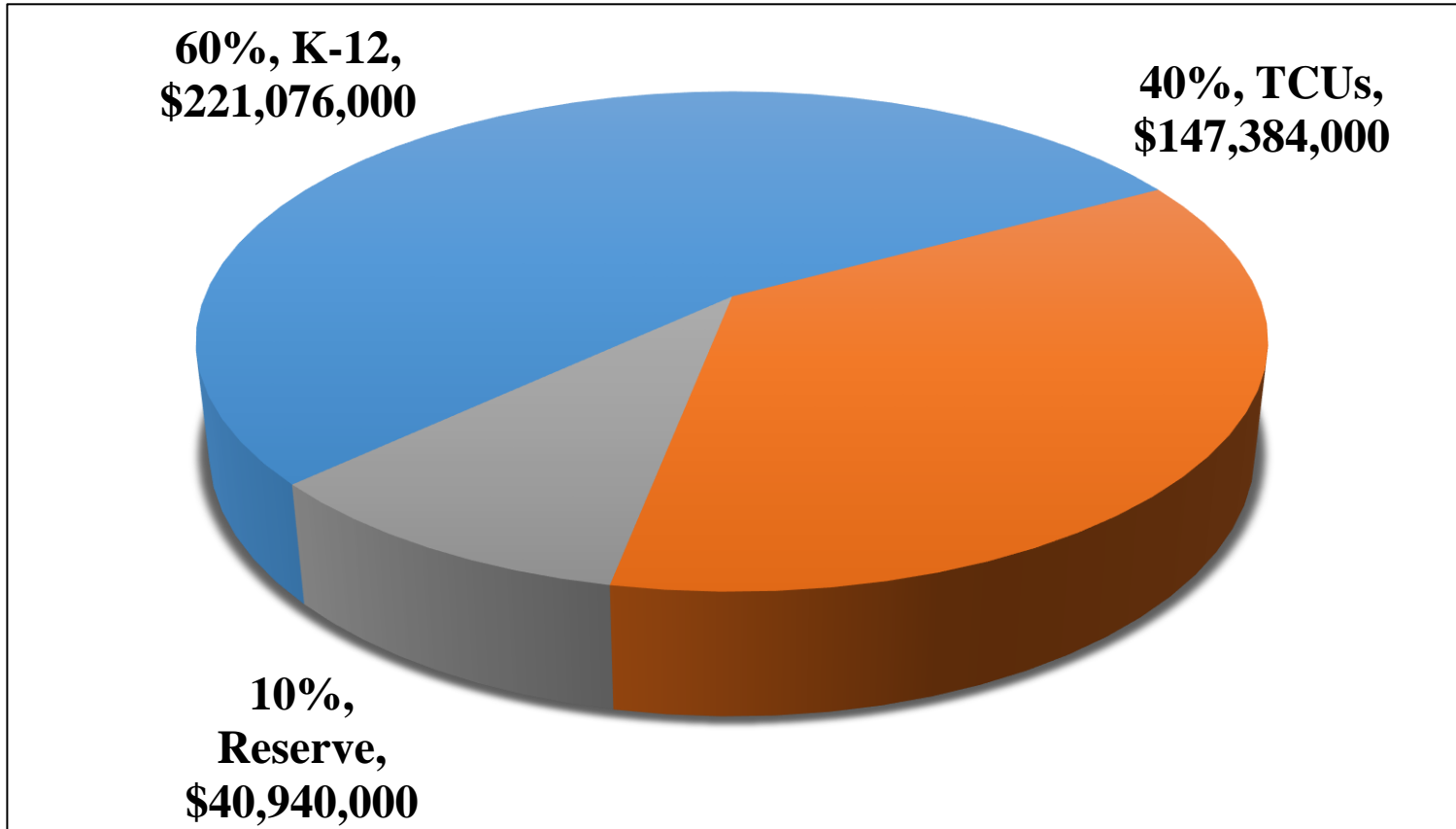
Previous National Level Use of Funds

- **Mental Health and Trauma Training**
- **IT Services and Assessments**
- **Project and acquisition support**



COVID-19 Response and Relief

ESF-II Transfer - \$409.4m



Calculation on balance after BIE Reserve applied



BIE Administrative Reserve

Focus Areas

- ✓ Mental Health Services
- ✓ Learning Management System Investments
- ✓ HVAC & Indoor Air Quality Improvements
- ✓ Emergency Management and Coordination
- ✓ Communications Outreach
- ✓ System enhancements (NASIS)
- ✓ Oversight and records support
- ✓ Other priorities



Blanket Waiver Authority

Overview

- The Department of the Interior issued a blanket waiver of certain 25 CFR subchapter E regulatory requirements to the extent necessary to ensure that schools receive the level of Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) and transportation funding for school year 2021-2022 that they would have received absent COVID-19 related school facility closures;
- The blanket waiver addresses the following regulatory requirements applicable to school year 2020-2021 for all BIE schools: 25 C.F.R. §§ 39.710-.711(bus transportation), 39.702-.704 (commercial transportation), 39.216-.221(residential), 39.214 (instructional hours)
- To the extent that a BIE school has already submitted a waiver request, which includes a request to waive regulations outside of those referenced above, the Department will continue to review those requests, but will limit the review only to those additional provisions.



BIE COVID-19 Response and Relief

*Thank You For Your
Time*

*We Appreciate Your
Partnership*