

American Rescue Plan (ARP) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: MDE - Adosh Unni, Director of Government Relations

Title of Request: Vocational or Life Skills Programming for Students Receiving Special Education Services

Date: 10/11/2021 **Request Amount:** \$ 1,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 10/11/2021 to 6/30/2023 (no later than 6/30/2023)

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

The expand/add vocational or life skills programming will provide \$1.0 million in funding for grants to school districts and charter schools for providing secondary transition services to students with disabilities age 18 to 21 who lost instructional time in secondary transition programs during the pandemic (2020-2021).

The teaching of vocational skills and life skills is intended to prepare a student with a disability for success after secondary education. Through vocational skills training, students will learn how to prepare for a job, find a job, apply for a job and excel at a job. Life skills programs for students with disabilities prepare students to participate as fully as possible in their schools and communities, live as independently as possible, self advocate and make their own choices, and attain quality of life.

This funding will support schools in addressing the needs of students receiving special education services who are preparing to graduate and transition into the workforce or community who currently do not have access and whose services have been limited due to COVID-19. These funds will be utilized by schools in developing and/or expanding vocational and life skills programs in their schools. One example is implementation of Project SEARCH internship sites for students with developmental cognitive disabilities in a business.

The uses of the funds by school districts and charter schools may include one or more of the following:

- a. effective practices for improved social inclusion of students with disabilities with student peers, school and community
- b. secondary transition services for students with disabilities who exited special education in the 2020-21 school year owing to age;
- c. internet capacity for special education transition programs, including access and licensing for the Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS), MyVault, etc.; or
- d. professional development and implementation of effective practices for improving life skills, vocational skills, and improved postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities, including but not limited to Project SEARCH and Employment Capacity Building Cohort (ECBC) participation and implementation.

Heather Mueller Digitally signed by Heather Mueller
Date: 2021.10.11 08:00:11 -05'00'

Department Head Signature

10/11/2021

Date