Friday Forum

Starting on July 5, public and non-public schools may begin submitting grant applications for school security projects using the process put into place for the Public School Infrastructure Fund. The grant window will remain open until Aug. 26. These awards will be distributed in two allotments. Early decision awards will be granted to a portion of applicants that apply by July 22 (a total of $3.3 million in grants will be awarded to public schools in this early decision phase). Applicants that do not receive an early decision award will automatically be considered for the second allotment of funds, which is an additional $10 million and available to both public and non-public schools; applications for this round must be received by Aug. 26. Projects that address the highest priority security risks will be prioritized for grant awards. A link to the application will be available on Tuesday.

Please review the Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver update for Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-2023, along with the four Nationwide Waiver Extensions that have just been released by USDA: Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2022 Extension 5, Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer Extension 4, Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates, and Fiscal Action Supply Chain Waiver. As we receive additional guidance from USDA on the implementation of these waivers, NHED will communicate that to the field. If you feel that your school/site would be utilizing one or more of the waiver extensions, please contact the Office of Nutrition Programs and Services to obtain the necessary documentation and process required.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights has announced the resolution of a sex-based investigation of the Tamalpais Union high School District in California. OCR determined that the district violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations by failing to respond promptly and effectively to repeated notice of ongoing sex-based harassment of a transgender student by another student, predicated on sex stereotyping, according to the release.

Last week, President Biden signed into law the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022, which extends certain flexibilities for child nutrition programs and provides temporary increases in reimbursement rates for school meals and meals provided at child care centers. USDA is currently developing the guidance necessary for NHED’s Office of Nutrition Programs and Services to administer this newly enacted law. NHED will issue this guidance as soon as possible, as we understand the urgency in communicating this information to all programs and the impact that this may have on your operations.
• FEMA has published the following policy: COVID-19 Public Assistance Programmatic Deadlines that outlines interim programmatic deadlines and additional information on the cost-share change taking place on July 2, 2022 for DR 4516 (NH COVID Disaster). Reminder that the Request for Public Assistance (RPA) deadline is today. You may submit a Request for Public Assistance using this link.

• For public schools that have submitted a building aid letter of intent, building aid full applications are due today. No late applications will be accepted.

• Are you or someone you know looking to get Paraprofessional II licensure? NHTI is offering an 8-week online portfolio course from July 5-Aug. 26. This online course is structured to meet your individual needs while providing support to meet state requirements. Funding may be available through your district. For more information contact Cynthia Lucero clucero@ccsnh.edu or register directly here.

• More than 40 certified educators and 16 licensed therapists are providing essential tutoring services through NHED’s Yes, Every Student (YES!) scholarship program. The program offers $1,000 scholarships to NH students for tutoring services. Certified educators in New Hampshire that would like to offer services, and get paid for their work, may complete this form. We would love to see more educators sign up to tutor students.

• 2022 i4see End of Year collections are now live in the system. As a reminder, submissions (batch verified) are due June 24, (district verified) are due July 6 and certified no later than July 8 for EOY Enrollment, F&R EOY Collection and Home School Academic. All others, including College and Career Readiness and Civics (12th graders only), Credits and GPA (high school only), ELO Students (high school only), EOY Academic (targeted Title I schools only), and Virtual Instruction/Remote Learning are due July 30 (batch verified), Aug. 10 (district verified) and certified by Aug. 12.

• Registration is still open for a five-week micro-credential course available this summer for educators. Granite State College has been selected to provide training to PK-12 teachers this summer on behalf of NHED. This grant-funded training will give NH educators the opportunity to further develop skills related to creating effective virtual classrooms and facilitating engaging online curriculum. Participation is limited, and a $200 stipend is available upon completion (to the first 1,000 educators who register).

• NH educators may be interested in learning more about the popular Dick and Jane reading collection illustrated by Robert Childress, and its connection to the Granite State. The classic books, which are still available today, were designed to help children read.

To have information included in future editions of the Friday Forum, email Kimberly.C.Houghton@doe.nh.gov