




Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

January 20, 2021

TO: Community Action Agency Executive Director
FROM: Greg A. Pieper 
RE: Iowa CSBG Program Policy (Expanding Educational Opportunities through School Choice)

Attached is the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services' (HHS/OCS) guidance for State CSBG Offices and CSBG eligible entities regarding the President's Executive Order (13969), Expanding Educational Opportunities through School Choice. The guidance clarifies and reinforces that eligible entities may use their CSBG funds (including CSBG CARES Supplemental) to provide emergency learning scholarships and other supports for the educational needs of low-income school age students and families impacted by school closures if these needs are identified by the eligible entity in a community assessment.

Executive Order 13969: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-expanding-educational-opportunity-school-choice/>

The Executive Order and HHS/OCS' guidance do not mandate that CSBG funds be used for expanding educational opportunities through school choice. Eligible entities that want to use their CSBG funds for this purpose may do so under the following conditions:

- Educational needs of low-income school age students and families impacted by school closures are identified as needs in a community assessment
- CSBG funds must be used for scholarships or other educational supports specified in the Executive Order
- The income eligibility ceiling for CSBG funded scholarships or other education supports is 200% of the latest U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines – see Iowa CSBG Program Policy (Client Income Eligibility – 200%). At this time, this income eligibility ceiling is effective through September 30, 2021.
- Eligible entities will be required to track and report on the individuals and families receiving scholarships or other educational supports. Tracking and reporting must include individuals and families served, program expenditures, services provided, strategies, and outcomes.
- For the following CSBG contracts, a governing board approved CSBG budget amendment request with a detailed explanation will be required:
 - CSBG Supplemental Contract (CSBG CARES Act funds)
 - CSBG Contracts (FY 2020 and FY 2021)

If you have any questions, please contact me at (515) 281-0474 or Greg.Pieper@iowa.gov.