

FISCAL REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION'S POINT OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING EDUCATED DECISIONS

Federal Mental Health ADA Allocation Information Released



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Local educational agencies (LEAs) have been awaiting the release of the \$69 million in federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds for mental health-related services. While every LEA in California receives state mental health average daily attendance (ADA) revenue via the Principal Apportionment process, starting in 2023–24, federal Mental Health ADA Grant funds (Program Cost Account 15197/Resource 3327) are allocated only to member LEAs of a Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) as directed in Education Code Section 56836.07. The total amount allocated to each member LEA of a SELPA is based on prior-year ADA as of the Second Principal Apportionment, and these funds must be used exclusively to support mental health services for eligible students with disabilities. Information on LEA grant amounts can be found on the <u>funding results</u> page of the California Department of Education's (CDE) website. Prior to 2023–24, these mental health funds were allocated to the administrative unit of a SELPA, and were subject to SELPA allocation policy, including use in collaborative and regionalized services, shared programs, and locally determined funding priorities. These federal revenues are not new but are now allocated directly to SELPA-member LEAs, which will require each grantee to ensure compliance with the process for accepting, spending, and reporting the expenditure of IDEA funds to receive reimbursement for actual expenditures during the grant period.

The CDE's Special Education Division has posted the <u>funding profile</u> with grant information and a copy of the new expenditure report for this grant. Additionally, the CDE has generated the grant award notifications (GANs) and is providing informational materials and forms to ensure appropriate tracking and reporting for the federal IDEA Mental Health ADA allocation. To support LEAs in the completion of grant requirements, a Padlet specific to the Mental Health ADA allocation has been created, which includes a guidance for completing expenditure reports, supplemental forms for use with private providers and community mental health affiliates, reference materials, and training modules. (Information about the <u>Padlet</u> link will be included in the GAN and the link will be updated once it goes public.) The CDE has created a new expenditure report for the <u>Special Education Federal Grant: Expenditure Report Mental Health ADA Allocation</u>, which includes the indirect cost rate of the grantee and expenditure reporting documentation required to receive reimbursement for allowable activities. Grantees will receive federal funds via reimbursement upon submission of federal expenditure report(s).

GANs should arrive in mailboxes next week in hard copy form. Each grantee will receive two copies of the GAN for the superintendent and the chief business official, which includes a set of assurances on the back side of the documents. A copy must be signed by an LEA-authorized signatory and returned to the CDE, indicating agreement to comply with the grant assurance requirements. Although LEAs will receive the 2023–24 federal Mental Health ADA GANs in late April/early May, grantees can use Report 3 to capture expenditures back to July 1, 2023. The ideal situation for LEAs is to use Report 3 to capture all expenditures covered under Reports 1 and 2, and to mark Report 3 as final.