



During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is our goal to support our school districts to the greatest extent possible, while remaining compliant and accountable to GEAR UP goals. We ask you to please review the guidance below regarding expenditures and match relating to your GEAR UP grant. If you have any additional questions, please contact your facilitator or the program coordinator.

Changes and Amendments:

Subgrantees should submit a budget amendment to reallocate funds in their budget. Please continue to follow the [GEAR UP Iowa Guidelines for Budget Amendments](#) and we encourage communication with your facilitator about any anticipated changes. We are working with our program officer to discuss additional leniency around program activities and spending, so your communication about needs and obstacles in meeting the intended outcomes of your grant and the needs of your students is essential.

Our due date for budget amendments is Friday, May 15. If this date is not feasible, please let your facilitator, or the GEAR UP Coordinator, know so they can work with you to accommodate your timeline. In addition to a budget amendment, please consider the following options to include in your amendment, if applicable:

No-Cost Extension:

Schools will be given the opportunity to request a no cost extension, if needed. This will be for a period of up to three months after the original grant closing date (09/30/2020).

A no-cost extension will extend the project performance period and allow grantees additional time to spend down existing funds, collect any match and ensure that all deliverables can be met. "No cost" means no additional funding will be allocated.

Match Collection:

We still are required to remain compliant with federal guidelines, which require us to match every dollar spent. However, we also acknowledge that match collection can be difficult when many GEAR UP services have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and school closures. As mentioned above, we are in conversations with NCCEP and the US Department of Education about additional flexibilities and will keep you posted as to any anticipated changes. In the meantime, please keep in mind that, in addition to the no-cost extension, subgrantees are able to reduce their total award. In lowering your total award amount, you are able to reduce your overall match obligation.

We would like to express our tremendous thanks to all that you do everyday to support the students and families of the state. We cannot imagine the current difficulties you face in decision-making and logistics around keeping everyone safe, while fulfilling your mandate. We want you to know that we are committed to helping you in any way that we can and will do our best to minimize the burden your partnership with GEAR UP has on you and your institution and to help you in plotting a path forward.