



# COVID-19 Guidance on the Last Mile Internet Program for K-12 Students Guidance for LEAs *September 15, 2020*

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The Last Mile internet program (LMI) will provide eligible low-income Kentucky K-12 students with wireless and wired monthly internet service for school-related work and activities. The program covers all of the state’s 171 public school districts and the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), and is for those students who currently don’t have service at or very close to their homes.

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## Funding Information

LMI program funds will be awarded using the National School Lunch Program free/reduced lunch data for the 2018-2019 school year with a minimum LEA award of \$2,250. This ensures the funds will be sent to those districts that have the greatest number of students in need.

Prior to receiving funds, LEAs must complete an assurance document and spending plan through the Grants Management Application and Planning (GMAP) system.

LEAs will determine student eligibility for the LMI program based on the established assurances. Following the submission of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Assurance by the superintendent and Program Spending Plan, LEAs may request LMI funds through the Federal Cash Request process. The Federal Cash Request process can be found on the Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE) [federal grants webpage](#).

Expenditures beginning Mar. 1, 2020, may be applied to the LMI program funds if they are directly related to providing Last Mile wired and wireless internet to eligible low-income K-12 students. Reimbursement for retroactive measures to address internet access to eligible low-income student is to be considered a secondary funding priority.

It is permissible for LEAs to partner with external education agencies to provide allowable services using LMI program funds. Any partnerships will need to be included in the spending plan and annual report submitted in GMAP.



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LEAs should remain mindful that the Coronavirus Relief LMI Fund is an emergency fund meant to overcome barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic and expires Dec. 30, 2020.

## **Reporting Requirements**

LEAs will be required to submit quarterly Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP) reports using MUNIS Project number 663G. Deadlines for applicable quarters are Oct. 25, Jan. 25 and Apr. 25.

In an effort to provide adequate monitoring while attempting to minimize reporting requirements for LEAs, KDE will identify the majority of reporting requirements in the GMAP system. LEAs will be required to complete a spending plan using the template in GMAP by Sep. 30, 2020. This template will be a short document outlining the intended uses of the LMI program funding.

Also, LEAs will need to complete an Annual Report template in GMAP. The due date will be provided once announced by the State Budget Office. This narrative will summarize how LMI program funds were used since the award was made.

LEAs will assess LMI wireless or wired internet services provided and submit a description to KDE's Office of Education Technology, including the total number of students participating by service type and procurement vehicle.

Additional reporting may be required as more guidance is received from U.S. Department of Treasury.

## **Allowable Uses**

The following are allowable LMI program access hardware and services:

### Products/Services Solutions

- Wired Access/Solutions-examples; Cable, Fiber, DSL, etc.
- Wireless Access (standalone hotspot device)
- Wireless Access (hotspot via existing cell phone)
- Satellite Access
- Maintenance/Repair
- Other (detailed description required)



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## Spending Plan Should Include the Following Components:

- The planned number of eligible students who currently do not have access to internet services for educational instruction.
- Description of methods for confirming eligibility.
- Identify the anticipated impact of planned services on reducing the percent of eligible students who currently do not have access to internet services for educational instruction.
- Identify the type(s) of Last Mile internet services from the allowable program hardware and services list above that you plan to provide. For each service type selected, please include the estimated quantity as well as a description of any service location(s) intended for multiple eligible students.
- A description of any secondary funding retroactive measures beginning Mar. 1, 2020, which the district would be requesting be applied to the LMI program funds. Retroactive measures must be directly related to providing Last Mile internet to eligible students who did not have service for school-related work and activities prior to the measures taking place.

## Points of Contact

- Program lead: [Mike Leadingham](#)
- Program coordinator: [Amy Young](#)
- Technical: LEA Designated Kentucky Education Technology Systems (KETS) field staff
- Questions related to program funding: [Rebecca Bright](#)
- Budgets and Fiscal Contact for GMAP questions: [Thelma Hawkins](#)