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Description:	This Question and Answer Response Summary was developed to provide answers to questions received during the January 22, 2021, Session 1 - School Reopening Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair (SRVEVR) Program Workshop
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Memorandum

To: Docket 20-RENEW-01
School Energy Efficiency Stimulus List Serve

Date: February 4, 2021

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Subject: **Question & Answer Response Summary for Questions Received During the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Workshop January 22, 2021, Session 1 – SRVEVR Program**

The California Energy Commission (CEC) hosted a remote access workshop on January 22, 2021, to discuss implementation of the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus (SEES) Program and CEC staff's proposed implementing guidelines. The workshop was held in two sessions separately covering each of the SEES' grant programs, the School Reopening Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair (SRVEVR) Program and the School Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance (SNPFA) Program.

This Question & Answer Response Summary was developed to provide answers to questions received during the Session 1 – SRVEVR Program Workshop. Responses to questions received during the Session 2 – SNPFA Program Workshop are provided in a separate document.

Staff Draft Guidelines - for Discussion at January 22, 2021 Workshop School Reopening Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair Program Guidelines ([Draft Program Guidelines](#)) were released prior to the workshop for review and comment.

During the Session 1 – SRVEVR Program Workshop, CEC staff received many questions, including written questions through the remote meeting platform Zoom's question and answer function and this summary addresses many of the most frequently asked questions.

SRVEVR Program Workshop Q&A - Topics and Responses

Eligibility

- [Phased Approach](#)

1. When will funding be available for applicants that do not meet the underserved criteria? Applicants will receive notice when the

SRVEVR program eligibility is expanded to include schools that are not located in underserved communities. The initial round will be solely for underserved schools, but CEC will continually evaluate available funding and the effectiveness of the program and revise the program guidelines as expansions of the eligibility are appropriate.

2. How long will funding rounds last? The program will receive funds from the Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) on a quarterly basis. CEC staff are soliciting stakeholder feedback and will establish the length of individual funding rounds in the to be published in April of 2021.

- Initial Program Scope

3. What projects are eligible in the first round of funding? CEC staff are recommending that the initial round of funding be limited to Assessment and Maintenance Grants only. For more information on the program's scope please see Chapter 2: Project Requirements of the Draft Program Guidelines.

4. Are Administration Offices eligible to receive SRVEVR funding? CEC staff are recommending that initial program funding be reserved for schools located in underserved communities, but has not specified if administration offices **within** a school are eligible. The criteria for underserved communities can be found in Chapter 2, Section E of the Draft Program Guidelines. An LEA does not have to be comprised of entirely underserved schools to be eligible for the initial funding. An LEA may apply for the schools meeting the underserved criteria and then apply again at a later date for the schools who are not underserved. CEC staff will continually evaluate available funding and the effectiveness of the program and revise the program guidelines if expansions of the eligibility, that could include off-site administrative offices, are appropriate.

5. What additional technologies can LEAs include in upgrades funded by the 20% contingency or future upgrade and replacement grants? Public Utilities Code Section 1621(c)(1) - (2) governs program-wide grant eligibility, including amounts for an additional 20% over the amount requested for "...repairs, upgrades, or replacements necessary to make the system functional or more energy efficient" and upgrades or repairs exceeding the additional 20%. CEC staff is currently reviewing comments regarding the scope of "the system" and what would be qualified under both the initial awards and any future expansions of the program. CEC staff is also reviewing comments on additional or alternative technologies that might improve indoor air quality or increase efficiency of school HVAC systems.

- Statutory Program Scope
 - 6. What projects or sites are eligible under the SRVEVR Program?** Under the SRVEVR Program eligibility, applicants are limited to LEAs as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 1601(a). Eligible project sites include elementary, middle, high school and other school sites. Please see Chapter 1, Section D in the Draft Program Guidelines for more information about eligible applicants and eligible schools.
- Funding Tier
 - 7. How do enrollment numbers affect the grant awards?** CEC staff recommend using an approach developed for the CEC's Energy Conservation Assistance Act — Education Subaccount (ECAA-Ed) Competitive Loan Program so that program funds are available to a range of LEAs within each utility's service territory. This approach is described in Chapter 1, Section D of the Draft Program Guidelines and categorizes LEAs into application tiers based on the LEA's student enrollment. The application tiers are defined in Table 1: LEA Tier by Enrollment Numbers in Chapter 1, Section D of the Draft Program Guidelines.
 - 8. Will unused funds in round 1 be redistributed to tiers with a higher demand?** The Draft Program Guidelines provide information on the process for reallocating funds if funds in an application tier are not fully disbursed in Chapter 1, Section D. The CEC will evaluate projected program participation in the relevant tier and either hold the funds over in that application tier for use in the next funding round or reallocate the undisbursed funds to other application tiers in the same utility service territory.
- Costs
 - 9. Are there ineligible costs in the SRVEVR program?** The CEC is currently reviewing estimated costs, stakeholder comments, and may consider revisions which will be reflected in the Final Draft Program Guidelines.
 - 10. Can the grant award or contingency funds be spent on consulting fees?** The Draft Program Guidelines currently state in Chapter 1, Section D that no funding will be provided for the costs of consultant fees for completing an application or implementing a program.
- Service territory
 - 11. Are LEAs that receive electric service from a local publicly owned electric utility or community choice aggregator eligible for the program?** The Draft Program Guidelines cover eligible applicants in Chapter 1, Section D. LEAs may apply for funding for schools that are located in the service territory of California's large

electric or gas investor-owned utilities, which are described in Chapter 1, Section C of the Draft Program Guidelines as PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, and SCG pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission program guidance. Program staff will be providing additional screening tools to assist applicants in identifying utility service territories and the program's underserved community criteria. These will be posted to the SEES website when available.

12. If a school site is located in more than one service territory, which funding tier will it belong to? The application tiers are defined in Table 1: LEA Tier by Enrollment Numbers in Chapter 1, Section D of the Draft Program Guidelines. The CEC will consider this question and provide guidance in the Final Draft Program Guidelines.

Application

- Applications

13. Is the HVAC assessment report part of the application package? The HVAC assessment report will be funded through the initial phase of the SRVEVR program and is not part of the application package for the initial phase. Applicants will have the opportunity to apply for HVAC Assessment and Maintenance grants for these assessments. Draft application templates will be provided in the Final Draft Program Guidelines.

14. Are there plans to create an online application portal? The CEC intends to provide a simple and straightforward electronic application form and is currently working on the method for submission.

15. Can LEAs use consultants to manage their application? Applicants are able to use third party consultants to handle their applications, however SRVEVR staff are recommending in Chapter 1, Section D of the Draft Program Guidelines that the associated consulting fees will not be eligible for grant funding. Program staff are working to design a streamlined online application process intended to be able to be completed by LEA staff.

16. Can LEAs submit multiple applications? The Draft Program Guidelines cover the number of applications that an LEA may submit for each funding round and the relationship to the SNPFA Program applications in Chapter 1, Section D. Each LEA may only submit one application for SRVEVR funds in each funding round, but the application can include multiple sites.

17. How is priority determined per funding round? Applications will be processed in order by the date and time they were received, as described in Chapter 3, Section D of the Draft Program Guidelines. In the first round, applications will be limited to school sites located in underserved communities.

- Deadlines

18. What is the general program timeline? The CEC anticipates soliciting applications on or before April 1, 2021, and beginning to approve applications in May 2021. Public Utilities Code Section 1614(c) requires the CEC to adopt the Program Guidelines by May 1, 2021, and the CEC is aiming to adopt in April 2021.

19. Is there a deadline for submitting the application? The CEC is proposing to issue a notice of funding availability before each round of grants that will identify the anticipated funding to be made available, the relevant application deadlines, and any funding restrictions applicable to that funding round. This is described in Chapter 3 of the Draft Program Guidelines.

20. Are there extensions offered for projects that take longer than expected? Staff is seeking stakeholder comments on the amount of time necessary to complete SRVEVR grant award projects. Please see Chapter 2, Section H and Chapter 4 in the Draft Program Guidelines for more information on project term and completion of projects. In addition, staff's proposal in the Draft Program Guidelines is to allow grant recipients the ability to request a one-time extension for no longer than six months to complete final reporting.

Skilled and Trained Workforce

- Skilled and Trained Workforce Requirements

21. What process should LEAs use for contractor bidding?

SRVEVR program staff are recommending that applicants will be able to use their own existing methods for choosing a contractor. The Draft Program Guidelines Chapter 3, Section C explain what must be included in the estimate and Chapter 2, Section F lists the requirements a contractor must meet.

22. Is there a prevailing wage requirement for the contractors who are awarded the work? These grants may be subject to public works requirements (Labor Code Section 1720 et seq.), a requirement of which is to pay prevailing wages. Please see Chapter 2, Section G of the Draft Program Guidelines for more information.

Reporting

- Reporting Requirements

23. What are the reporting requirements for SRVEVR? The CEC is currently working to determine what reporting is needed for the agencies and IOUs to complete analysis of the required calculated (versus measured) energy and GHG savings. The CEC does not expect LEAs to determine energy and GHG savings but will need information from the LEAs for this analysis. Much of the information

will be from the forms filled out by the contractor completing the HVAC Assessment Report and HVAC Verification Report.

24. What “outcome” reporting will be required? The CEC is still considering if any additional reporting would be required after an LEAs completes work funded by the grant. Reporting on the status of CO2 or other air quality may be required as part of any future grants for project beyond the 20% contingency. Please see Draft Program Guidelines Chapter 4 for more information regarding applicable reporting requirements.

25. What happens if SRVEVR-funded improvements do not result in energy savings? Are energy savings a requirement for funding? Energy savings will not be calculated until after the Assessment and Maintenance project has been completed and therefore cannot be used as a requirement for funding this initial stage. As CEC staff evaluate any future expansions of the program beyond Assessment and Maintenance projects, projected energy savings may be considered for these discretionary approvals. More details regarding final reporting requirements are described in Chapter 4 of the Draft Program Guidelines. Additional reporting details required to calculate or confirm energy savings will be developed in coordination with the CPUC and IOUs.

Funding

- Total Program Funding

26. What is the total available funding amount? The CEC will determine the total program budget annually as described in Chapter 1, Section C. Once CEC staff has determined the total program budget, a notice of funding availability will be posted. The notice of funding availability will identify the amount of funds available in each application tier as described in Chapter 1, Section D of the Draft Program Guidelines.

- Double-dipping

27. Is a project eligible for SRVEVR funding if it received funding from other sources? The Draft Program Guidelines cover multiple funding sources in Chapter 1, Section D. Applicants can utilize multiple sources of funding, but each scope of work must cover separate portions of the project without overlap. Any project costs covered by incentives, rebates or other funding sources are not to be included in the SRVEVR application.

28. Will applicants be required to disclose if they have applied for or been award funds under other similar programs? The CEC will consider this question and provide guidance in the adopted Program Guidelines and in the application template.

29. If an applicant has participated in the Prop 39 program, can they use the consulting costs for more implementation? The CEC will consider this question and provide guidance in the adopted Program Guidelines.

- Award amounts

30. Is there a maximum grant amount a school can apply for in a given funding round? The CEC will consider this question and provide guidance in the adopted Program Guidelines.

31. If SRVEVR funding does not cover the entirety of the project, are there any restrictions as to how the remaining project cost is self-funded? SRVEVR program staff have not recommended any restrictions on LEAs leveraging other funding sources as long as not project costs covered by these funding sources are included in the SRVEVR grant award (see Double-dipping).

32. What type of expenses are eligible for 20% contingency funding? An additional 20% of the requested award amount will be available for repairs, upgrades or replacements necessary to make systems functional or more energy efficient.

- Payment Process

33. What are the timeframes for LEAs to receive the grant funding?

CEC staff are working to determine the estimated timeframe for applicants to receive their grant funding. These timeframes will be included in the Final Draft Program Guidelines.

SRVEVR Workshop Materials and Public Comment

If there are additional questions or comments that are not addressed by the answers provided in this document, the CEC encourages written comments to inform our development of the Draft Program Guidelines. The deadline to submit written comments is 5:00 p.m. on February 5, 2021.

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the [e-commenting page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/e-filing-and-e-commenting) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceedings/e-filing-and-e-commenting>, which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the “Comment Text” box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

The Draft Program Guidelines, have been posted for public review and comment on the SEES Program’s [Docket Log 20-RENEW-01](#), and at the following link: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=236369>

Written comments may be submitted by email. Include docket number 20-RENEW-01 and “SEES Program” in the subject line and send to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A copy of the presentation and recording of the Session 1 – SRVEVR Program Workshop are available on the workshop's [event page](https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2021-01/session-1-staff-workshop-school-energy-efficiency-stimulus-program-srvevr):
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2021-01/session-1-staff-workshop-school-energy-efficiency-stimulus-program-srvevr>

For any additional questions regarding the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program please contact SEES@energy.ca.gov.

Appendix A: Questions from Program Workshop

1. Is there a copy of the application to review available now?
2. Are you also going to post the application that LEA's need to fill out?
3. How are contractor estimates and implementation costs expected to be provided/displayed when presented to the CEC for funding?
4. Is there a sample application available for review yet?
5. the applications are due 1Feb, does that mean the contractor's budget and assessment are due by that date as well?
6. Where is the application located ?
7. Are there plans to create an online application portal?
8. Is there a limit to how much a LEA can apply for?
9. Do you have a sense of what the average award would be for an LEA that meets the criteria for a typical school site?
10. Is this spread over 3 years? If for re-opening, why spread over 3 years and not all at once?
11. Well there be a cap on the amount of award per district in order to allow multiple districts to participate.
12. Is there a Max dollar value a school can apply for in a given year?
13. How do you know what is the max dollar value a school can apply for?
14. If SRVEVR funding does not cover the entirety of the project, are there any restrictions as to how the remaining project cost is self-funded?
15. Is there a maximum on the amount of grant funds that an LEA can apply for?
16. If the HVAC improvements funded by this program increase gas consumption from a school's Forced Air Units, won't you be making the health (and greenhouse gas emission) problem worse for students and the adjacent community? Richard Burke, Elders Climate Action Southern California
17. is there a hard deadline for submitting post workshop comments? or just by April?
18. Can you re-confirm when implementation is expected, given the draft guideline timeline given of April?
19. How can District's submit applications beginning April 1 if the guidelines won't be approved until May 1?
20. When is the first funding round? In other words, what is the period of time when applications can be turned in and when will they receive funding? How long is the application review period between turning in an application and receiving funding?
21. Thank you for this overview, it's helpful to have a snapshot into the design. You mentioned Prop 39, and as a community-based nonprofit, we helped implement a number of those projects with the CEC. One of the challenges LEAs faced were internal staffing shortages and the time/data collection required to submit applications for the program. Will there be provision for project management

and/or other support to ensure LEAs will be able to take full advantage of these funds? With the quick turnaround we're concerned this could be an issue.

22. and is there a deadline to submitting the applications?
23. How long is Phase 1/Round 1 expected to last?
24. When do you expect Round 2 to open up for applications?
25. In light of COVID, acquiring Mechanical systems and Covid Biological measures may exceed well over 120 days (4 months). Was this impact considered in determining 12 month time frame?
26. Feb 1st is for the IOU advice letter
27. April 1 is first date we will see an application to fill out. Only 1 month to gather data seems too quick, especially if the grants are awarded first come first served.
28. Hi, I was wondering how the projects getting funded from AB841 can work together with Utility 3rd party incentive programs. Can they receive incentives, or would that be considered double dipping?
29. Local air districts have AB 617/Community Air Protection funding specifically for upgrading HVAC/filtration system filters, minimum 14+ MERV rating. Can this program and the air district program work together? Have you all contacted air districts to discuss a partnership?
30. Will applicants be required to disclose if they have applied for or been award funds under other similar programs, such as CARB incentive programs, or AB 836?
31. If a customer has leftover out-of-pocket costs for the necessary retrofits after the grant funding amount, could they utilize the CEC ECAA loan program to cover the gap?
32. If a school already received money from prop39, can they get money for the same school again under this program?
33. Can we leverage an Prop 39 study already done and use the 20% consulting fee for more implementation at a specific site ?
34. If a LEA does not get awarded funds in the first year of the program, but performs the qualifying upgrades using an alternative financing vehicle (such as Energy Savings Performance Contracting), will that LEA be eligible for reimbursement in a subsequent phase of the program? This question is based on the retroactive portion of the program going back to Aug 1, 2020.
35. Does maintenance include repair by replacement if HVAC is well beyond useful life and/or already not functioning properly?
36. How will installation of advanced technologies that directly address air cleaning such as needle-point ionization or UV be considered for funding as part of this program?
37. Can the percentage for >10,000 students more? Over 10k students vs. 2k students is quite a bit more of classrooms to cover. To illustrate 10k-2k = 8k students which is roughly 500 classroom difference when using the state loading standard. 1k students is roughly 38 classrooms.
38. What do the percentages refer to in the previous chart?

39. Please explain the funding caps in table 2 on the slide that outlines the tiers - what is the dollar cap for these categories?
40. Can you apply for two tiers? SCE & So Cal Gas?
41. If a district doesn't include all of its schools then they may "fall into" a different tier? Is it not based on total enrollment of the district?
42. Should IOUs apply the tiering by LEA or site/project level? What will be the reference document/site used to verify enrollment numbers?
43. The application tiers would seem to disadvantage large LEAs. might it be an option to establish the budget based on number of Free/Reduced lunch eligible students?
44. Will the funding matrix be current so as to guide us (the Contractor) on helping schools based on actual funds being available
45. For instance, it is likely that more than 31% of the disadvantaged students in SDGE-served territories attend "Tier 4" LEA schools
46. Do we have to determine which utility we are applying under?
47. Good morning. In regards to Application Tiers, the funding is equitably split between the 4 utility companies. Are the # of schools served within these 4 utility territories somewhat equal? I have concerns that a utility company who has more schools in their territory would be eligible for lesser funding amounts.
48. I'm concerned that the application tiers do not allow equity throughout the state on a dollar per student standpoint. I don't think there is enrollment parity between the IOU territories, so that means that a disproportionate amount of money will go to IOU territories with fewer students.
49. I'm also concerned that the # of students enrolled in LEA's with < 10,000 is smaller than the # of students in LEA's with > 10,000. This could also create a lack of equity in the distribution of funds throughout the state.
50. have you considered making the tier funding table percentages proportional to how it was derived? For example, if an LEA is responsible for 50 percent of PGE's contributions, could they receive 50 percent of PGE's budget.
51. For schools who receive services from multiple IOUs, are they eligible for the same amount of funding from each pool? For example, would a tier 1 school within both SCE and SCG territories be eligible for 15.7% of SCE funding and 15.7% of SCG funding?
52. TOPIC 2: Good morning. With \$275M estimated as the available budget for round 1 in 2021, does that confirm that \$68.75M is available under each utility territory since the tiers are broken down in that manner? Stemming back on the # of LEAs in each territory, will those unused/underutilized funds in round 1 be eligible to be redistributed to tiers with a higher demand?
53. Any chance that the contingency funds could be spent on consulting fees, if necessary, staying under 20%?
54. Will budget/cost of temporary hire of Certified Energy Manager on behalf of the school or owner be covered for best control and management of the implementation and most especially quality/value outcome of the program.

55. Regarding the statutory deadlines, are the LEA's required to submit grant applications in one submission, or are LEA's able to submit multiple grant applications?
56. How is the CEC reaching out to eligible districts/schools advertising this funding is available?
57. What resources will be used to verify "underserved communities"? How will a LEA be able to confirm program eligibility prior to applying?
58. Will there be any public comments in between the second draft release and the final guidelines being posted?
59. What is the CEC's stakeholder outreach to LEA's with school sites in underserved communities to advise them of this upcoming opportunity, now and in the coming months leading up to the applications?
60. Is April 1 open early for "underserved" schools or for all schools?
61. How is a "funding round" defined?
62. Do you have to receive title funding to be eligible for the grant?
63. Would rural schools with high percentage of Native American near tribal lands qualify as underserved community ?
64. Why would each school in the district need to meet the underserved criteria? That doesn't make sense to me with an explanation
65. Will there be a higher preference given to LEA's that qualify in multiple areas?
66. Is there a chart or list of underserved communities ?
67. Just to clarify: the first round supporting underserved LEAs, you only need one site to qualify as underserved? Or does each site need to meet one underserved criteria?
68. Hi, What was the minimum qualifying CalEnviroScreen Score again?
69. What happens if you don't qualify in any area?
70. If you don't meet the free and reduced criteria or low income criteria, is there still eligibility or ability to apply?
71. What is the likelihood that a relatively small LEA in an affluent community with low free and reduced numbers will be a recipient of these funds?
72. When will the applications for schools outside the "priority" groups be evaluated?
73. Why is the first round limited to underserved schools when the law requires that 25% of the funds be allocated to that category? When will funding be opened to all schools which are paying into this program (IOU ratepayers)?
74. When will you accept applications for LEA that don't qualify in the disadvantage communities? If you don't have any schools in that category.
75. Does the proximity to freeways or Title 5 facilities come into play in this phase, or is it only about meeting underserved communities right now?
76. You just mentioned that only those who has underserved students can apply for the first round. My question is - if the school site has a few underserved students, up to what % underserved students should we have to qualify for this grant?
77. Please define "initial applications" not receiving more than the 20% contingency. When would applications be eligible for that extra funding? thanks

78. Assuming that the need, even within eligible projects/applications will exceed the \$200 M funding this year, will the CEC hold the 25% of funding to underserved communities as a Limit? In other words- once this 25% is achieved, then will all other underserved applicants have to "compete" with all "non-underserved" applicants? And if so, how is that truly centering equity?
79. If a school gets an award for an "HVAC assessment and maintenance" in the first round, is the district precluded from applying for an upgrade/replacement grant in a subsequent round for the same system?
80. In the San Joaquin Valley, some of our most disadvantaged community schools have very old HVAC systems that are in need of upgrading in order to accept filters at a higher MERV rating. What will determine whether a replacement can be funded and how much of the replacement cost will be eligible, 20% of cost or more? Thanks
81. If the HVAC system is 35 years old is there really a need for assessment for repairs in lieu of just moving forward with replacement.
82. The energy savings is assuming the schools have a building automation system, is this considered in upgrade in the second round of funding?
83. When is the "round" anticipated to be completed?
84. Since this is phased. If we could submit one application And have the district reimbursed as it comes available?
85. Could you please provide an estimated timeline for the second application period to do the HVAC replacements?
86. Are grants awarded on a first come, first serve basis?
87. Are applications funded in the order received and reviewed?
88. Have you considered providing some initial funding, similar to Prop39 planning funds, to help districts conduct the initial HVAC assessment? This initial investigation may be necessary to secure an accurate contractor estimate. If not, districts will have to pay out-of-pocket for this assessment, then hope for reimbursement, which may be a barrier to participation.
89. If funding is over three years can we submit one application and do the work as the funding becomes available. Otherwise this will cost contractors to do multiple visits and drive up the cost
90. It appears that for the application, an LEA must provide an estimate for all work to be funded including analysis, assessment, maintenance, repair and upgrade. Practically speaking this would require the LEA to pay for the analysis and assessment upfront. Is the intent of the legislation to have the LEA's carry that burden? It appears to be a significant barrier.
91. We did blower door tests recently to assess infiltration on modular classrooms. To correct uncontrolled infiltration can DOUBLE easily your HVAC costs. Will you be prioritizing measures based on the measure that is most cost effective with the highest impact on safety and health ?
92. Is there a goal % split between the HVAC side and Plumbing/Appliance side of the program?

93. There is a significant upfront cost to assess a facility, and a have a professional engineer evaluate ventilation rates as well as develop a budget proposal for implementation of SRVEVR measures. How do you suggest school districts fund this work before application are submitted? Also, how do you suggest schools get this budget within their bid process? Do they need to develop a scope of work and put out a RFP to collect three contractors estimates?
94. Will program level cost effectiveness analysis be performed for consideration of diverting IOU rolling portfolio funds from this program to others
95. Is there a matching requirement for the grant or will projects be 100% funded by SEES?
96. Where can we get the list of what we are eligible to apply for?
97. Would an implemented case study with construction schedule to complete this summer have any advantage in getting funds ?
98. If schools wanted to do CO2 monitoring only - would be allowed or does it need to be tied to the ventilation control
99. How about monitoring of other indoor environmental parameters ?
100. Given that this program's focus is to improve classroom air quality, and research showing the significant impact of gas fired HVAC on poor air quality, will you be prioritizing replacement of gas fired HVAC units with fully electrified units?
101. Will bi-polar ionization qualify as an upgrade? Thank you.
102. Will there be a minimum MERV rating requirement for the new filters installed and what will that be? Will sites be able to just install improved filtration systems to existing HVAC systems and add stand-alone units for areas not serviced by HVAC systems for filtration?
103. Are other options of air purification acceptable? e.g. virus risk reduction. Some products utilize ozone and are not allowed by CARB requirements. Some products may be CARB acceptable. Some are duct mounted and seemingly would be a good fit for this program. My company, 3fficient, provides professional engineering and contracting services.
104. Will ionization products be an acceptable measure, compared to UV-C products?
105. Will devices such as ionization devices that are installed in HVAC units to improve indoor air quality be covered by the grant, maybe in the 20% contingency as an upgrade or improvement?
106. In-duct UV air purifiers: they don't improve energy efficiency but significantly improve the capture of particulates, microbial and gases. We've installed them due to COVID. Would these costs be eligible under AB841?
107. We have installed a lot of Ionization systems in schools that help improve the indoor air and also address COVID-19. Does this measure qualify under this program? can these schools get paid for the work already done?
108. Will this funding cover any type of air purification equipment such as air ionizers. installed in current HVAC systems?

109. Multiple school districts are implementing commercial grade portable HEPA air scrubbers in spaces for indoor air quality and COVID-19 risk mitigation with success. Using the funding for allowing districts to implement these units needs to be greatly considered. This would also help the districts that do not have air conditioning currently.
110. There's a slide asking for comments on "cost v. benefit analysis of different CO2 monitoring systems". Can you describe are the different types of CO2 monitoring systems being considered?
111. Can you please specify if Bi-polar ionization will be reimbursable? This is an air quality solution
112. Do any equipment replacements qualify in the first round of funding? if so what qualifications would need to be met?
113. If energy efficiency improvements are still a priority, we suggest including unit replacements on very old units. Do you anticipate this being acceptable, if also providing better IAQ (via economizing, UV-C, etc.)?
114. If equipment is 20 years old or more without proper economizer to maintain proper CO levels qualify for replacement.
115. Germicidal lighting is mentioned in the guidelines. Can germicidal lighting be covered as part of the upgrades if it doesn't strictly contribute to energy efficiency but is part of an overall upgrade that has energy savings?
116. Are lighting & lighting controls out of scope?
117. Can community colleges participate or take advantage of this program?
118. Is this grant available to non-seat based charters?
119. Will funding be available for County offices of Education (office building) and their school sites?
120. Does this apply to Community College Districts or only K-12?
121. Are Community Colleges eligible for funding under this program
122. Are Institutions of Higher ED (Community Colleges) eligible?
123. Could you please repeat the qualification criteria?
124. Will charter schools, as an LEA, be required to request funding for buildings they lease, or can the district who owns and maintains the building apply?
125. It was my understanding that priority for AB 841 funding goes to schools which serve underserved communities and schools within 500 feet of a major highway system. If a school is within 500 feet of a major highway system but does meet the underserved criteria are they not eligible to apply?
126. Can you please clarify if community college districts are included in the LEA definition that are eligible to apply to this grant?
127. Do you know what percentage of schools will be left out of this funding opportunity because the statute is only focusing on IOU territory?
128. Is there an issue with receiving the grants if our schools are already back in session?
129. Can someone double check to make sure community colleges are not included. We really need to find funding to help us open up our campus.

130. Understanding that this grant program has taken time to develop due to our ongoing COVID pandemic. Can current modernization projects, which began during the onset of the pandemic or completed thereafter be subsidized with these funds?
131. What type of reporting requirements will be required after the initial award is given?
132. Is the HVAC Assessment Report required to be included in the application process? If not, what is the timeline for its submission to, and review by, the CEC?
133. How important will energy savings verification be in the SEVEVR program?
Context: Generally, ventilation and filtration increases energy consumption. In my experience, Demand controlled ventilation (e.g. CO2 monitoring + VFDs), can mitigate the increased energy consumption, but cannot result in reduced energy consumption in many cases.
134. Is there any requirement to track and report CO2 monitoring data?
135. My hope for the benchmarking component is that LEA's are encouraged to use the Energy Star Portfolio Manager. It's free, the districts can do it themselves or have a third party do it for them, and it could encourage LEA's to use the water and waste tracking tools embedded in the Portfolio Manager. In addition, the Portfolio Manager is the industry standard that is also used for real estate that is mandated to report their energy tracking to the state under AB 802
136. Is the CEC going to require reporting on Air Quality achievement in addition to energy savings? Perhaps with commissioning testing results?
137. Will CEC staff be exclusively responsible for calculating energy savings? Or will energy services organizations have the opportunity to work with LEAs directly?
138. Contractors can include Energy Consultants on their teams to calculate and report the savings. This simplifies the process for LEAs and the CEC, as opposed to Consultants trying to estimate pricing which they are unqualified to do.
139. What will constitute acceptable documentation of "ownership" of property by the LEA's?
140. To the point of triggering DSA approval; any replacement or alternation to existing equipment that requires structural alterations such as roof curbs or structural supports, will also trigger DSA and incur architect fees. So the 12 - 18 months again may be impacted and funding should pay for design and inspection fees.
141. How do we get our contractors involved with these repairs and these retrofits. Do the bid documents indicate they are funded by this program? Are there bid documents?
142. Can funds be used to pay for any soft costs as well as PE engineering services and putting together the annual report as stated in the draft guidelines.

143. If a LEA hires a partner like an ESCO to help with organizing their facilities improvement plan and grant application, will the LEA be able to hire the ESCO to design and construct the improvements? Thank you!
144. There are some unreasonable limitations in AB841 I recommend clarifying: For field testing and verification, recommend you open up the 3rd party certification to MATTS, NBC (NCI) and California HERS raters and add flexibility in the requirements "and other recognized certifiers approved by California Mechanical Engineer of Record."
145. Regarding qualifications of personnel completing the work; What about a situation where in-house forces are utilized to complete work; As an example it could be something as straightforward as purchasing and installing Merv-13 (upgraded) filters to all existing HVAC equipment. Are in-house forces eligible for grant funding?
146. Is it a requirement that the work performed must be a contractor or can this work be completed by qualified/trade expert district employee?
147. The draft guidelines indicate adherence with public works requirements, which often requires a competitive bidding process. How does this reconcile with receiving a qualified contractor estimate? How many qualified contractor estimates would need to be solicited and received? Will the contractors need to be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (CA DIR)?
148. Regarding using contractor estimates to set a project allocation amount: Please be aware that this sets up LEA's for potential accusations of unfair bidding practices or conflict with Public Contract Code. How can a contractor provide an initial estimate and then not be considered to have "insider information" during the competitive bidding process. Please consider alternatives, such as construction cost estimates using industry standard data sources (like RSMeans), construction management firm estimates, etc.
149. For qualified contractors and trades, which licenses are required for this program? e.g. CSLB C-36 (plumbing), C38 (refrig), C39 (roofing) licensed plumber, general contractor (B). If installed by (non-profit) school employees, how is that considered as (economic) "stimulus"?
150. What type of bidding procurement would need to be used for the work that needs to be completed?
151. what if the contractor who provides the estimate submitted in the application does not end up doing the work?
152. For contractor requirements, would that require CSLB licenses, e.g. C36, C38, B, etc.? Would school employees be held to that standard as well? If defined as (economic) stimulus, wouldn't that require private contractors to do the work?
153. Are there requirements for how the "contractor" is selected both to provide the estimate and complete the work for this funding?
154. If a contractor is used for the assessment by the school, will the school then have to go out to bid for the work. or can they use the company that assisted in the lengthy process of helping with the application?

155. Siemens Industry Inc. being a turn-key HVAC vendor, is there a restriction on a vendor supporting in consulting, assessment and repairs/replacements?
Additionally, on the selection of a qualified contractor is there a standard three (3) bid process?
156. I manufacture a stand alone HEPA Based Ventilation system which is extremely energy efficient. Very effective in fighting Covid and smoke. I don't require a contractor, you wheel it in and plug it in. If the application requires a contractor will I be at a disability?
157. Can you clarify what type of personnel can perform the work being discussed and work certification requirements.
158. I'm a certified mechanical engineer and worked as a consultant for 20 years. My experience has been that as much as we'd like to believe we can, Engineers/Architects are unqualified to provide cost estimates, especially for the type of recommissioning work required in this program which is heavy on manhours and light on equipment. As much as it hurts my pride to say, contractors should be the ONLY ones to provide pricing especially as their proposals are legally binding. Thank you
159. Projects to adjust airflow and/or increase filtration affect energy usage. Will such projects need to demonstrate compliance with current Title 24 Energy Efficiency standards?
160. Some major modifications requiring DSA Review and construction schedule may take longer than 18 months. Is there any consideration for extensions in this case?
161. Are HVAC controls modernization allowable for funding by this grant as we recently completed HVAC upgrades, but ventilation impacted by outdated HVAC controls which were not replaced?
162. Can you please explain how the 20% for energy efficiency works? Perhaps an example?
163. What exactly are the new ventilation protocols?
164. Also, what is considered an eligible expense for this 20% for energy efficiency and repair. (is replacement eligible? How about variable frequency drives? How about controls?). What is the energy efficiency performance threshold for and expenditure to be considered energy efficient?
165. What are the qualities surrounding the "Cost vs benefit analysis" of different CO2 monitoring systems? Who will have the final decision making authority on selection of sensors?
166. Will DSA approval be required on these projects?
167. Is there a specific definition for 'cost-effective' energy efficiency upgrades?
168. I heard one question about systems that are heat only. Do you know how eligibility works for swamp coolers?
169. Is there a desire to reduce Covid and other viruses? Increasing ventilation and filtration usually increase energy use and reduce efficiency.

170. Some school HVAC systems are so bad, they are turned off. What if energy costs go up in order to properly ventilate and condition air ?
171. Many of the improvements related to this program may not result in energy savings. Is energy savings a requirement for the funding?
172. Are Ionization system qualified under this program?
173. Can we use the funding to buy portable air purifiers?
174. How does COE measure energy on owned portable classrooms on other LEA sites?
175. Table 120.1-A – Minimum Ventilation Rates
176. How do LEAs serviced by municipal utilities access these funds?
177. Does the LEA have to be an electric, gas, or both customer of the IOU?
178. Is there a map that clearly defines the service territories?
179. If your school district is not located in the service territory of the utilities listed, do we not qualify to submit an application?
180. Can LEAs and school districts receiving funding if they are not in an area served by an IOU? Or if some locations are in an IOU service territory and others are served by a municipal or cooperative utility?
181. On page 10 of the DRAFT guidelines, there is reference to service territory of utilities. If the LEA is not in one of the 4 direct utilities but rather in a utility that is owned by a city, how will this impact eligibility within this program?
182. What about LEAs served by smaller utilities or by publicly-owned utilities? Are they completely ineligible?
183. Can school districts in POU underserved communities participate in the program?
184. Are schools located in CCAs (community choice aggregators) territories eligible for SEES?
185. If a portion of a District is in a Public Utility, is the LEA student count based on the schools inside the District or inside the IOU area?
186. I heard the answer to Lodi question. If a LEA is within SCE territory but is receiving electric services from the City Utility, this is allowed, correct?
187. Do the type of projects eligible have anything to do with which utility covers the schools? For example, since SoCal Gas is a gas utility, would projects within SCG schools be different than those in PG&E territory where they might be both gas and electric customers? Would schools within PG&E territory who are both gas and electric customers be eligible for more funding since they receive two different services from that utility?
188. As far as the Utilities receiving funding, coming from the Los Angeles area, having a lot of disadvantaged schools falling under the LA Dept of Water and Power areas. Would only the schools under SCE receive funding?
189. My 3rd concern is that LEA's that are involved in Community Choice Aggregation contracts for electricity and/or gas could be at a political disadvantage with their IOU for funding prioritization.

190. Question: The Table 3: Available Funds by Application Tier is confusing because some of our schools are served by SCE for electricity and some by Colton Public Utilities for electricity (which is not covered by this program), but all are served by SoCalGas, which is also a separate tier. SDGE and PGE are clear because they provide both electricity and gas.
191. If the service area territory is within a municipal utility district for power but served by PG&E for gas via SPURR, will it be eligible?
192. If a school site is located in both SCE & SoCalGas territory will there be a precedence of where the funding will go first? These sites will have a greater opportunity for funding vs. applicants who are only SoCalGas eligible?
193. What is the role of CCAs as utility providers to school districts for this program?
194. The local CCAs are still covered by an IOUs for T&D on the electric side
195. If an LEA receives natural gas service from PG&E, but electricity from SMUD, will they be eligible to apply for funding?