

Georgia Grant for High Cost Funds (GHCF) Questions and Answers

1) Who are the children this program is intended to support?

Eligible children ages 3-21 who have been determined by the IEP Team to be a student with a disability and in need of special education. These children because of the severity of their disabilities require multiple and/or high cost special education services, related services, assistive technology and special adaptive equipment needs. Due to the cost of these services, local districts are under extraordinary financial pressure.

2) Are there costs that are not allowed under GHCF?

Unallowable costs include the following: legal fees, court costs or other costs associated with a cause of action brought on behalf of a child with a disability to ensure a free appropriate public education, non-extraordinary nursing costs, English as a Second Language Instruction, indirect costs, and administrative and leadership costs associated with the provision of the services to the child.

3) What if the student moves during the school year?

Since this is a grant based on costs already incurred by the LEA, only an LEA that has reached the threshold of eligibility (over \$27,000) may apply.

4) How do I file an application for the GHCF?

On the special education webpage there is link, "Budget and Grant Applications," the information for the application is posted. Read the instructions carefully. LEAs should complete the application and provide documentation of expenses required for processing the GHCF application. All IEPS designating services and expenses must be submitted.

5) When is the GHCF application due?

The grant application may be submitted any time from January through April 1 in a school year. Letters of award will be issued after the May State Board meeting and funds must be expended or encumbered by June 30.

6) What is meant by direct educational cost as eligible costs?

Salaries and fringe benefits for certified special education staff who work directly with high cost students are eligible costs in this calculation. These costs should be prorated based on the amount of time the individual staff member provides direct services to the

child. Other staff who work directly with high cost students are also eligible. Direct services to the child by a counselor, school psychologist, social worker, nursing services beyond those typically required in a school are also eligible.

7) Can the district claim “indirect costs” or “costs on behalf of” the high cost child?

“Indirect costs” or “costs on behalf of” are not eligible costs for reimbursement through the GHFC. Examples of these costs are general administration, facility construction costs, secretarial or costs of meetings /services that do not pertain to the direct instruction of a child.

8) The district pays tuition for a high cost student to a private provider. Can these costs be claimed and by whom?

The system paying the claim to the private provider will need to secure an invoice that outlines the direct educational and related services cost that were a part of the tuition bill; excluding indirect costs. Transportation as a specialized related service necessary to transport a child is allowable. This must be included in the student’s IEP. **Additionally, the private provider/school must adhere to the standards applicable to the LEAs regarding the provision of FAPE.**

9) What would be examples of assistive technology, adaptive equipment and other allowable costs?

Special adaptive equipment, supplies and materials are eligible costs, if they are unique to an individual child and are needed to provide a free and appropriate public education. (FAPE) Special adaptive equipment may include computers, Braille writers, changing tables or sensory integration equipment. Assistive technology may include personnel costs and /or assistive technology devices, augmentative communication tools and computer adaptations. Costs are incurred during this school year only.

10) Must assistive technology be listed on the IEP?

Yes, these items must be documented on the student’s IEP.

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