

County of Lancaster
Request for ARPA Funding

Organization: Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13

Date: 6/23/2022

Submitted By: Matt Stem, Executive Director

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Please attach any supporting documentation. Submission should be in PDF Format.

Project/Item Description

IU13 seeks \$100,000 in ARPA funding to install/deploy a broad Emergency Alert System (EAS) for its Lancaster County facilities. These facilities include IU13's main location at the Burle Business Park, several education centers where we provide direct instruction to high-needs students, and other school/district classrooms across the county where our employees are contracted to provide services to students with autism and other special needs.

Currently, in the event of an emergency situation (e.g. inclement weather, medical emergency, fire, active shooter), we can only send out one-way alert messages to staff via email or text (SMS); furthermore, most of our classrooms do not currently have a paging speaker installed. If our staff are not looking at their email or phones, they may not receive the alerts in a timely or targeted way, which could cause undue risk to themselves and the students in their care.

With the EAS system we wish to install, IU13 would place a paging speaker in every classroom in IU13-owned buildings. These speakers would be able to share information via text and/or audio alerts. In an emergency situation we would be able to flash emergency messages (using red LED flashing lights in the case of an active shooter for instance) across the screens of the speakers as well as computer screens/devices, which would show consistent information to all users in one building. Special instructions (e.g. shelter in place, evacuate to basement) could be targeted based on the situation and location. Instructions could also be pre-loaded templates, for situations like a fire or weather emergency. The visual displays on these speakers will also benefit staff and students who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing.

This system would also allow IU13 to communicate in an emergency with every staff member in every classroom via instant two-way text/MS Teams message via their laptop or mobile phone. This would be another layer of communication for IU13 staff in IU13-owned facilities, and would also be a way to reach IU13 staff who work in district-owned buildings. Communications could be targeted based on location.

Under this plan, ARPA funds would fund the installation of paging speakers in classrooms and offices in the following Lancaster County locations:

- IU13 offices/classrooms/conference Center at Burle Business Park (1020 New Holland Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601)
- Community School Southeast (1050 New Holland Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601)
- Central Education Center & Annex (101/111 South Penn Street, Manheim, PA 17545)
- Community School West (1713 Newport Road, Manheim, PA 17545)
- Fairland School (8 Fairland Road, Manheim, PA 17545)
- Mulberry School (47 South Mulberry Street, Lancaster, PA 17603)
- Project SEARCH LGH (554 North Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602)
- Project SEARCH Masonic Village (137 Village Green Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022)
- Project SEARCH Willow Valley (211 Willow Valley Square, Apartment C126, Lancaster, PA 17602)
- Various public/private school sites where IU13 personnel are assigned based on job duties

It would also fund the software for the system, which would also allow the EAS to reach IU13 employees in district classrooms countywide.

<p>Estimated Cost – how cost was derived & provision of partner funds (who is providing, how much and show commitments).</p>	<p>The estimated total cost of this project is \$203,000, based on vendor quotes, including PEPPM/COSTARS master contract pricing that was competitively bid. IU13 seeks \$100,000 in Lancaster County ARPA funding; the remainder of the cost will be supported by IU13 budgeted funds. Any ongoing licensing/maintenance costs will be covered by the IU13 Safety and Security budget.</p> <p>The following are attached to this request: 1) vendor quotes; 2) documentation of IU13's commitment to fund the balance of the project</p>
<p>Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technology modernization ● Public safety
<p>Briefly explain how the project meets the <u>County's guidelines</u>.</p>	<p>This project meets Lancaster County's ARPA guidelines in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It falls under the objectives of "Public Safety" and "Technology Modernization" 2) It will directly protect the health and safety of approximately 1400 staff and 1100 students across Lancaster County; their families will also indirectly benefit, when staff/students are protected from harm 3) ARPA funds will not fully fund this project; IU13 will bear a portion of the startup cost and the entirety of ongoing licensing/maintenance costs 4) IU13 is requesting one-time funding from the County for this project
<p>Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County? Also, if this application is for more than one project, please identify each one, provide information and rank them in order of your priority.</p>	<p>This modern emergency notification platform (hardware and software) will allow IU13 to send rapid, targeted alerts to staff at any of its locations on extremely short notice and give immediate instructions for required action (evacuation, shelter in place, etc.). By standardizing the method/system for sending alerts, expanding the ways that alerts can be received (text/Teams message, email, digital display and audio alert in classrooms/buildings), and shortening the time needed to communicate with staff, this EAS will help protect the lives of hundreds of Lancaster County staff and students every day. Our current system does not allow us to do this. In an emergency where seconds could mean the difference between safety and tragedy, being able to send out immediate information to all participants is of vital importance.</p>
<p>Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project?</p>	<p>This project will not have large ongoing expenses. The largest expense incurred for the EAS implementation will be the up-front cost to purchase/install necessary hardware and the initial licensing cost. Those costs will be entirely covered through a combination of ARPA funding and IU13 funds, and will cover the first three years of the EAS deployment. After that, there will be ongoing annual software license costs; these will be minimal compared to the up-front hardware cost, and IU13 will cover those ongoing costs.</p>
<p>Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summer 2022 - Deploy speakers in new classroom facilities (variable based on supply chain) ● Fall 2022 - Configure emergency notification platform and begin testing and initial rollout ● November/December 2022 - begin to install equipment in classrooms and public meeting spaces
<p>Are there other organizations a part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why?</p>	<p>No, other organizations would not directly be part of this project. IU13 will fund the installation and deployment of this Emergency Alert System and it will primarily benefit IU13 employees and students. That said, if any IU13 staff were working in a public or private classroom and received an alert from IU13 about inclement weather or another similar emergency, they could potentially alert non-IU13 educators in that location and help them take action as appropriate.</p>
<p>ARPA Committee Comments</p>	
<p>ARPA Committee Recommendation</p>	