

How Much in Federal Covid-19 Relief Funds Did New York City Charter Schools Receive?

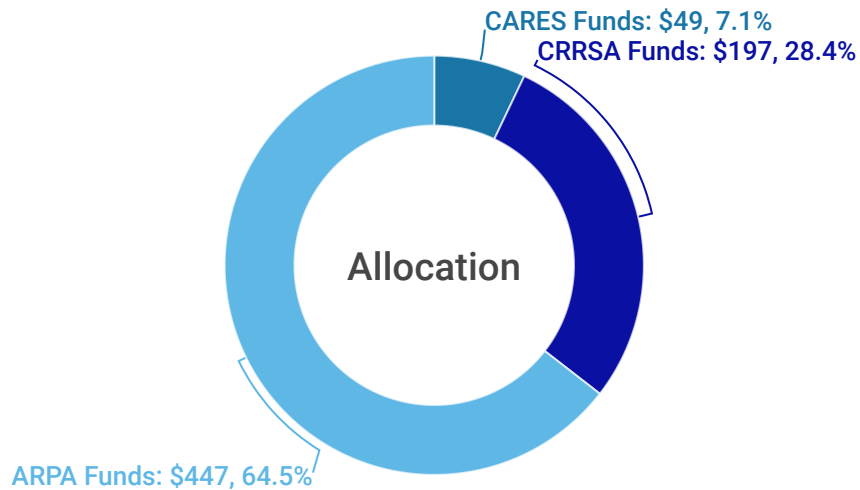
Federal Covid-19 relief funds were allocated not only to traditional New York City public schools, but also to charter schools. New York City has roughly 300 charter schools, some are part of networks of charter schools, while others are standalone. About half of all charters are co-located in buildings with other public schools. In total, more than \$693 million has been allocated to New York City charter schools from the combination of three federal sources: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

For all three sources, awards were made to charter schools based on their shares of Title I, Part A funds received from the federal government. The relief funds are to be used to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on schools, to safely re-open schools and make up for lost time in the classroom, as well as to repair ventilation systems, reduce class sizes, implement social distancing guidelines, and purchase personal protective equipment, according to the legislative packages authorizing them.

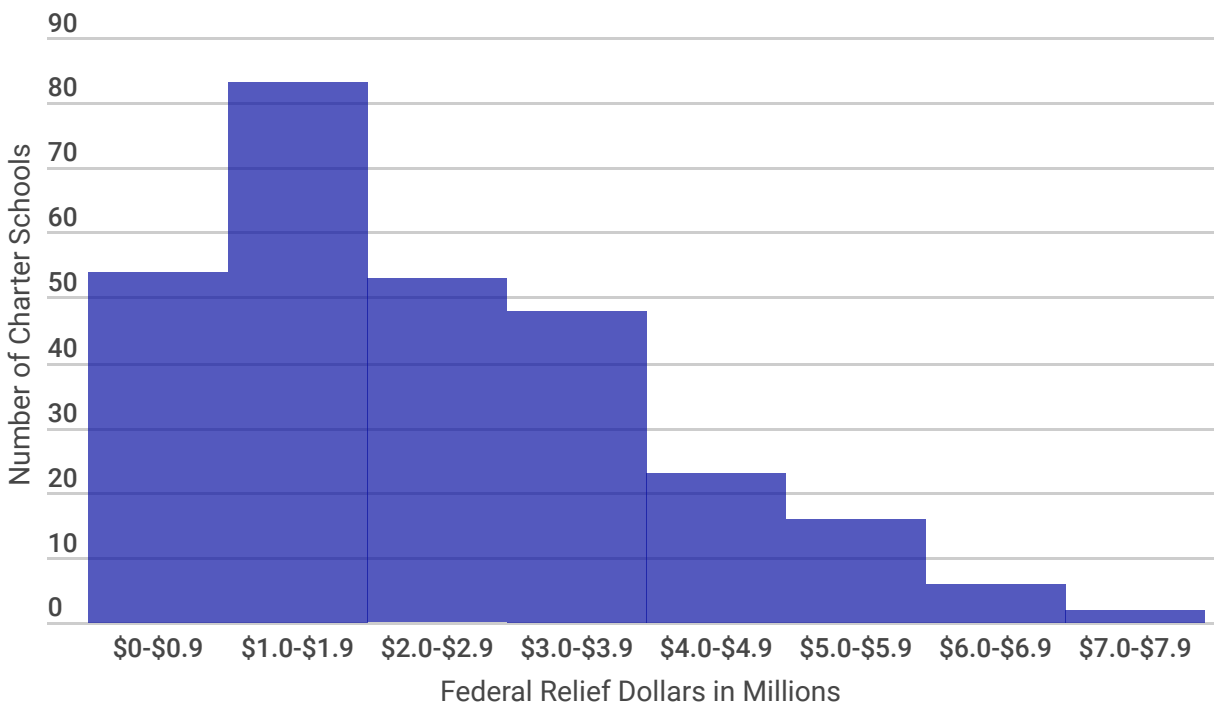
Charter schools are considered their own Local Educational Agency, whether in a network or not, and are held to the same guidelines and set aside standards for relief funds that apply to traditional public schools. Despite being public schools, charters were not subject to the reduction of state education aid that other New York State public school districts receiving CARES funding experienced. (The state's 2020-2021 budget reduced state aid to districts by an amount exactly equal to their CARES funding.) CRRSA and ARPA funds were supplemental funds for both traditional public school districts and charter schools.

ARPA Funds Comprise Roughly Two-Thirds of Federal Relief For Charter Schools

Dollars in millions



Most Charter Schools Received About \$2 Million or Less Across All Aid Packages



Although New York State allocation data show some variation in the amounts received by charter schools under each of the three revenue sources, the bulk of charter schools received between \$1 million and \$2 million dollars in combined relief. The pool of available dollars varied for all three allocations. Almost all (96 percent) charter schools received at least one of the three allocations.

ARPA provided the largest allocation to charter schools—\$447 million dollars to be spent through September 2024. ARPA funds for charters are roughly 9 percent of the aggregate \$4.82 billion in ARPA funding for the city’s traditional public schools. The average ARPA allocation per charter school is about \$1.6 million, ranging from a minimum of \$114,000 to a maximum of \$5.0 million for any individual charter school.

CRRSA funds for charters totaled \$197 million, again roughly 9 percent of the \$2.15 billion total CRRSA funds allocated to traditional public schools. The average CRRSA charter school allocation is \$696,000, with a minimum of \$51,000 and a maximum of roughly \$2.2 million for an individual NYC charter school.

The smallest allocation of federal relief dollars was also the first allocation through the CARES Act, passed in spring 2020. Charter schools received a total of \$49 million in CARES funding with maximum and minimum amounts of \$631,000 and \$13,000, respectively, with a per school average of \$185,000.

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