

ARP-HCY II Formula Grants

South Dakota received \$2,502,430 in funding under the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY I and II) programs to support students experiencing homelessness. ARP-HCY I funds have already been disbursed. Through ARP-HCY II, \$1,876,822 is available to be awarded through formula subgrants. [Local educational agency \(LEA\) ARP-HCY II allocations](#) can be found on the department's [Federal COVID Funding webpage](#). Funds are available until Sept. 30, 2024.

The U.S. Department of Education's formula is based equally on:

- 1) 50% in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title I, Part A for the most recent fiscal year.
- 2) 50% in proportion to the number of homeless children and youth identified by each LEA relative to all LEAs in the state, using the greater of the number of homeless children and youth in either the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year in each LEA.

An LEA must have an allocation of at least \$5,000 to be eligible for an ARP-HCY II subgrant on its own. If an LEA's allocation is less than \$5,000, in order to participate the LEA must join a consortium of LEAs in which the sum of its members' allocations meets the \$5,000 threshold. To form a consortium, an LEA can agree to be the fiscal agent or LEAs can join a statewide consortium. There is no limit on the number of LEAs that can join to form a consortium.

What does it mean to be homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act?

The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. See the [National Center for Homeless Education McKinney-Vento Eligibility Guide](#) on the department's [McKinney-Vento Homeless Education webpage](#) for more information.

What are wraparound services?

Wraparound services are given to children in addition to other supports. These services can include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, healthcare, and mental health services.

Identifying students experiencing homelessness can include strategies including, but not limited to:

- Examining enrollment forms (please note that these forms may not be updated with every student's latest living arrangements)
- Talking with families
- Providing information to educate families on their eligibility and support available if they are experiencing homelessness
- More information and sample questions to ask can be found in the [National Center for Homeless Education McKinney-Vento Eligibility Guide](#) on the department's [McKinney-Vento Homeless Education webpage](#).

How can ARP-HCY I and II funds be used?

The State Education Agency (SEA) and LEAs can use the funds to support student success, identify students experiencing homelessness, continue or provide wraparound services, and ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness participate fully in school activities, consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act.

- ARP-HCY I and II funds can be used for "any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of homeless children and youth in order to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities."
- ARP-HCY I and II funds are intended to support the specific and urgent needs of students experiencing homelessness, "including reduced identification of such students, decreased enrollment in school, interrupted classroom instruction, and challenges navigating services for shelter/housing, clothing and school supplies, food, and child care."
- ARP-HCY I and II funds "will support the work of the designated Homeless Liaison in each LEA, as required by the McKinney-Vento Act, and build capacity in LEAs, which will help to identify greater numbers of students experiencing homelessness and better coordinate services for those students in LEAs receiving funding through this formula."
- ARP-HCY I and II funds can be used for the following (not an exhaustive list):
 - Providing wraparound services, which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services
 - Purchasing needed supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items)
 - Providing transportation to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities
 - Purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied, homeless children and youth to enable such children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities
 - Providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students
 - Paying for short-term, temporary housing
 - Providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities
- LEAs may use funds for [any of the sixteen uses permitted by the McKinney-Vento Act \(see 42 U.S.C. 11433\(d\)\)](#).

Questions? Email [Dawn Smith](#) or call 605-773-6400.