

American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth II (ARP-HCY II) Funds Guidance for Districts and Schools

Purpose

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students experiencing homelessness are increasingly under-identified, as learning outside of school building settings likely impeded the critical role of educators and staff in schools and Local Education Agencies (LEA) to properly identify students, and these students have remained underserved. The purposes of the ARP-HCY Fund are to help local educational agencies (LEAs) identify homeless children and youth, provide wraparound services that address the multiple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on homeless children and youth, and ensure that homeless children and youth are able to attend school and participate fully in school activities. ARP-HCY 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, challenges navigating services for shelter/housing, clothing and school supplies, food, and childcare.

ARP-HCY 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.

Timeline

The [survey](#) for gathering information on the ARPHCY-II is to be completed by the district superintendent no later than November 12, 2021.

Allocation

South Dakota Department of Education (SDDOE) will allocate \$1,876,822.00 to eligible LEAs under ARP-HCY II. The formula for ARP-HCY II funding consists of two parts:

- Fifty percent of each LEA's allocation in proportion to the amount the LEA received under Title I Part A for the most recent fiscal year, and
- Fifty percent in proportion to the number of homeless children and youth identified by the LEA relative to all LEAs in the state, using data from either the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year, whichever is greater in each LEA.

Consortium Requirements for Allocations under \$5,000

ARP-HCY II sub-grants may not be less than \$5,000 under the formula. However, LEAs may combine as a consortium in order to generate at least \$5,000 under the formula. LEAs must designate a member of the consortium group to serve as fiscal agent.

Use of Funds

Funding under the ARP-HCY II programs must adhere to the allowable costs of funds described in Title VII-B of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) and the ARP-HCY final requirements.

Under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs may use sub-grant funds for activities that support the purposes of the program, including:

- 1.** Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services.
- 2.** Expedited student evaluations, including gifted and talented, special education, and limited English proficiency.
- 3.** Professional development for educators and other school personnel.
- 4.** Referrals for medical, dental, other health services, and social services.
- 5.** Defraying excess cost of transportation.
- 6.** Provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs not otherwise provided.
- 7.** The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, in public school programs and services provided to non-homeless children and youths.
- 8.** Provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth in public school programs.
- 9.** The payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youth.
- 10.** Provision of education and training to parents of homeless students about educational rights and resources that are available.
- 11.** Coordination between schools and service agencies.
- 12.** Provision of pupil services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- 13.** Addressing needs of homeless children and youth arising from domestic violence.
- 14.** Adaptation of space, purchase of supplies for non-school facilities.
- 15.** School supplies for distribution at shelters and temporary housing facilities.
- 16.** Extraordinary or emergency assistance to enable homeless children to attend school.

Additionally, activities under ARP-HCY II may include 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, such as:

- 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 through the purchase of internet connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community WiFi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities.
- Paying for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school).
- Providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.

LEAs are highly encouraged to consider awarding contracts to community-based organizations that are well positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations such as rural children

and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness, and connect them to educationally related support and wraparound services. LEAs must ensure that all costs are reasonable and necessary and that these uses of funds align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the McKinney-Vento Act. In addition, when considering funding decisions, we want to emphasize that section 723(d)(16) of the McKinney-Vento Act allows the use of funds for “other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.” Accordingly, when considering funding decisions, LEAs should analyze the needs of students experiencing homelessness in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its extraordinary impact.

LEAs must comply with reporting requirements established by USED, including those outlined in the EHCY program, as well as the numbers of students experiencing homelessness identified and supported with ARP-HCY II funds and the specific details of supports and services received by students.

Resources

How to use ARP funds to identify and support children and youth experiencing homelessness.

<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/how-to-use-arp-funds/>

The ARP Homeless Children and Youth II Allocations can be found at the following weblink.

<https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/ARPII-Allocations.pdf>