

American Rescue Plan Act - Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Grant Informational Webinar

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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The intent of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is to ensure all children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence receive access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth.



American Rescue Plan Act - Homeless

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) signed into law in March 2021.
- American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) is **specifically dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness.**
- Wisconsin allocation: \$10,092,963 in funding; split into two parts
 - ARP-HCY Part I (25% of the total allocation) can be distributed to any LEA that has gone through a competitive grant application process for homeless funding at DPI.



Eligibility and Funding

Eligibility

- Public school districts and independent charter schools

Funding

- Grant Period: Summer 2021 - June 30, 2024
- One-time award, funds can be used until 2024 (similar to ESSER and GEER funds)
- LEAs with **over 100 students** experiencing homelessness: \$50,000
- LEAs with **100 or fewer students** experiencing homelessness: \$30,000
 - Based on the higher number from 2018-19 or 2019-20 certified counts



Considerations - Should I Apply?

YES!

The number of students experiencing homelessness identified each year should not effect an LEA's decision to apply.



Grant Guidelines

It is very important to read the grant guidelines!

Grant guidelines contain the information found in this webinar and information critical to completing the application!

<https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy>



Required Program Elements

- All LEAs must be in compliance with all sections of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Grant recipients may be subject to a compliance review under the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Grant recipients must be able to collect and promptly provide data and information to DPI in order for the State to meet requirements for the U.S. Department of Education related to ARP-HCY funds.
- Grant recipients may choose to participate in technical assistance calls scheduled by the DPI EHCY team for support on using ARP-HCY funds, best practices and compliance under the McKinney-Vento Act.



Grant Application

- Grant application due June 18, 2021
- The application is found on: <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy> as a PDF. For best results, any PDF form should be downloaded and opened in Acrobat Reader rather than filled out in the browser. Not all PDF features will work as intended when opened in a browser.
- Applications must be submitted electronically.



Grant Application Timeline

Grant Application Opens	June 2, 2021
Grant Application Due to DPI	June 18, 2021
Applicants notified of intent to fund	July 2021
Budgets due in WISEgrants	Fall 2021



Abstract

- Summarize the proposal and make sure to address the targeted population, the key needs, what the project ultimately seeks to implement; and the key needs of the population based on the needs assessment information.
- Clear and detailed summary of needs; strong description of services and programs.



Demonstration of Need

- Identify the overall need(s) to be addressed by the grant project. Identify the supporting data that is being used to determine the need.
- Strong description of the overall need, the supporting data, and the organized and systematic approach to use the data for meaningful analysis.
- Assessment of the gaps over multiple years being experienced by students experiencing homelessness.



Stakeholders

- Who are the stakeholders identified for this grant project?
- In-depth description of planned stakeholder team and corresponding roles. Stakeholders should include those directly engaged in the schools/the district (LEA staff, families, students, etc.) and groups that support or work directly with schools/the district (community organizations and leaders, businesses, etc.)
- The identified stakeholders represent the needs of students experiencing homelessness and were chosen specifically for their expertise in working with/representing this population.



Budget Narrative

- Budgets are not required as part of the initial application.
- Budget narrative must include detail on how grant funds will be used.
- Budgets will be completed in WISEgrants after receiving notification of funding from DPI.
- WISEgrants budgets are due in early fall each year of the grant.



Use of Funds

Grant funds may be used for the 16 activities authorized under Section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (see Appendix A of grant guidelines).



Use of Funds*

Increase outreach and identification by:

- Increasing staff hours for the homeless liaison or McKinney-Vento related personnel. Hiring additional staff, or adding hours to staff specifically tasked with finding and re-engaging students.
- Launching an outreach campaign; Increase posters, flyers, and other outreach throughout the community.
- Screen for homelessness by embedding questions and information about homelessness in all school or district outreach efforts, registration materials.
- Provide training to all teachers and staff to assist with identification.



Use of Funds*

Enhance communication options with students and families.

- Provide prepaid cell phones for students, software for communicating with families, other technology

Increase counseling and social work services.

- Ensure counselors can assist McKinney-Vento students with credit accrual and recovery, FAFSA completion, and college transition.
- Hire or assign building-level “success coaches” for students experiencing homelessness.

Hire “systems navigators” to help families and youth access wrap-around services.

- Help students and families meet basic needs like food, health care, hygiene items, laundry, shelter, housing and rental assistance, Head Start, etc.



Use of Funds*

Provide academic coaching, enrichment opportunities, and access to summer learning.

- Offer transportation to all available in-person enrichment opportunities.
- Tutoring specifically designed for remote and hybrid learners.

Offer early childhood education services for young children experiencing homelessness.

- Provide transportation to existing in-person options.
- Increase capacity in preschool, Head Start, child care, and early intervention programs.
- Hire early childhood homelessness specialists at LEA, Head Start programs, and child care programs who assist in the identification and support of young children experiencing homelessness and their families.



Use of Funds*

Make systems and processes more McKinney-Vento friendly.

- Upgrade online enrollment systems to ensure full and easy accessibility to families and students experiencing homelessness.
- Simplify housing questionnaires and conduct a review to ensure the wording is clear and offered in multiple languages.

Help meet rising mental health needs.

- Invite mental health providers to support students virtually and/or on-site at schools.
- Implement trauma-informed training and practices.
- Adopt positive school discipline practices school- and district-wide.
- Focus on equity: Take extra steps to ensure students of color have access to mental health supports and ensure mental health providers are LGBTQ+ positive.



Use of Funds*

Provide more transportation options.

- Increase capacity of existing bus services by hiring more drivers or increasing the number of routes.
- Partner with public transportation providers to offer no-cost or reduced-cost bus passes, train passes, bikeshare access, etc.
- Purchase and staff a vehicle for student transportation and community outreach to motels, campgrounds, food banks and doubled-up students
- Assist parents and youth to obtain drivers' licenses, and reimburse youth and parents for gasoline/mileage.

*Pending guidance and regulations from USDE



Use of Funds

Overall, costs must be “reasonable and necessary” and align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the EHCY statute.

LEAs also should consider the extraordinary impact of the pandemic on students experiencing homelessness when making decisions about how to use funds.



Rubric/Grant Review Process

The ARP-HCY grant is competitive and will follow the DPI competitive, discretionary grant process.

Please review the scoring rubric found in Appendix B of the grant guidelines when answering application questions. This rubric will be used to evaluate all submitted applications.



Resources

- SchoolHouse Connection: How To Use ARP Funds
<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/how-to-use-arp-funds/>
- DPI ARP-HCY grant information
<https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy>



Questions?



Contact Us!

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