



2021-24

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# American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth Part II Grant Guidelines

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021;  
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B  
Reauthorized by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act



Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

Madison, Wisconsin

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## American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth Overview

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the COVID-19 stimulus fund package passed by Congress in March 2021, provided Wisconsin with \$10,097,813 in funding specifically dedicated to support students experiencing homelessness. This is referred to as American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funding. ARP-HCY funding is split into two tranches - ARP-HCY Part I (25% of the allocation) and Part II (75% of the allocation).

DPI will distribute \$5,680,929 in ARP-HCY Part II funds to all eligible Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Allocations were determined by a formula set forth by the United States Department of Education (USDE) based equally on the proportional share of an LEA's allocation under Title I, Part A for 2020-21, and the LEA's proportional share of the number of homeless children and youth identified by each LEA relative to all LEAs in the State, using the greater of the certified number of homeless children and youth in either the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year in each LEA.

ARP-HCY funds are specifically dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including through wrap-around services. These students have specific and urgent needs due to the extraordinary impact of the pandemic on students experiencing homelessness, including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs due to decreased enrollment in school, interrupted classroom instruction, and challenges navigating services for shelter/housing, clothing and school supplies, food, and childcare.

### Eligibility and Funding Availability

The amount of ARP-HCY Part II grant funds made available to LEAs for this purpose is \$5,680,929. All Wisconsin LEAs, including public school districts and independent charter schools, are included in the formula allocation eligible to apply for the ARP-HCY grant.

According to the American Rescue Plan Act, an LEA must have a minimum allocation of \$5,000 to receive an ARP-HCY Part II subgrant. LEAs with an allocation less than \$5,000 were strongly encouraged to apply as part of a consortium to receive a subgrant. Consortia are eligible to receive a subgrant if the total of their combined allocations is at least \$5,000. LEAs and Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) can be consortium leaders for this grant program.

The grant performance period for ARP-HCY Part II is April 23, 2021 to September 30, 2024. ARP-HCY funds may be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared.

### Use of Funds

Subrecipients may only use funds for the 16 activities authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ([Appendix A](#))(42 U.S.C. 11433(d)). Grant funds must be used in such a manner as to provide services to **all** identified children and youth experiencing homelessness.

[SchoolHouse Connection](#) identified ways these funds could be used, and options include:

- Increase outreach and identification
- Enhance communication options with students and families
- Increase counseling and social work services
- Facilitate the enrollment and retention of students experiencing homelessness
- Hire “systems navigators” to help families and youth access education
- Provide academic coaching, in-person enrichment opportunities, and access to summer learning
- Offer early childhood education services for young children experiencing homelessness
- Make systems and processes more McKinney-Vento friendly
- Help meet rising mental health needs
- Provide more and better transportation options
- Provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19

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.

For more details on specific allowability under ARP-HCY, please see the [DPI ARP-HCY Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

## Application Information

Grant Application and Budget Deadlines	
Application and budget open in WISEgrants	<b>February 1, 2022</b>
Deadline to select fund management	<b>March 4, 2022 (30 days after opening)</b>
Deadline to submit application and initial budget items	<b>June 3, 2022 (90 days after selection of fund management)</b>

DPI consultants will review applications in the order they are received. Subrecipients can claim funds as soon as their applications are approved.

## Program Elements

All subrecipients must be in compliance with all sections of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Subrecipients may be subject to a compliance review under the McKinney-Vento Act as determined by the EHCY grants specialist.

Subrecipients 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. Data and information could include, but is not limited to, numbers of students experiencing homelessness identified and supported through ARP-HCY funding, specific details about supports and services received by students, and a description of how ARP-HCY supplements the support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and does not replace the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Subrecipients 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.

Prior to completing the grant application, LEAs are encouraged to complete an assessment of the educational and related needs of students experiencing homelessness. LEAs joining a consortium may complete this process before the consortium leader reviews the comprehensive needs of all the LEAs in the consortium. Needs assessments typically involve a process of reviewing data and systems to determine areas of improvement related to the target population of a grant.

One way to review data for the needs assessment is through [WISEdash for Districts](#). Staff must have the “Economic Indicator Analyst Role” assigned to see data pertaining to students experiencing homelessness. For more information on requesting the Economic Indicator Analyst Role, please see: [https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/administrators/e-mail/Economic\\_Indicator\\_Analyst\\_Role.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/administrators/e-mail/Economic_Indicator_Analyst_Role.pdf) or contact [WISEsupport](#).

LEAs are also encouraged to consider stakeholder groups when looking at the specific needs of students and families experiencing homelessness. Stakeholders may include those directly engaged in the school/district (LEA staff, families, students, etc.) and groups that support or work directly with the district (community-based organizations and leaders, businesses, etc.).

## **Financial Requirements**

Subrecipients will complete the budget in WISEgrants. Subrecipients will receive the Federal Notification of Grant Award only after the budget is submitted, reviewed, and approved by a DPI EHCY consultant or grants specialist in WISEgrants.

The WUFAR aids codes are as follows: project code – 173, source code – 730. For all AIDS Register WUFAR codes, please see this website: <https://apps6.dpi.wi.gov/AID/WufarReport>.

Carryover is not allowed after September 30, 2024.

Subrecipients shall adhere to the guidelines set by the Wisconsin Uniform Financial Accounting Requirements (WUFAR). Information about WUFAR is available on DPI’s website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sfs/finances/wufar/overview>. Subrecipients shall also follow the guidelines set forth in the federal Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) and the federal Uniform Grant Guidance 2 CFR Part 200.

## Budget Revisions

Budget revisions must be completed in WISEgrants. Budget revisions are required when significant changes need to be made to the original approved budget. The subrecipient shall not expend funds until DPI approves the budget revision. For budget questions, contact Clara Pfeiffer, Grants Specialist, at (608) 261-6324 or [clara.pfeiffer@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:clara.pfeiffer@dpi.wi.gov).

## Financial Claims

Subrecipients will submit claims for reimbursement for approved expenses in WISEgrants. Questions regarding financial claims can be directed to the ARP-HCY accountant, Mark Rudman, at [mark.rudman@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:mark.rudman@dpi.wi.gov) or (608) 267-9187.

Subrecipients are required to submit quarterly claims for all stimulus grant programs, including ARP-HCY, beginning with the period ending June 30, 2022. Even if the LEA did not start spending funds by June 30, 2022, the LEA will still submit a claim for \$0 in WISEgrants. Quarterly claims for the stimulus grant programs are due by the end of the following quarter:

For the period ending:	Claims are due by:
June 30	September 30
September 30	December 31
December 31	March 31
March 31	June 30

**Appendix A: Allowable activities under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B Reauthorized by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (42 U.S.C. 11433(d))**

AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES- A local educational agency may use funds awarded under this section for activities that carry out the purpose of this subtitle, including the following:

- (1) The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging state academic standards as the state establishes for other children and youths.
- (2) The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar state or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).
- (3) Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this subtitle, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
- (4) The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- (5) The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 20 USC. sec. 722(g)(4)(A), not otherwise provided through federal, state, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 20 USC. 722(g)(3).
- (6) The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through federal, state, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.
- (7) The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to non-homeless children and youths.
- (8) The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
- (9) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
- (10) The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities

designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children and youths in the education of such children and youths.

**(11)** The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in 20 USC. sec. 722(g)(5).

**(12)** The provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.

**(13)** Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.

**(14)** The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any non-school facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.

**(15)** The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.

**(16)** The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.