ARP-HCY Part II Grant

Allowable Use of Funds

DPI EHCY Team

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
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Reminders for today

- We are recording the webinar today. When the webinar is captioned, it will be found on the DPI ARP-HCY webpage:

  www.dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy

- Cameras and audio are turned off for attendees. During question/answer time, you can use the "raise your hand" function to be granted audio permission or you may type questions in the chat.

American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth

- 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.

- Specific and urgent needs due to the extraordinary impact of the pandemic on students experiencing homelessness, include academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

ARP-HCY follows the regulations of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness 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.

As part of the McKinney-Vento Act, all LEAs are required to develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment, attendance, and the academic success of children and youth experiencing homelessness and provide this student population with the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held.

What is Homelessness?

Children and youth experiencing homelessness: "Children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence"

- **Fixed:** Stationary, permanent, not subject to change

- **Regular:** Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis

- **Adequate:** Lawfully and reasonably sufficient; sufficient for meeting the physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

Can the student go to the **SAME PLACE** (fixed) **EVERY NIGHT** (regular) to sleep in a **SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE** (adequate)?

ARP-HCY Part II Allocations

- Allocations are determined by a formula set forth by the United States Department of Education (USDE)

- The ARP-HCY II formula is based equally on the proportional share of an LEA's allocation under Title I-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 Part II funding to be distributed: $5,680,929

Funding Period

- Grant Period: July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2024

  - Funds may be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020

- One-time award, funds can be used until 2024 (similar to ESSER funds)

Data Collection & Reporting

- Ensure you have a system to enter homeless status in the Student Information System (SIS) for any student identified.

- Track any young children (0-5) not enrolled in the LEA, but are served (directly or indirectly) by the grant funds.

- ❖ If contracting with a CBO to provide services to students, create a process for tracking which students receive services.

- ❖ SEAs do not have data collection and reporting regulations for ARP-HCY yet. Subrecipients might be asked to provide other data based on future requirements.

Application

- Anticipated that the ARP-HCY Part II grant application will open in WISEgrants in January 2022.

- Application questions do not contain narrative answers unless it is particularly for a consortium leader.

- All LEAs should make a fund management choice **as soon as possible**, but no later then the end of the 2021-22 school year.

Use of Funds

Grant funds may be used for the 16 activities authorized under Section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/homeless/pdf/ARP-HCY_Allowable_Costs_09-2021.pdf

Use of Funds - Identification/Outreach

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.
- Upgrade online enrollment systems to ensure full and easy accessibility to families and students experiencing homelessness.

Use of Funds - Communication/ Wrap-Around Services

Enhance communication options with students and families.
- Provide prepaid cell phones for students, software for communicating with families, other technology

Partner with Community-Based Organizations or 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 - Academic Support/ Early Childhood

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 - Mental Health Needs

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.

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.

Use of Funds - Transportation

Provide more transportation options.

- Purchase and staff a vehicle for student transportation and community outreach to motels, campgrounds, food banks and doubled-up students
- 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 options.
- Assist youth to obtain drivers' licenses, and reimburse youth and parents for gasoline/mileage to/from school of origin.

Use of Funds - Specific Situations

DPI will provide further guidance in the grant guidelines document about the following expenses. LEAs will be expected to have specific procedures in place for handling these expenses.

- **Providing emergency housing for families experiencing homelessness**
  Hotel stays, vouchers
- **Providing school and hygiene supplies, clothing, items necessary to attend and fully participate in school with a gift card**
  Purchasing these items outright is the easiest for LEAs but gift cards may be acceptable as long as following rules under EDGAR.
- **Car repairs for student or family experiencing homelessness**
  Situation specific. Is it the only way to ensure the student(s) can attend school? Is there any other transportation option?

Overview

- 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.

- Funds can be used through September 2024.

- Application for ARP-HCY Part II will open in WISEgrants in January 2022

Resources

- DPI ARP-HCY grant information https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy

- SchoolHouse Connection: How To Use ARP Funds
  https://schoolhouseconnection.org/how-to-use-arp-funds/

- OESE (U.S. Department of Education) ARP-HCY FAQ
  https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-homeless-children-youth-arp-hcy/frequently-asked-arp-hcy-questions-and-answers/

- NCHE Needs Assessment Tool
  https://nche.ed.gov/needs-assessment/

Contact Us!

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