

ARP Homeless II Program Overview

Purpose

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) included a total of \$800 million to support the specific needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness through the ARP Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund. On July 27, 2021, the USED announced the second disbursement of ARP-HCY funds for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth, providing wrap-around services that address the multiple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuring that homeless children and youth are able to attend school and participate fully in school activities. This document provides an overview of the ARP Homeless II funds.

ARP-HCY Allocations

State allocations of ARP-HCY funding are based on the proportion of funds that each state received under Title I in fiscal year 2020. The total ARP-HCY allocation for Vermont is \$1,868,242. States may reserve up to 25% of the allocation for State-level activities; at least 75% of funds received by the SEA must be allocated to LEAs.

USED awarded 25% (ARP Homeless I) of each State's ARP-HCY allocation on April 23, 2021, in order to provide immediate funding as a supplement to the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) funds. Upon receipt and approval of the Vermont AOE's application for ARP Homeless II funds, USED disbursed the remaining 75% of the ARP-HCY funds on July 27, 2021.

ARP Homeless II Program Overview

Allocations & Formulas

- Total ARP Homeless II allocation: \$1,401,248
- Total ARP Homeless II allocation to LEAs: \$1,050,936

ARP Homeless II funds will be distributed to LEAs via the following formula:

- 50% in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title I, Part A for the most recent fiscal year; and
- 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

USED developed this formula to ensure funds are distributed based on the needs of LEAs, as it considers both the LEA's number of low-income students and the number of homeless children and youth. Allowing the use of the greater number of homeless children and youth in either SY18-19 or SY19-20 takes into consideration the potential for undercounting in SY19-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please consult the [ARP Homeless II Allocations](#) document.

Forming a Consortium

LEAs receiving less than \$5,000 by this formula are not eligible to receive an individual award. An LEA that does not meet the minimum \$5,000 allocation requirement may receive an ARP Homeless II allocation only as part of a consortium with other LEAs, if the total of their combined allocations is at least \$5,000. LEAs receiving less than \$5,000 in ARP Homeless II funds are strongly encouraged to join a consortium with other LEAs in order to receive ARP Homeless II funds and may contact the AOE for support in seeking out other interested LEAs.

Intent to Apply

Each LEA must complete the [Intent to Apply form](#), indicating whether the LEA plans to submit an application for ARP Homeless II funding and whether the LEA plans to form or join a consortium. Based on responses, the AOE will reallocate the funding of those LEAs who do not intend to use ARP Homeless II funds. LEAs must complete the Intent to Apply form by September 29, 2021; LEAs that do not submit an Intent to Apply will not receive ARP Homeless II funding and those funds will be reallocated.

Key Dates

- LEAs notified of ARP Homeless II allocations: September 14, 2021
- LEAs complete Intent to Apply and Intent to Form Consortium: September 29, 2021
- ARP Homeless II application opens in GMS: October 6, 2021
- Deadline to submit ARP Homeless II application in GMS: November 15, 2021
- Deadline to make an amendment to ARP Homeless II in GMS: TBD
- Deadline to obligate funds: September 30, 2024

Allowable Uses

ARP Homeless II funds must be used for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth, providing wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19, and providing assistance needed to enable students experiencing homelessness to attend school and participate fully in school activities. All costs must be reasonable and necessary and align with the intent of, and follow the requirements in, the McKinney-Vento Act. When considering funding decisions, LEAs should analyze the needs, including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, of students experiencing homelessness in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact.

LEAs may use ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II funds for any of the sixteen allowable uses permitted by the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. §11433(d)).

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 ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., 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 part, 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 722(g)(4)(A) of the McKinney-Vento Act, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 732(g)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
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 or youths in the education of such children or youths.
11. The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
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 section 723(a)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act to provide services under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
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.

In addition, ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II funds may be used for any expenses that are reasonable and necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness, 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., PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items);
- Providing transportation to enable children and youth to attend classes and participate fully in school activities;
- Purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied youth to enable the youth to attend 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 Wi-Fi 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 the homeless child or youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
- Providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate in school activities
 - Please note, at this time the Vermont Agency of Education does not allow the purchase of prepaid store cards with federal grant funds. The AOE's [Memo: Alternatives to Prepaid Store Cards](#) provides several options LEAs may consider in order to meet programmatic needs, while satisfying federal fiscal regulations and controls.

Reporting Requirements

The SEA and 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 funds and the specific details of supports and services received by students. The AOE will provide additional information regarding reporting requirements as it becomes available from USED.

Contact

Programmatic questions regarding the ARP HCY Program should be directed to [Katy Preston](#).

Financial questions should be directed to [John Leu](#).