
Issue Date: November 6, 2023

Education for Homeless Children & Youth (EHCY) Program Minigrant

Purpose

This document provides an overview of the EHCY Program Minigrant, which is supported by state-level American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funding. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) included a total of \$800 million to support the specific needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness through ARP-HCY funds, for the purposes of increasing the identification, enrollment, participation and success of children and youth experiencing homelessness, and for the provision of wrap-around services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Application

All LEAs will be eligible to apply for the EHCY Program Minigrant. The application will be available within the Grants Management System (GMS) under Competitive Applications.

Total amount available to subgrant to LEAs: \$325,000

Key Dates

- Application released to LEAs: November 6, 2023
- Deadline to apply: December 4, 2023
- Expected date of grant awards: December 8, 2023
- Deadline to obligate funds: September 30, 2024
- End of Liquidation Period: December 30, 2024

Funding Priorities

When considering funding decisions, LEAs should analyze the academic, social, emotional, mental health, and physical needs of students experiencing homelessness in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing impact. Approval priority will be given to applicants whose strategies will:

- Increase identification of students experiencing homelessness
- Provide wrap-around services in collaboration with State and local agencies and other community-based organizations, and/or
- Address chronic absenteeism and increase graduation rates of children and youth experiencing homelessness



In determining application quality and program need, AOE will consider the following:

- The number of homeless children and youths enrolled in the LEA, including children in the Early Learning Program of the LEA
- The likelihood that the program/proposed activities presented in the application will meet the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness in the LEA
- The quality of the applicant's evaluation plan for the program.
- The extent to which services will be coordinated with other services and/or funding sources available

Additional Priorities

During scoring of applications, the following bonus points will be assigned:

- The LEA did not apply for or receive ARP Homeless I or ARP Homeless II funding: **1 bonus point**
- The LEA received ARP Homeless I or ARP Homeless II funding and has spent down (requested reimbursement for) at least 90% of the award/allocation: **1 bonus point**
- There is an Agency of Human Services (AHS) General Assistance (GA) program hotel/motel operating within the LEA's boundaries: **2 bonus points**

Allowable Uses

LEAs may use these funds for any of the [sixteen authorized uses permitted](#) by the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. §11433(d)).

In addition, in accordance with guidance from the US Department of Education, these 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 access to wraparound services
 - Could be provided in collaboration with full-service community schools partners and/or through contracts with community-based organizations
 - May include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, mental health services, support for families in navigating housing and other support systems, etc.
- Training and collaboration with school social workers and counselors to better identify students experiencing homelessness, connect them wraparound services, and provide additional counseling and other behavioral and mental health supports as needed
- Providing transportation to enable children and youth to attend classes and participate fully in school activities
 - Could include the purchase of a vehicle for the specialized transportation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, reimbursing parents and youth for gas costs/mileage, etc.

- Expanding access to reliable high-speed internet for students through:
 - Purchasing cell phones or other technological devices to enable children and youth to fully participate in school activities
 - Internet-connected devices or equipment
 - Mobile hotspots
 - Wireless service plans
 - Community wireless hotspots to help student stay connected to schoolwork at shelters, hotel, transitional housing sites, etc.
- Providing early childhood education to young children age birth to five who are not enrolled in the LEA but who are experiencing homelessness in the LEA
- Implementing high-quality transition strategies to reduce absences and dropouts, such as mentors to partner with students and families to encourage regular school attendance and connect students at risk of chronic absenteeism with additional supports, engaging students in summer bridge program and/or transition year supports
- Assisting youth and their parents/guardians with completion of the FAFSA
- Providing college and career readiness activities, such as:
 - Adding staff hours to provide assistance
 - Providing transportation so homeless youth may participate in these activities
 - Paying for college application expenses (registration fees, prep materials, entrance and placement exams, other fees associated with college applications) if these cannot be waived
 - Hiring graduation coaches or paying stipends to counselors to ensure students are on track for graduation
 - Covering any additional fees to participation in early college/dual enrollment programs or career and technical education programs
- Paying for short-term, temporary housing on a case-by-case basis
- Purchasing needed supplies (e.g., PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items)
- Providing food assistance