THE NEW ARP HOMELESS FUNDING: AN OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ED’S JULY 6 ANNOUNCEMENT

TUESDAY, 7/27, 2PM EASTERN
About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website: [http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
- Newsletter: [https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/](https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/)
- COVID resources
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Today’s Agenda:

● Comments from the US Department of Education (Levi Bohanan)

● Overview of ARP HCY Funds + Additional Federal Funding

● How SEAs and LEAs are Using ARP HCY Funds (w/Dona Bolt, Oregon Department of Education)

● Questions, Discussion, & Ideas
For Today’s Conversation

- We will do our best to answer your questions today.
- ED is in the process of answering questions and issuing guidance.
- Your state may also have unique considerations.
Comments from the US Department of Education
American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth

July 27, 2021
The American Rescue Plan (ARP) includes nearly $122 billion in resources for state education agencies & local education agencies through the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund that can be used to address student needs resulting from and exacerbated by the pandemic.

Additionally, the American Rescue Plan included $800 million to support the specific needs of homeless children and Youth via the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund.

In April, the Department released the first $200 million of the $800 million in ARP-HCY funds to states for immediate disbursement.

The disbursement of the remaining funding is ongoing.
You can access several **NEW** ARP Homeless II resources on the ARP-HCY program website:

1. **ARP Homeless II SEA Reservations,**
2. **ARP Homeless II Notice of Final Requirements,** and
3. **Application for Funding Under the ARP-HCY: Second Disbursement.**
ARP HCY II LEA Distribution Formula

Each SEA must award subgrants by allocating at least 75 percent of the funds it receives under the ARP Homeless II program to LEAs as follows:

- 50 percent in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title I-A for FY 2020 allocations; and
- 50 percent 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 enrolled in each LEA.

- The Department is requiring that either SY 2018-19 or SY 2019-20 homeless enrollment counts be used in the formula.
  - For each LEA, a State must use the school year with the higher total count.

- SY 2020-21 homeless enrollment counts cannot be used for the ARP Homeless II formula.
Consortium Requirements

- In order to receive a subgrant on its own, an LEA must have an ARP Homeless II allocation of at least $5,000.

- If an LEA’s allocation, based on the formula described in the previous slide, is less than $5,000, it must apply in consortium with one or more LEAs that raise the combined allocation amount to $5,000 or more.
  - An LEA could form or join a consortium with other LEAs with an allocation less than $5,000.
  - An LEA with an allocation less than $5,000 may also form a consortium with an LEA whose allocation is already over $5,000.
  - The LEAs do not have to be contiguous.

- SEAs are encouraged to help LEAs form consortia.
ARP-HCY State Plans

• ARP-HCY State Plans must describe each State’s approach to using the ARP-HCY funds.

• State Plan narratives are due to the Department (via HomelessED@ed.gov) by September 7, 2021.
  • There is no template/required format for the ARP-HCY State Plan.
  • Department staff will confirm by e-mail when we receive your State Plan narratives.

• The Department will review each plan and inform the SEA if it has not addressed all requirements.
  • If a State Plan fails to meet requirements, the Department will require revisions to the State Plan.
  • State Plans will be posted on the Department’s ARP-HCY website.
ARP-HCY State Plans

- As outlined in the ARP Homeless II Application, SEAs must respond to 8 prompts in the ARP-HCY State Plan:
  - 3 prompts on ARP Homeless I,
  - 2 prompts on ARP Homeless II, and
  - 3 prompts on both ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II.

- Please note that some prompts have multiple components, and SEAs must address each component of each prompt.
Coordinating ARP-HCY State Plans with ARP ESSER State Plans

- ARP ESSER State Plans were submitted to the Department starting on June 7, 2021. The Department has posted them at https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/stateplans/.

- ARP-HCY State plans should reference any ARP ESSER State plan narratives concerning children and youth experiencing homelessness.
NCHE Supports

• NCHE, in collaboration with the EHCY program office, hosts bi-weekly Peer-to-Peer State Coordinator webinars focused on ARP-HCY implementation.

• Timeline: Began June 24, 2021 – Late September 2021

• Topics covered so far:
  • Wraparound services (including community partnerships and contracting with CBOs)
  • LEA uses of funds (including emergency housing and store cards)

• Future topics: ARP Homeless II topics (e.g., ARP-HCY State Plans or supporting development of LEA consortia), transportation alternatives, ARP-HCY monitoring, etc.
Conclusion
How to Use ARP HCY + Additional Federal Funding
ARP-HCY I: ED urges states to begin disbursing funds “quickly to meet the immediate needs of students experiencing homelessness.”

ARP-HCY II: Probably early fall
How much funding will each LEA receive?

ARP-HCY I:
- Via a competitive subgrant.
- LEAs must apply, and not all may be eligible

ARP-HCY II:
- Formula
- Consortia
LEA Allowable Uses for ARP-HCY

1. Any expenses that are reasonable and necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness
2. Any purposes permitted by the EHCY program
3. Connect students and families to summer learning and enrichment programs this summer and engage students and families in preparation for this fall
4. Provide wraparound services (academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services)
5. Purchase needed supplies (e.g., PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items)
6. Provide **transportation** to enable children and youth to attend classes and participate fully in school activities
7. Purchase cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied youth to enable them to attend and fully participate in school activities
8. Pay for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel)
9. Provide store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate in school activities
10. **Increase liaison and McKinney-Vento program capacity**
Community Partnerships

- Both SEAs and LEAs are encouraged to “award contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations such as:
  - rural children and youth,
  - Tribal children and youth,
  - students of color,
  - children and youth with disabilities,
  - English learners,
  - LGBTQ+ youth, and
  - pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students, and
- connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services”
Strategic Use of Funds

- ARP HCY should be used to meet urgent needs, but not to replace funds that are otherwise available.

- ARP Homeless funds must supplement the supports and services provided with ESSER funds and not replace ESSER funds to support students experiencing homelessness.
Funds Available to Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

1. **Access to School and Learning:** ESSER
2. **Early childhood:** child care, Head Start, Home Visiting
3. **Higher Ed:** Emergency Financial Aid Grants
4. **Housing Assistance:** HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Housing Choice Vouchers, Emergency Rental Assistance
5. **Technology and Connectivity:** E-Rate, Emergency Broadband Benefit
6. **Food:** National School Lunch Program, Pandemic-EBT, SNAP
7. **Health/Mental Health:** ESSER, Federal Insurance Market Place
8. **Income Support:** Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Stimulus Payments
Considerations for Using Funds Strategically

Think big!
Use the most restrictive funding sources first, followed by more flexible funds:
1) Title I;
2) MV subgrant funds;
3) ARP HCY

Consider: What are the needs of McKinney-Vento children and youth? Solicit stakeholder feedback to understand.
SHC Resource: How to Use ARP Funds to Identify and Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

1. Increase outreach and identification
2. Identifying students ASAP and connecting them to summer learning and enrichment programs this summer (summer 2021)
3. Enhance communication options with families and students
4. Increase counseling and social work services
5. Hire systems navigators to connect children and families to resources
6. Provide academic coaching and in-person enrichment
7. Ensure young children have access to early childhood education
8. Make systems and processes more McKinney-Vento friendly
9. Help meet rising mental health needs
10. Provide more and better transportation options

https://schoolhouseconnection.org/how-to-use-arp-funds/
Questions?
How SEAs and LEAs are Using ARP HCY Funds
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1. Can you share some particularly innovative or interesting examples of how LEAs in your state are planning to use ARP-HCY funds (I or II)?

2. As you look at all the allowable uses of ARP-HCY funds, and consider those uses in light of pandemic recovery and the challenges homelessness creates for children and youth, what are some ways you hope your LEAs spend those funds?

3. Can you highlight any LEA plans, or suggestions you have, to use ARP-HCY funds particularly to reach historically underserved groups of students, like students of color, pregnant/parenting students, students in rural areas, English learners, LGBTQ students, or Native American students?

Dona Bolt, Oregon Department of Education
Questions, Discussion, & Ideas
EDUCATION LEADS HOME 2022

A NATIONAL CONVENING ON STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

MARCH 7-8, 2022 | AUSTIN, TEXAS

WWW.SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/ELH2022
Thank you!

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