

Wraparound Services Under ARP-HCY:

Best Practices for Planning and Implementation

(This resource was created in partnership with Pearl Strategies.)

Providing targeted educational supports to students experiencing homelessness is a key focus of local educational agency (LEA) efforts to ensure these students have the best chance to succeed in school and life.

The needs of students experiencing homelessness, however, extend beyond academics to include basic and social-emotional needs. See [The Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness: A Checklist for School and Community Partners](#) for a list of common student needs.) One strategy to help mitigate the destabilizing and traumatic effects of homelessness and support academic achievement for children and youth is connecting them to wraparound services.

This tip sheet will define wraparound services, and guide local educational agencies (LEAs) on leveraging American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds to connect children and youth experiencing homelessness with wraparound services. Finally, this resource will provide examples of wraparound services planned with ARP-HCY funds across New York state

Can ARP-HCY Funds Be Used to Provide Wraparound Services?

Yes. The American Rescue Plan Act was passed into law in March 2021 as the third major federal stimulus bill aimed at addressing the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the U.S. economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

The Act appropriated \$800,000,000 specifically to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness and provide them with wrap-around services and assistance needed to attend school and participate fully in school activities [[Pub. L. 117-2](#), § 2001(b), p. 135 STAT. 19].

In guidance issued in [April 2021](#) and [September 2023](#), ED reiterated that state educational agencies (SEAs) and LEAs may use ARP-HCY funds to provide wraparound services to children

and youth experiencing homelessness, including through direct provision of services by the SEA or LEA, in collaboration with full-service community schools partners, or via contracts with community-based organizations (CBOs) that are well-positioned to identify these children and youth and connect them to educationally related supports and wraparound services.

What Are Wraparound Services?

Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) states that LEAs may use ARP-HCY funds to provide wraparound services, which “could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services.” Specific examples of wraparound services include



- Conducting outreach to and building partnerships with community agencies that provide needed services the school is unable to provide
 - Providing training to LEA and community partners who work with students and families experiencing homelessness on engaging students and families in a trauma-sensitive way
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- Providing students with mentoring, mental health counseling, or other behavioral or social-emotional supports
 - Conducting student needs assessments and providing referrals to school- or community-based providers who address identified needs
 - Arranging transportation to school- or community-based services that help the student arrive at school ready to learn
 - Setting up school-based food pantries, clothing closets, and laundry centers
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- Providing services navigation or case management aimed at helping students and families understand and get connected to school and community supports for which they may be eligible, such as housing interventions, food assistance, physical and mental health care, public benefits, child care, extended-day or extended-year programming, laundry and hygiene assistance, and more
- Other supportive services that may be reasonable and necessary to enable a student to come to school ready to learn.

Wraparound services can be provided in a school-based setting or community-based settings. As a reminder, LEAs may contract with community-based organizations, using ARP-HCY funds, to provide needed services. For more information on building school-community partnerships see [Best Practices for Building School-Community Partnerships to Support Children, Youth, and Families Experiencing Homelessness](#).

What Should My LEA Consider When Planning and Implementing Wraparound Services Using ARP-HCY Funds?

When thinking about funding wrap-around services with ARP-HCY funds, LEAs may wish to consider the following questions:

Which services?

Which wraparound services are most needed by students experiencing homelessness? Does the LEA have data on the greatest unmet supportive service needs of these students that could help plan and implement service delivery?

Who provides?

Who is best equipped to provide the wraparound service? Do existing LEA or school staff or programs have the capacity to provide the service? Is there a CBO partner that is well-equipped to provide the service? If not, could ARP-HCY funds be used to increase LEA or CBO partner capacity? This might include hiring additional LEA staff or paying existing staff for more time, or contracting with a CBO partner to provide the service. Download the National Center on Community Schools' [Sample Memoranda of Understanding \(MOU\) or Agreement \(MOA\) School/District and Lead Partner](#) for sample MOUs and MOAs that can be used as a starting place for drafting a CBO partner contract.

Are services accessible?

How can the LEA ensure that the wraparound service is conveniently accessible to students and their families? This may involve considering where and what time(s) of day the service should be provided and whether the student or family has the transportation needed to access the service. In some instances, students and families may be more likely to access school-based services given that the student and often their parents are at school on a regular basis.

What Are Examples of Wraparound Services NY LEAs Are Providing Using ARP-HCY Funds?

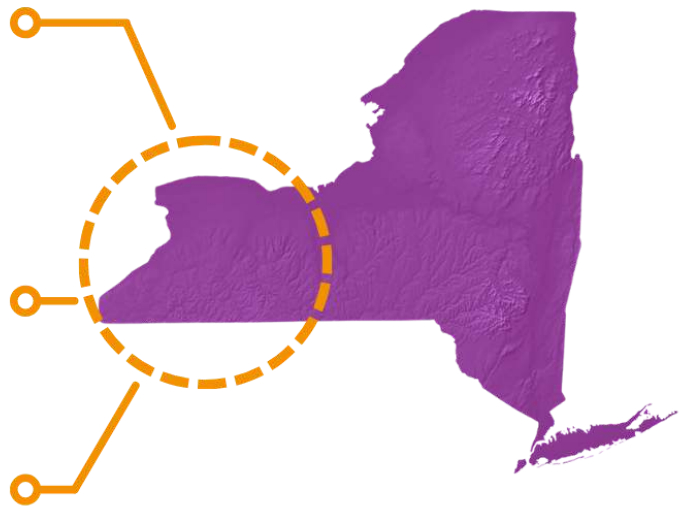
In their ARP-HCY plans submitted to the New York State Education Department (NYSED), many NY LEAs indicated that they planned to use ARP-HCY funds to support students experiencing homelessness with wraparound services.

LEAs in Western New York planned to

Partner with **Compeer**, a CBO that offers an evidence-based mentoring program that strives to reduce loneliness and isolation, while increasing self-esteem and socialization and strengthening social bonds.

Provide on-site counseling three days a week and assist with referrals to community resources through their **Family Resource Center**.

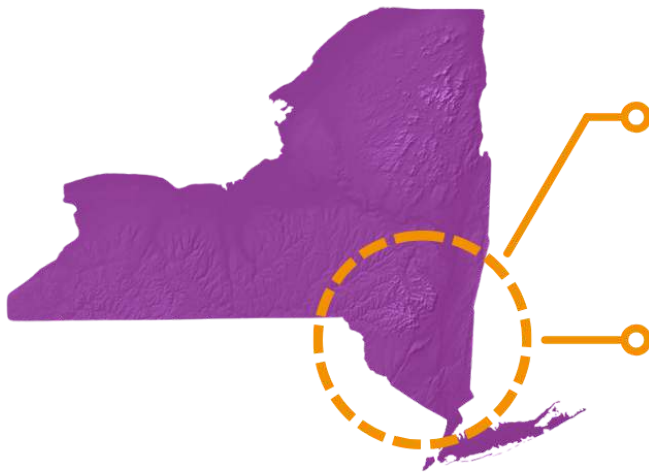
Provide before- and after-school programs in partnership with the **YMCA**.



LEAs in the Hudson Valley planned to

Strengthen partnerships with **the Center for Safety and Change** and provide training and support to students and families who have experienced domestic violence.

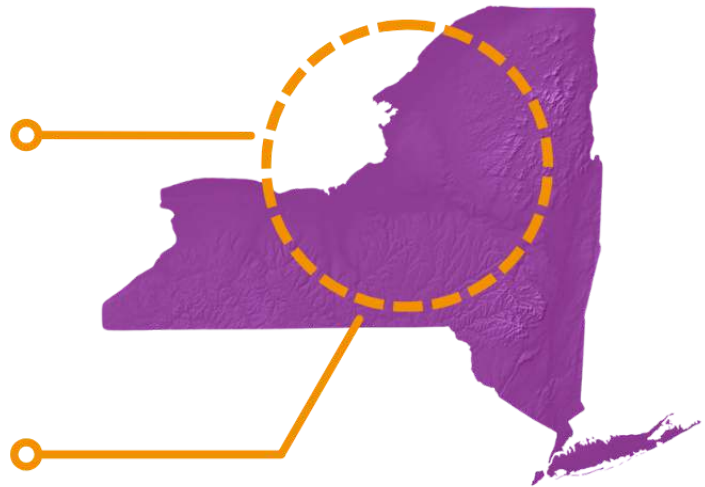
Provide on-site immunizations and other services at their **Family Welcome Center** in their LEA office in partnership with their local department of health.



LEAs in Central New York planned to

Partner with the **Wayne County Action Program (CAP)** to offer family engagement services that support students through case management, food and school supply delivery, rides to appointments, phone check-ins and home visits, and small group-based social-emotional and mental health supports.

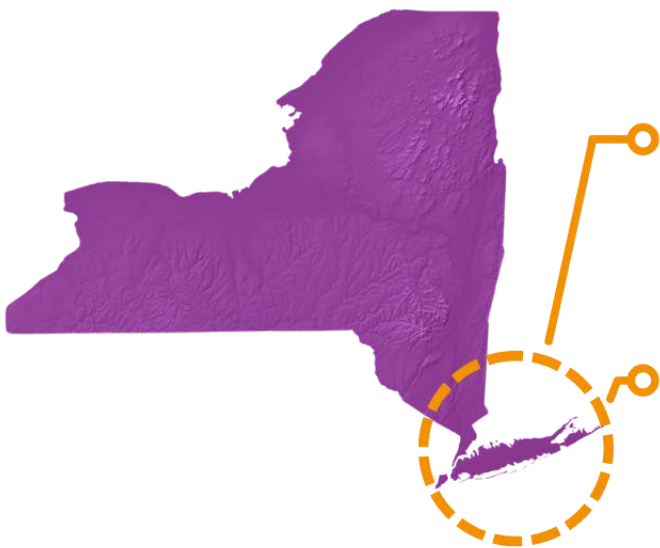
Partner with **Prevention Works**, a CBO that provides youth programming promoting positive life choices, health, and wellness.



LEAs in Long Island planned to

Collaborate with **New Ground, Inc** to conduct home visits to support students and families experiencing homelessness and improve the identification of new students and families.

Partner with **PM Pediatrics** and **Great South Bay Therapy** to provide individual services including service intakes, counseling, and parent coaching to help parents address their children's mental health needs.



Additional Resources

- Visit SchoolHouse Connection's **ARP-HCY webpage** for spotlights of LEAs across the country providing wraparound services using ARP-HCY funds.
- Download the following National Center for Homeless Education briefs:
 - **[Providing Wraparound Services Under the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth Program](#)**
 - **[Partnering with School Social Workers to Expand Local Homeless Liaison Capacity and Provide Wraparound Services under the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth Program](#)**
 - **[Leveraging Systems Navigators to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)**
- Visit the **[New York State Community Schools Technical Assistance Centers website](#)** for more information on full-service community schools.