



Maximize Final ARP-HCY Funds: Quick Spending and Cost Guide

American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth, or ARP-HCY funds, are one-time uniquely flexible funds to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including through wrap-around services. These funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024, and spent by January 31, 2025, unless states apply and are approved for extended liquidation. Under extended liquidation, ARP-HCY funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024, but can be spent through March 2026.¹ In reviewing activities, we encourage SEAs and LEAs to consider how ARP-HCY funds may be used to support back-to-school activities for the 2024-2025 school year.

The table below organizes allowable uses of ARP-HCY funds by relative cost to help state and local educational agencies make the most of this historic opportunity. In determining use of funds, LEAs should consider 1) how much ARP-HCY funding remains; 2) whether the state is planning to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for extended liquidation; and 3) whether other funds, such as McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) funds, and funds that LEAs are required to reserve for homeless students under Title I Part A – may be used to sustain activities. **Please refer to the U.S. Department of Education's guidance on ARP-HCY funds for additional parameters on allowability.**

Click to Learn More

- [Transportation](#)
- [Identification and Outreach](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Training, professional development and McKinney-Vento program improvement](#)
- [Supplies](#)
- [Emergency short-term housing](#)
- [Food](#)
- [College preparation, access, and transition](#)
- [Early Childhood](#)
- [Academic support](#)

¹ In February 2024, the U.S. Department of Education announced that [SEAs would be able to apply for extended liquidation of ARP-HCY funds](#). If a state education agency applies and is approved for ARP-HCY extended liquidation, LEAs would have up to 14 additional months to draw down or liquidate ARP-HCY funds, if those funds were obligated by the September 30, 2024 deadline. Homeless liaisons should direct questions about their state's extended liquidation process to [their state homeless education coordinator](#).

Categorized Allowable Uses

Transportation		
Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vehicle purchase ● Rideshare or other third-party provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stipends for drivers ● Stipends or extended contracts for transportation coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gas cards ● Car repairs ● Bikes ● Public transit passes ● Taxi vouchers for family engagement
<p>Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → How will transportation be arranged so that it is in place for the first day of school (and beyond)? → Are there start-of-year activities at school that parents and/or youth need transportation support to attend? → Do students need transportation for extracurricular activities or afterschool programs? 		

Identification and Outreach

Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public service announcements ● Billboards ● Contracting for outreach workers through community-based agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update website, brochures, and other outreach materials ● Translation of existing McKinney-Vento awareness, enrollment, and training materials ● Stipends/hours for interpreters, multi-lingual outreach ● Stipends for counselors or social workers to connect with families at the start of the new school year ● Stipends or extended contract hours to distribute awareness materials in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Posters and other awareness materials ● Stipends or materials to provide staff training

Considerations

- Does your LEA have a plan in place for contacting and re-identifying families prior to the first day of school?
- How will you update or enhance your outreach or training materials over the first few months of the school year?
- Will you maintain contact with families who experience a change in living situation in the first few weeks of school?
- Are there simple contracts or MOUs that can be established to have PSAs, billboards, or other materials in place for the first few months of school?

Technology		
Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adaption of spaces to create computer labs or internet cafes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cell phones (on a case-by-case basis) ● Mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or community wireless hotspot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Store cards to provide pre-paid cell phone minutes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connected devices or equipment 	
--	---	--

Considerations

- What technology do students need during the school year for classwork or academic programs?
- How can technology be utilized to keep in contact with families?

Training, professional development and McKinney-Vento program improvement

Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program evaluation • Comprehensive needs assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference attendance, travel, or registration (travel must occur prior to September 30, 2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplies or materials for staff training • Extended contract hours or stipends to create new forms

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding or participating in conferences or PD days • Books 	or systems for staff to refer to the liaison
--	---	--

Considerations

- What professional development opportunities exist at the beginning of the school year?
- What materials might you need for training staff at the beginning of the school year?

Supplies		
<p>Higher Cost \$10,000+</p>	<p>Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000</p>	<p>Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracting with a community-based organization who can distribute supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store cards and prepaid debit cards • Clothing, Apparel • Bedding • Hygiene items • School supplies • Eyeglasses • Washers and dryers in schools • Laundry detergent and laundry tokens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipends or extended contract hours to distribute supplies outside of regular school hours and during back-to-school season.
---	--	--

Considerations

- What supplies will your students need on returning to school?
- What processes or systems do you have in place for families to distribute supplies?

Emergency short-term housing
(see [federal guidance](#) for parameters)

Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting with a community-based organization who can provide emergency short-term housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term motel stays Housing navigators Contracting with a hotel booking service such as Safe Stays by Reloshare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended contract hours or stipends to connect families to emergency housing at the start of the school year Extended contract hours or stipends to do on-site enrollment at motels

Considerations

- What short-term contracts could be established with a community partner to provide short-term emergency motel stays or housing navigation support?
- What process could be put in place to connect families to short-term motel stays at back-to-school?
- What contracts can be put in place by September 30, 2024 to continue these services until January 30, 2025?

Food
(see [federal guidance](#) for parameters)

Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting with a community-based organization that can provide food services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stipends or extended contract hours to distribute food outside of regular school hours, and during back-to-school season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekend backpacks Snacks for before or after school programming Food or food cards for students participating in traveling sports teams Stipends or extended contract hours for staff to make snacks available at back-to-school events

Considerations

- What food resources will be available during back-to-school events?
- What food resources will be provided for students participating in traveling fall sports or activities?

College preparation, access, and transition

Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting with community-based organizations that can provide services to support a smooth transition to post-secondary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stipends for FAFSA mentors College application expenses such as registration fees, preparation materials, Entrance and placement exams, and other fees associated with college applications Stipends or extended contract hours to do transcript audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplies to ensure a smooth transition to higher education.
<p>Considerations</p> <p>→ What supports and resources are needed to ensure students are aware and able to access post-secondary opportunities?</p>		

Early Childhood

Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adding slots for children experiencing homelessness to existing district-based preschool or other early childhood programs ● Contract for an early childhood navigator to help identify and enroll families and young children experiencing homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities to transition children to kindergarten, such as coordinating screenings ● Activities to determine eligibility for child care subsidy ● Early intervention services (including transportation to those services) ● Stipends or extended staff hours for awareness building, outreach, and identification of young children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clothing ● Diapers ● Baby formula ● Hygiene supplies ● Other educational supplies to help make shelters more developmentally friendly and improve school readiness

Considerations

- What supports or supplies might young children and their families need at the beginning of the school year?
- What process or procedure is in place to identify and serve young children at back-to-school?

Academic supports

Higher Cost \$10,000+	Medium to Higher Cost \$5,000-\$10,000	Lower Cost \$0-\$5,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting with community-based organizations that can provide supplemental or 1:1 academic support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees to participate in early college/dual enrollment programs or career and technical education programs Stipends for counselors to complete transcript audits for all high school Purchasing homelessness-specific modules to upgrade and integrate into existing Early Warning and other student information systems (like PowerSchool, Infinite Campus, Aeries, Skyward, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online tutoring programs