



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 28, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Act), as amended in 2002, provides funding for programs to support districts in identifying and serving homeless children and youth and to remove barriers to the academic success of homeless students. The State Board of Education has previously approved the criteria for funding and required the criteria incorporate specifications of the Act and the state plan.

Grants will be awarded to fiscal agents for regional consortia for a three (3) year competitive grant cycle. Consistent with the Act, public school academies and local and intermediate school districts may provide training and technical assistance to consortium member districts and educational activities, such as: tutorial programs, school supplies, transportation, and counseling services.

By statute, this is a competitive grant. Among selected grantees, awards are based on the count of enrolled homeless students in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) to align with federal data reporting. The number of homeless students in Michigan has grown considerably over recent years, while federal funding has remained steady at approximately \$2 million per year.

It is recommended the State Board of Education approve criteria for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated April 28, 2015.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Grant (Grant) supports the State Board of Education's mission by providing training, technical assistance and funding to ensure the identification, enrollment, retention and academic success of homeless children and youth with the purpose of ensuring each student's ability to graduate ready for career, college, and community.

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Type of Grant Program:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal |

The Grant addresses educational challenges created by homelessness and guarantees homeless students the right to enroll, attend, participate and succeed in school. The Act places the responsibility for guaranteeing the rights of homeless students on states and public school districts.

All public school districts are required to ensure the educational rights of homeless children and youth. These rights include:

- Immediate enrollment, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enrollment, attendance and participation in school while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enrollment in the local attendance area school or continued attendance in the school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is the preference of the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth and is feasible.
- Transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested by the parent/guardian/unaccompanied youth and is feasible.
- Educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to each student's needs.
- No stigmatization or segregation on the basis of homeless status.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: June 14, 2011

Source of Criteria:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Federal Law, Rules or Regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> C. Proposed by Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. State Law or Rules | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Proposal to the Funder |

The Michigan Department of Education will competitively award sub-grants to eligible fiscal agents for regional consortia on the basis of meeting the purpose of the Act, need for the grant, documented collaboration with other community agencies to coordinate services to homeless children and youth, effective use of funds, ability to meet identified needs, and complete timely and accurate reporting.

Applications will be judged on:

1. How well they meet the purpose of the Act.
2. Demonstrated need for the grant, documented by the number of homeless children and youth identified and served by the consortium districts in the preceding school year.
3. Number of homeless children and youth, preschool through twelfth grade residing in the proposed grant service area, as documented by census data, the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS), the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), local Continuum of Care organizations, *Kids Count* data, or other reliable sources.
4. Demonstrated capacity to coordinate services for homeless children and youth with other district departments including Migrant, English Language Acquisition, Title I, Special Education, Adult Education, etc.
5. Demonstrated capacity to coordinate services for homeless children and youth with community agencies and organizations serving homeless populations.
6. Demonstrated capacity to engage and involve parents, guardians, and families of homeless children and youth, without stigmatization or segregation.
7. Demonstrated capacity to integrate homeless children and youth into the regular education program, without stigmatization or segregation.
8. Proposed program services and activities, including services mandated in the Act, which will address the conditions and issues identified in the consortium needs assessment process.
9. How well they outline measurable goals and objectives and the methods for evaluating the success of each of the proposed program services and activities in meeting the program's identified needs.
10. Capacity to meet identified student, district, and community needs through assignment of consortium grant coordinator with experience in homeless education.
11. Effective use of requested grant funds for authorized activities defined in the Act.

Base grant amounts will be distributed to ensure basic services can be provided by each grantee, particularly in sparsely populated areas and areas with high homeless populations. Base grant amounts will be determined annually by MDE staff, taking into account the distribution of homeless children throughout the state.

The grant cycle for these funds will be up to three (3) years as established by the Act to allow districts the time to establish and implement effective programs for homeless children and youth. The award will be made for one (1) year with an opportunity for up to two (2) one-year continuation awards, based on successful completion of the previous award, continued availability of funding, and accurate and timely reporting of homeless children and youth served in grant reports and the MSDS.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED

Eligible Applicants: Local Educational Agencies, Intermediate School Districts and Public School Academies.

Targeted Population: Homeless children and youth.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Estimated \$2,000,000 per federal fiscal year

STATUTE

Title X, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 2002; Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended in 2002

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

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