



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 22, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant Criteria

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended in 2002, provides funding for programs to stimulate the development of policies and procedures to remove barriers for educating homeless students. The State Board of Education has previously approved the criteria for funding and required that the criteria incorporate specifications of the McKinney-Vento Act and the state plan.

Homeless student grants will be implemented and awarded up to a three (3) year competitive grant cycle as described in Attachment A. Consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, public school academies and local and intermediate school districts may provide educational activities, such as tutorial programs, transportation, and counseling services, with grant funds.

Beginning with FY 2009-10, allocations were based on the count of enrolled homeless students in the Single Record Student Database (SRSD) to better align with federal data reporting. The number of homeless students in Michigan, however, has grown considerably over the past year. Many of these students were not reported in the SRSD but are nonetheless being served without funding by McKinney-Vento grantees. Criteria eight and nine provide a strategy to fund these children.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 22, 2010.

Attachment

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MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approval of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant Criteria

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal, and the Board's Vision and Principles of Universal Education.

PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant supports the Board's strategic goal in that districts may attain substantial and meaningful improvement in the academic achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation (*check all that apply*)

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a State Education Agency (SEA) that receives more than the minimum statutory allocation (\$150,000) must sub-grant at least 75 percent (75%) of its allocation to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) on a competitive basis. The grant criteria is to ensure that grants are awarded on the basis of need and the ability of the applicant to meet the identified needs of the homeless children and youth in its service area.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved February 10, 2009

Defined in Legislation by Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder Proposed Staff

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will award sub-grants to eligible applicants 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 and accurate reporting.

1. Applications will be judged on how well they meet the purpose of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which is facilitating the

enrollment, attendance, and academic success of homeless children and youth.

2. Applicants must demonstrate a need for the grant by providing data from a comprehensive needs assessment that includes the following information:
 - i. The number of homeless children and youth served by the applicant in the preceding school year;
 - ii. The number of homeless children and youth, pre-school through twelfth grade, in the proposed grant service area as documented by the census data, reported in the Single Record Student Database (SRSD) or Michigan Student Data System (MSDS), the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as reported by local continuum of care organizations, or other reliable source. Additionally, applicants that were grantees the previous year, and are proposing to expand services under the new grant, must specifically describe the new geographic area they will be serving and how many additional children will be served and must have completed all required reports by state and federal due dates;
 - iii. The needs of the homeless children and youth in the proposed grant service area and the ability of the applicant to meet such needs;
 - iv. The capacity of the applicant to coordinate services for homeless children and youth with other LEA departments such as Migrant, English Language Acquisition, Title I, Special Education, Adult Education, etc.

3. Applicants must describe the proposed program services and activities that will address the conditions and issues identified in the needs assessment process:
 - i. Proposed program demonstrates the integration of homeless and non-homeless students into the instructional environment;
 - ii. Proposed program supplements and does not supplant existing district programs;
 - iii. Proposed program demonstrates formal collaboration with other school districts, local agencies, and/or continuum of care organizations to coordinate services to homeless children and youth, as well as within departments of the LEA;
 - iv. Proposed program describes the methods and activities it will use to involve the homeless students' parents and guardians in their child's education;
 - v. Proposed program demonstrates annual professional development for homeless education LEA liaison; and
 - vi. Proposed program outlines training for district/school level staff and district/school level administration on the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the responsibilities of the district in serving homeless students.

4. Applicants must 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.
5. Applications will be judged for the effective use of grant funds. Effective use will be demonstrated by:
 - i. Evidence that expenditures are tied to activities that will achieve the program's objectives and address the identified needs;
 - ii. Evidence that expenditures are within the state and federal guidelines for appropriate use of McKinney-Vento and Title I funds;
 - iii. Specific, direct, and/or in-kind financial support from the school district and the school district's collaborative partner(s); and
 - iv. Evidence of coordination of grant funds with local and federal district funds to provide services to homeless children and youth.
6. Base grant amounts will be distributed to ensure that basic services can be provided to 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.
7. The grant cycle for these funds will be up to three years to allow districts the time to establish and implement effective programs for homeless children and youth. The award will be made for one year with an opportunity for up to two 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.
8. Unspent prior year funds may be distributed to assist fiscal agents in serving homeless students not reported in the SRSD or MSDS through the following procedures:
 - i. Allocations be adjusted for current subgrantees in order to provide additional funding for the number of students served by the subgrantee that were not reported in the prior year SRSD or MSDS.
 - ii. Allocations be adjusted for current subgrantees that either (1) did not have a McKinney-Vento grant in the prior year or (2) incorporated additional ISDs and LEAs that did not have a McKinney-Vento grant in the previous year into their grant consortium, in order to provide additional funding for the number of homeless children documented annually by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that were not reported in the prior year SRSD or MSDS.
 - iii. The amount of unspent funds available for distribution each year will be determined by MDE staff.

- iv. Unspent prior year funds designated for distribution based on criteria 8.i and 8.ii will be awarded on a per pupil basis.
- 9. Up to \$150,000 of prior year unspent allocations may be set aside for emergency funding (e.g., a sudden influx of homeless students into a fiscal agent's service area).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Local Educational Agencies, Intermediate School Districts, and Public School Academies

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Estimated \$1,800,000 per federal fiscal year

LEGISLATION

Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Field Services, Special Populations Unit/Pam Kies-Lowe