



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education

From: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.

Date: March 12, 2003

Subject: Approval of Criteria for 2003-04 Education for Homeless Children and Youths Grant

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.

In 2002-03 Homeless Students' Assistance grants successfully implemented exemplary academic programs. Effective July 1, 2003, grant awards totaling approximately \$1,587,174 will be available to continue similar programs. Consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, public school academies, local and intermediate school districts may provide educational activities, such as tutorial programs, and related services, such as transportation or counseling services.

The McKinney-Vento Act also stipulates that state and local educators collaborate with shelter and health care providers, housing agencies, social service agencies, and homeless parents. Therefore, the Education for Homeless Children and Youths Grants Program criteria has been written to ensure and reward cooperative planning activities.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve criteria for the 2003-04 Education for Homeless Children and Youths Grants as described in Attachment A to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 12, 2003.

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Grant Criteria for McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grants

The Michigan Department of Education will award subgrants to school districts on the basis of meeting the purpose of the Act, need for the grant, coordination of services to homeless children and youth, effective use of funds, and ability to meet the identified needs.

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 success in school of homeless children and youth.
2. Applicants must demonstrate a need for the grant by providing data from a needs assessment that includes the following information:
 - i. The number of homeless children enrolled in preschool and school within the proposed grant service area
 - ii. The number of homeless children served by the applicant in the preceding school year
 - iii. The number of homeless children and adults in the proposed grant service area as documented by census data or other reliable source
 - iv. The needs of the homeless children and youth in the proposed grant service area
 - v. The ability of the applicant to meet such needs
3. Applicants must describe the program services and activities that have been designed to meet the needs identified in the needs assessment process.
 - i. Program demonstrates integration of homeless and nonhomeless students
 - ii. Proposed program supplements and does not supplant existing programs
 - iii. Proposed program demonstrates the coordination of services with other local and state agencies
 - iv. Program must include parent/guardian involvement
4. Applicants must include measurable objectives and methods of evaluating the success of the proposed program in meeting those objectives.
5. Applications will be judged for the effective use of grant funds. Effectiveness will be demonstrated by:
 - i. Evidence that expenditures are tied to activities which reflect objectives that are related to the identified needs
 - ii. Specific direct and/or in-kind financial support for the grant program
 - iii. Evidence of coordination of program funds across programs to provide services to homeless children and youth

**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students, with primary emphasis on chronically underperforming schools." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- Ensuring Excellent Educators
- Elevating Educational Leadership
- Embracing the Information Age
- Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy
- Integrating Communities and Schools

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation

(Provide background and purpose of grant including information on when the criteria were last approved.)

LEGISLATION

Title X, Part C (see attached)

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

When the No Child Left Behind Act was passed it reauthorized the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act and provided funding for subgrants. Strong emphasis was placed on the importance of ensuring that homeless children and youth have access to the same high academic standards of achievement as non-homeless children. McKinney Vento grants provide supplemental funds to assist this high risk group of students to attend school, remain in school and achieve academic success in school.

CRITERIA

Defined in Legislation Defined in Department's Grant Proposed by Staff

The Michigan Department of Education will award subgrants to school districts on the basis of meeting the purpose of the Act, need for the grant, coordination of services to homeless children and youth, effective use of funds and ability to meet the identified needs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Public School Districts, Intermediate School Districts, Public School Academies

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$1,587,174

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Field Services / MaryAlice Galloway

Title X, Part C, Section 723

(c) AWARDS-

` (1) IN GENERAL- The State educational agency shall, in accordance with the requirements of this subtitle and from amounts made available to it under section 726, make competitive subgrants to local educational agencies that submit applications under subsection (b). Such subgrants shall be awarded on the basis of the need of such agencies for assistance under this subtitle and the quality of the applications submitted.

` (2) NEED- In determining need under paragraph (1), the State educational agency may consider the number of homeless children and youths enrolled in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools within the area served by the local educational agency, and shall consider the needs of such children and youths and the ability of the local educational agency to meet such needs. The State educational agency may also consider the following:

` (A) The extent to which the proposed use of funds will facilitate the enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youths.

` (B) The extent to which the application--

` (i) reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youths; and

` (ii) describes how the applicant will meet the requirements of section 722(g)(3).

` (C) The extent to which the applicant exhibits in the application and in current practice a commitment to education for all homeless children and youths.

` (D) Such other criteria as the State agency determines appropriate.

` (3) QUALITY- In determining the quality of applications

under paragraph (1), the State educational agency shall consider the following:

` (A) The applicant's needs assessment under subsection (b)(1) and the likelihood that the program presented in the application will meet such needs.

` (B) The types, intensity, and coordination of the services to be provided under the program.

` (C) The involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of their children.

` (D) The extent to which homeless children and youths will be integrated within the regular education program.

` (E) The quality of the applicant's evaluation plan for the program.

` (F) The extent to which services provided under this subtitle will be coordinated with other services available to homeless children and youths and their families.

` (G) Such other measures as the State educational agency considers indicative of a high-quality program, such as the extent to which the local educational agency will provide case management or related services to unaccompanied youths.

` (4) DURATION OF GRANTS- Grants awarded under this section shall be for terms not to exceed 3 years.