

Frequently Asked Questions

American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) for LEAs Office of Educational Supports, Special Populations Unit

Last Updated 01/26/2023

Questions not addressed in this FAQ may be submitted to this link:

[Submit an ARP-HCY II Question](#)

Q1: How do these funds relate to other Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds?

A1: American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP HCY) I and II are supplemental to the supports and services provided with ESSER funds.

Q2: Is ARP-HCY subject to supplement, not supplant?

A2: Yes. The ARP-HCY program must supplement, not supplant, the ESSER I, II and III dollars. The supplement, not supplant, provisions under the ARP-HCY program do not apply to ESSA Title dollars.

Q3: If my LEA receives more than \$5,000.00, can I join or form a consortium?

A3: Yes. LEAs that receive more than \$5,000.00 can join or form a consortium. Your district can also serve as the fiscal agent for a consortium.

Q4: If my LEA receives less than \$5,000.00, *must* I join or form a consortium?

A4: Yes. LEAs that receive less than \$5,000 may NOT apply for funds individually.

Q5: What are the data reporting requirements?

A5: In addition to reporting the identification of students experiencing homelessness in the Michigan State Data System, all LEAs receiving ARP-HCY I & II funds must submit count data on unenrolled homeless children ages 0-2 and ages 3-5 served under the program.

This data set is already required of McKinney-Vento (MV) subgrant programs but will be new to LEAs that have not previously been part of MV Consortium projects in Michigan.

Data needed are the same as for K-12 students: data field for the living situation (shelter, unsheltered, doubled-up or motel/hotel) and the data field for the unaccompanied homeless youth status. Generally, the information is collected by district MV Liaisons during intake interviews with parents and guardians. For additional information on the MSDS data fields required for all students experiencing homelessness, reference the MSDS Collection Details Manual for the current year.

2022-23: [MSDS Collection Details Manual](#)

Q6: Generally speaking, how can ARP Homeless II funds for LEAs be used?

A6: LEAs may use funds for any of the sixteen uses permitted by the McKinney-Vento Act.

In addition, funds may be used for “any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of children and youth who are experiencing homelessness in order to enable their ability to attend school and participate fully in school activities, such as:

- providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services)
- purchasing needed supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items)
- providing **EXCESS** transportation to enable children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities
- purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied, homeless children and youth to enable such children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities
- providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities;
- paying for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable the homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school)
- providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.”

From: Letter to Chief State School Officers Announcing Grant Award (04-23-2021)

In addition, LEAs may, and are encouraged, to award contracts using ARP Homeless II funds to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, and LGBTQ+ youth, and connect them to educationally related support and wraparound services.

What are the allowable uses of funds under McKinney-Vento?

SEC. 723. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY SUBGRANTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.

(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES- A local educational agency may use funds awarded under this section for activities that carry out the purpose of this subtitle, including the following:

(1) The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic content standards and challenging State student academic achievement standards the State establishes for other children and youths.

- (2) The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency, services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar State or local programs, programs in vocational and technical education, and school nutrition programs).
- (3) Professional development and other activities for educators and pupil services personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this subtitle, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
- (4) The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- (5) The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A), not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 722(g)(3).
- (6) The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.
- (7) The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.
- (8) The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
- (9) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or medical records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
- (10) The provision of education and training to the parents of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths.
- (11) The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5).
- (12) The provision of pupil services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- (13) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence.
- (14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.
- (15) The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
- (16) The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school.

A Quick Notes Version is shared here:

- 1) Supplemental educational services, such as tutoring and other academic enrichment programs
- 2) Expedited evaluations for various educational services
- 3) Professional development activities for educators and pupil services personnel working with homeless students
- 4) Health referral services

- 5) Defraying the excess cost of transportation in order to enable students to attend the school of origin
- 6) Early childhood education programs for preschool-aged homeless children
- 7) Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth in public school programs
- 8) Before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs with educational activities
- 9) Payment of fees and costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records of homeless children and youth
- 10) Education and training for parents of homeless children and youth about rights and resources;
- 11) Development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services;
- 12) Provision of pupil services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services
- 13) Activities to address needs that may arise from domestic violence
- 14) Adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for non-school facilities to provide services listed above
- 15) Provision of school supplies, including those to be distributed at shelters or other appropriate locations
- 16) Other extraordinary or emergency assistance that is needed to enable homeless students to attend school

Additional Resources:

US Department of Education: [Frequently Asked ARP-HCY Questions and Answers - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)