U.S. Department of Education

Application for Funding under the American Rescue Plan Act Education for Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)

Second Disbursement (ARP Homeless II)

CFDA Number: 84.425W

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0761. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 22 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit under Section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this individual collection, or if you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form, application, or survey, please contact Deborah Spitz, Office of School Support and Accountability, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-6450, or HomelessEd@ed.gov, directly.
PROGRAM BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. The ARP Act included an unprecedented $800 million reservation within the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to support the specific and urgent needs of homeless children and youth in recognition of the extraordinary impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on students experiencing homelessness. The Department is administering these funds through the ARP Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund (see Appendix A for the full text of the relevant sections of section 2001 of the ARP Act).

The purposes of the ARP-HCY Fund are to help States and local educational agencies (LEAs) identify homeless children and youth, provide wraparound services that address the multiple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on homeless children and youth, and ensure that homeless children and youth are able to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students experiencing homelessness are increasingly under-identified, as learning outside of school building settings likely impeded the critical role of educators and staff in schools and LEAs to properly identify students, and these students have remained underserved by schools, LEAs, and States. New ARP Act funding to support students experiencing homelessness has tremendous potential to expand the systems in your State to identify and support the needs of homeless children and youth.

Eligibility

Each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Funding

The Department will award a total of $799,000,000 to State educational agencies (SEAs) in proportion to each State’s share of funds received under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) in the most recent fiscal year.

As described in Appendix B, the first disbursement of these funds, 25 percent of the total amount, was provided on April 26, 2021 (hereafter referred to as ARP Homeless I). The remainder of the State’s allocation (ARP Homeless II) will be disbursed upon receipt and approval of this application.

For ARP Homeless II, States may reserve up to 25% of their allocation for State uses and must distribute at least 75% of their allocation to LEAs via a formula that uses the LEA’s allocation under part A of title I of the ESEA and the number of identified homeless children and youth in either school year 2018-19 or 2019-20, whichever number is greater. Additional parameters are described in Appendix A.
Timeline

Funds appropriated under section 2001 of the ARP Act are available initially through September 30, 2023. Under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, funds not obligated and expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year following the fiscal year for which funds were appropriated remain available for obligation and expenditure for an additional year. Accordingly, funds appropriated under the ARP-HCY program will be available until September 30, 2024. The deadline for drawing down or expending obligated funds is 120 days later, or January 31, 2025 (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(b)).

Uses of Funds

Funding under this program must be used for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with (A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID–19; and (B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.


Furthermore, funding under the ARP Homeless I and II programs must adhere to the allowable uses of funds described in Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act). Under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs may use subgrant funds for activities that support the purposes of the program, including:

1. The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as 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 English learners, services provided under title I of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).

3. Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support 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 part, 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) of the McKinney-Vento Act, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 732(g)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
(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, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, 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 other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.

(10) The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or youths.

(11) The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Act.

(12) The provision of specialized instructional support 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 and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.

(14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under section 723(a)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act to provide services under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act.

(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 and participate fully in school activities.

Activities under both ARP Homeless I and II may include any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of homeless children and youth in order to enable homeless children and youth 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 transportation to enable homeless 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 homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
• providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.

LEAs must ensure that all costs are reasonable and necessary and that these uses of funds align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the McKinney-Vento Act. In addition, when considering funding decisions, we want to emphasize that section 723(d)(16) of the McKinney-Vento Act allows the use of funds for “other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.” Accordingly, when considering funding decisions, LEAs should analyze the needs of students experiencing homelessness in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its extraordinary impact.

Contact

Email: HomelessEd@ed.gov
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

To receive the State’s allocation under the ARP-HCY Fund, the SEA must submit a signed PDF of this Application, by email, to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) at HomelessEd@ed.gov within 14 days of publication of this Application. The Application must include the following:

- A completed cover sheet that includes the signature of the SEA’s authorized representative. *(Part A)*
- Programmatic, fiscal and reporting assurances. *(Part B)*
- Other assurances and certifications. *(Part C)*

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Authorizing Statutes and Regulations
Appendix B – State Allocation Data
### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**PART A: APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**(CFDA 84.425W)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Name (State Educational Agency):</th>
<th>DUNS Number:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama State Department of Education</td>
<td>627193386</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address (Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code):</th>
<th>Contact Information for State Program Representative:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50 North Ripley Street, Montgomery, AL 36104</td>
<td>Name: Eric G. Mackey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Position &amp; Office: State Superintendent of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 North Ripley Street, Montgomery, AL 36117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone: 334-694-4900</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email address: <a href="mailto:emackey@alsde.edu">emackey@alsde.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information and data in this application are true and correct. I acknowledge and agree that the failure to comply with all Assurances and Certifications in this application or any applicable law or regulation may result in liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, et seq.; OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and 18 U.S.C. § 1001, as appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):</th>
<th>Telephone:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eric G. Mackey</td>
<td>334-694-4900</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Signature of Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Signature]</td>
<td>7-16-2021</td>
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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
PART B: PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES

The Chief State School Officer or his/her authorized representative assures the following:


b. The SEA will award at least 75% of its total allocation to LEAs, based on the formula set out in the final requirements. The funds remaining after subgrants are made to LEAs may be used by the Office of the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth for State-level activities as reflected in sections 722(f) and (g) of the McKinney-Vento Act.

c. The SEA will comply with, and ensure that LEAs comply with, all reporting requirements at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including but not limited to the requirements under the McKinney-Vento Act, and including but not limited to numbers of students experiencing homelessness identified and supported through ARP-HCY funding, and specific details about supports and services received by students.

d. Within 60 days from publication of this application, the SEA will submit a plan to HomelessED@ed.gov that contains the following information:

i. For ARP Homeless I:

   1. How the SEA has used or will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for State-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming in 2021. This must include how the SEA has supported LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies for immediate needs this spring 2021, and how it will support LEAs for school year 2021-2022. This should include the extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past in order to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II;

The Alabama State Department of Education has used 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for state-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the state and LEA levels. This will include how the ALSDOE will support LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services in collaboration with state and local agencies for immediate needs and how it will support LEAs for the school year 2021-2022. This will also include the extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past in order to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II.

Each local education agency (LEA) in Alabama has designated a homeless education coordinator or liaison to act as the contact person for the identification of homeless children and youth and for related programs and services. The LEA liaison for homeless
children and youth facilitates the process of identifying eligible students and assessing special needs. Currently, the liaison works with designated LEA level school-based personnel and representatives from other services agencies to identify and assess the needs of homeless children and youths. Factors used to identify homeless children including the following:

- Inappropriate clothing
- Frequent tardiness or absenteeism
- Lack of books or other school supplies
- Frequent and/or inconsistently reported changes in address
- Symptoms of malnutrition
- Poor hygiene and grooming
- Behavioral changes that otherwise are unexplained
- Changes in school performances that otherwise are unexplained
- Aggressive behavior toward adults or other children
- Withdrawal from peer interaction
- Signs of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse
- Chronic fatigue and inability to concentrate
- Chronic health problems that unattended
- Low-self esteem
- Difficulty establishing relationship and trust in peers and/or adults
- Inability to participate in school or peer activities due to providing care for parents or siblings
- Living in a motel or other temporary residence
- Consistently unprepared for schoolwork

The ALSDE and LEAs will increase outreach and identification by the following:

- The LEAs can work beyond contracted hours to perform McKinney-Vento liaison duties.
- The ALSDE will hire four (4) part-time Regional Homeless Liaisons.
- The ALSDE and LEAs will launch a public mass marketing outreach campaign that includes targeted advertisements in places families and youth frequent such as grocery stores, public transportation, and community services, as well as TV and radio advertisements.
- LEAs will screen for homelessness by embedding questions and information about homelessness in all school or district outreach efforts.
- The ALSDE and LEAs will provide training to teachers, registrars, and other staff to assist with identification.
- The ALSDE will collaborate with the Alabama Department of Human Resources, the Alabama Department of Public Health, Housing and Urban Development, Alabama Food Assistance Programs, Alabama Postsecondary Department, Domestic Violence Agencies, Department of Early Childhood Education, local housing authorities, YMCAs, and local shelters for battered women.
  - Representatives from these groups will identify needs, develop strategies to address the needs, provide educational and support services to students
experiencing homelessness and provide professional development and training to individuals who work with homeless children and youth.

The Alabama State Department of Education, with assistance and guidance from the state’s Homeless Education Advisory Committee, will conduct annual training sessions for LEA liaisons for homeless children and youth and other designated persons from all school districts and charter schools in Alabama. Each LEA is required to send designated staff to these training sessions. The Homeless Liaison training is conducted jointly by ALSDE, state agencies, and advocacy groups that provide support and assistance to homeless children and families. The purpose of the training is:

- To provide awareness training and disseminate information related to the prevalence of homelessness, circumstances that may result in homelessness, and how to access support system for meeting the needs of homeless children and their families;
- To provide training on state-level expectations and procedures for identifying homeless children and youth, enrolling these individuals in public schools, and providing educational and support services that allow these students to succeed academically, emotionally, physically, and socially;
- To share examples of “best practices” within the state and the southeastern region of the United States that result in effective programs and services for homeless children and youth; and
- To provide a training module that can be used to train other LEA personnel, school administrators, and student support personnel in each school.

Additionally, on-going training will be provided or brokered as needed by the ALSDE. Updated guidance and other information will be disseminated through e-mail, webinars, and other forms of communication. District training and technical assistance for homeless education can be requested or will be determined from a needs assessment for compliance. Training and technical assistance topics that will continue to be addressed include:

- Determining the appropriate placement of runaways in alternative programs that will meet their needs;
- Providing tutoring and counseling services for youth who show signs of being potential runaways for those who are runaways;
- Coordinating between and among support services providers, juvenile authorities, and runaways to develop plans for runaways to complete their education and to develop skills that will make them employable, and (2) make sure that their needs for school supplies, clothing, toiletries, and other basic needs are met;
- Using the Response to Intervention (RTI) process to devise alternatives for potential runaways and actual runaways;
- Teaching conflict resolution skills to runaways and other children and youth;
- Maintaining confidentiality and privacy issues to support
personnel who work with homeless children and youth;
- Handling domestic violence and;
- Informing parents and school personnel regarding the rights and resources available to the parents of homeless children.

The ALSDE will monitor the Homeless Education program. The Federal Programs staff of ALSDE will conduct systematic technical assistance and monitoring of ARP Homeless I & II Funds in each of the state’s LEAs and based on a risk assessment. This process ensures that ALSDE staff have substantial opportunities to provide technical assistance and oversight of ARP Homeless I & II Funds. Also, the ALSDE will continue to collaborate with other agencies and entities that provide programs services, and/or advocacy for at-risk children to ensure that homelessness is addressed specifically and consistently among those groups affected by COVID-19.

The ALSDE has provided technical assistance to LEAs who were not recipients of ARP HCY I. The technical assistance have included but not limited to the following:

- Webinars
- Communications via e-mails
- Individual consultation
- PowerPoints
- WebEx recordings

Technical assistance was provided to ensure that LEAs are prepared to utilize the funds in the manner it is intended for.

2. How the SEA has used or will use their funds for State-level activities to provide support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming and plan for and provide wraparound services for summer 2021, in collaboration with State and local agencies and other community-based organizations and;

The ALSDE used funds for State-level activities to provide support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming and plan for and provide wraparound services for summer 2021, in collaboration with State and local agencies and other community-based organizations by partnering with 2-1-1 Connects Alabama/United Ways of Alabama which plans to provide the following to the Alabama Department of Education:

- Information & Referrals Specialists will screen every caller to see if they have school-aged children, Pre-K through 12, who are enrolled in Alabama Public Schools or should be enrolled in Alabama Public Schools.
  a. If callers answer “Yes,” to the pre-screening question, 2-1-1 Information & Referral Specialists will ask the caller if they are:
    i. currently homeless,
    ii. doubled-up families, which includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
    iii. runaway, abused, neglected or ungovernable adolescents at safe place shelters;
    iv. children and their mothers who reside in domestic abuse shelters and
transitional housing;

v. families residing in emergency shelters, hotels, or other temporary arrangements;

vi. pregnant teen or young mothers and their babies in shelters due to their problematic situations;

vii. unaccompanied youth;

viii. migratory children who qualify as homeless;

ix. experiencing any other barriers related to adequate housing and/or enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

b. If the caller identifies that they fall into one of the above categories, the 2-1-1 Information and Referral Specialist will:

i. Capture basic demographic information for these clients/callers, including age, gender, race/ethnicity, veteran status, language, and location;

ii. Provide the caller with resources that pertain to the need of the original call as well as additional needs that may arise through call screening;

iii. Ask callers who identify “yes” to the pre-screen question if they would like a referral to an LEA in their area who can assist them with additional support in their school system.

1. If the caller agrees, their contact information will be forwarded to their local LEA for follow-up.

2. If the caller prefers not to be contacted directly by an LEA, the caller will be given the contact information for their local LEA.

c. The caller will be flagged in the iCarol system for follow-up by a 2-1-1 Regional Coordinator who will contact the caller to see if they were able to receive assistance and connect with the LEA. The 2-1-1 Regional Coordinator will continue to work with the caller and can coordinate with their local LEA, if appropriate.

Partnership Benefits:

- **Streamlined Access to Existing Services:** 2-1-1 provides uncomplicated, efficient access to community assistance. Callers reaching out to 2-1-1 receive access to trained Information & Referral Specialists who will assess and screen their situation, provide referrals that meet their needs, and offer assistance designed to address the underlying cause of the problem.

- **Expanded Resources:** When viewed as a resource accessible by the community, 2-1-1 databases can be expanded to include neighborhood associations, community development corporations, grassroots organizations, or other community groups.

- **Improved non-duplicative utilization of existing services:** When utilizing 2-1-1, local service providers, charitable organizations, and governmental agencies are can connect for information, collaboration, and more focused efforts. Utilizing 2-1-1 as the first stop for information on existing services and finding community partners eliminates duplication of efforts.

- **Increased data for community planning:** 2-1-1 Connects Alabama maintains information collected on all callers annually including: caller’s need, service availability, agency effectiveness to meet caller’s needs, community resources, and caller demographics.

The 2-1-1 Connects Alabama Information and Referral hotline will provide free and confidential resources to Alabama’s homeless families with public school students
who are looking for assistance in the areas of health and human services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

2-1-1 Connects Alabama Can Help Callers Access the Following Types of Services:

- Basic Human Needs Resources: food banks, clothing, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance
- Government information: City, County, State services and programs
  - Many people are not sure what government office to contact and so 2-1-1 helps point them in the right direction
- Health and Mental Health Resources: health insurance programs, maternal health, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation
- Employment Support: financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs
- Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities: adult daycare, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services
- Support for Children, Youth, and Families: child care, after-school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps, and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services
- Volunteer Opportunities and Donations: community involvement, volunteer centers, disaster relief
- Military and Family Support: programs that serve veterans and their families, community resources, mental health resources, counseling
- Hobby groups and civic/service clubs: for people who have similar interests (gardening clubs, square dance groups, astronomy clubs, etc.) or are united by a common cause (political groups, Lions, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, etc.)

2-1-1 also provides incident specific information in coordination with local emergency services during times of disaster, including road closures and shelters.

2-1-1 services are facilitated through the United Ways of Alabama, with nine regional calls centers located throughout the state and an after-hours call center. When a caller dials 2-1-1, they are prompted to enter their zip code. Once a caller enters their zip code, they are routed to their regional 2-1-1 call center within the state. The 2-1-1 Connects Alabama network is supported through a web-based phone system, which allows calls to be answered anytime from anywhere by 2-1-1 Information & Referral Specialists. This web-based network allows for calls to be routed throughout the 2-1-1 system, so even if the regional call center closest to the caller is busy, the next available call center can assist the caller. 2-1-1 Connects Alabama utilizes a centralized resource database, iCarol, which allows for Information & Referral Specialists to search for resources statewide. The iCarol database utilizes call report forms to capture basic caller demographics and can be utilized to generate reports.

3. How the SEA has used or will use at least 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for distribution to LEAs in accordance with all requirements of EHCY. This must include the extent to which the SEA has or will use funds to supplement existing EHCY subgrants to allow for more rapid fund distribution to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness, and the extent to which the SEA analyzed and reviewed where
there are significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness across the State (including in LEAs that are not existing EHCY subgrantees), and how it has or will ensure that supports from ARP Homeless I can urgently reach them.

Alabama has received a total of $13,232,539 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) Homeless I and II funds. The ALSDE used 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for distribution to LEAs in accordance with all requirements of EHCY.

These funds are designed to provide funding to the LEAs immediately as a supplement to their McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) funds, so that they can address urgent needs of homeless children and youth—including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs—and increase capacity by hiring staff, dedicating resources, and planning partnerships with community-based organizations, among other strategies.

The ARP Homeless I funds became available by June 1, 2021, to LEAs who received the Fiscal Year 2021 McKinney-Vento EHCY Grant. The LEAs receiving ARP Homeless I funds will complete an ARP Homeless I application in eGAP with the allocated amount of funds awarded. LEAs must complete a plan, budget, and budget details in eGAP so the ALSDE Homeless Education Coordinator can review and approve the ARP Homeless I application.

ii. For ARP Homeless II:

1. How the SEA will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for State-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies, for school year 2021-2022, and

Each local education agency (LEA) in Alabama has designated a homeless education coordinator or liaison to act as the contact person for the identification of homeless children and youth and for related programs and services. The LEA liaison for homeless children and youth facilitates the process of identifying eligible students and assessing special needs. Currently, the liaison works with designated LEA level school-based personnel, and representatives from other services agencies to identify and assess the needs of homeless children and youths.

The ALSDE purchased the McKinney-Vento.org Liaison Credentialing Program and Essential Staff Program for LEAs. The program will include the following:

- The Level 1 McKinney-Vento Liaison Credentialing Course provides comprehensive and ESSA mandated training for anyone fulfilling the role of homeless liaison for their district. Based on the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Level 1 course topics include identification, enrollment, dispute resolution, transportation, and more. Liaisons learn about their duties under the law, gain permanent access to everyday
resources they can use right away, and complete assessments along the way to earn a certificate. The ALSDE can monitor progress, with automated and easy reporting specifically designed around Alabama requirements.

- The Level 2 McKinney-Vento Liaison Credentialing Course provides a deeper understanding of compliance for ESSA requirements and helps Liaisons move from a basic understanding of the law to meaningful practice in helping move students toward stability and success.

- The McKinney-Vento Liaison Credentialing Program was designed to provide ESSA mandated competency-based professional development and credentialing for school personnel responsible for identifying and serving homeless populations in public school districts.

- This series of online courses solve a long-standing capacity issue among McKinney-Vento State Coordinators and District Liaisons, allowing consistent and aligned professional learning. Beyond the compliance requirements for this training, early outcome data has already shown increased identification of homeless students after the completion of the Level I Course.

- The McKinney-Vento Essential Staff Training Courses aims to equip all school personnel with professional development and training to heighten their awareness of, and capacity to respond to specific problems in the education of homeless children and youths (a requirement of the McKinney Vento Homeless Youth Act).

- Specific courseware is available for each staff position in any public district or charter. After completing the course, school staff will know who their district liaison is, and everyone will be ready to connect homeless students and their families to critical resources and services.

- By educating every essential staff member in the school system, we are arming our homeless liaisons with additional ambassadors to ensure the educational excellence and success of our children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.

The ALSDE will monitor the Homeless Education program. The Federal Programs staff of ALSDE will conduct systematic technical assistance and monitoring of ARP Homeless I & II Funds in each of the state’s LEAs and based on a risk assessment. This process ensures that ALSDE staff have substantial opportunities to provide technical assistance and oversight of ARP Homeless I & II Funds. Also, the ALSDE will continue to collaborate with other agencies and entities that provide programs, services, and/or advocacy for at-risk children to ensure that homelessness is addressed specifically and consistently among those groups affected by COVID-19.

2. How the SEA will use at least 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for distribution to LEAs in accordance with the final requirements. This must include a description of how the SEA will distribute funds in accordance with the required formula
to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness and the extent to which the SEA has encouraged or will encourage the creation of consortia for those LEAs that may not meet the required minimum formula amount.

The Alabama State Department of Education was awarded a total of $13,239,031.00 for ARP-HCY Funds. The first disbursement of these funds was provided to qualifying LEAs with the FY-21 McKinney-Vento Grant on June 1, 2021 (ARP Homeless I). The second disbursement of these funds will be disbursed on October 1, 2021 (ARP Homeless II). For ARP Homeless II, Alabama reserved 25% of the allocation for state uses and distributed 75% of the allocation to LEAs via a formula that uses the LEA’s allocation under part A of Title I of the ESEA and the number of identified homeless children and youth in either school year 2018-19 or 2019-20, whichever number was greater.

LEAs had the option to Opt-In or Opt-Out of ARP Homeless II funds. LEAs with less than an allocated amount of $5,000 were encouraged to enter into a consortium with another LEA. LEAs who selected to Opt-Out of ARP Homeless II, will still be provided services through the ARP-HCY Reservation for State Level Activities. LEAs were provided a link to complete the ARP Homeless II Opt-In or Opt-Out Survey by Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Once all LEAs completed the survey, the ALSDE produced a new allocation amount for LEAs wanting to Opt-In for ARP Homeless II funds. LEAs will receive these funds starting FY-22 (October 1, 2021). ARP Homeless II funds will be available until September 30, 2024. LEAs who do not complete the survey by the deadline, will automatically receive ARP Homeless II funds.

For both ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II:

1. How the SEA will ensure that ARP-HCY supplements the support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and does not replace the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness;

The ALSDE will ensure that ARP-HCY supplements the support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and does not replace the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness by providing technical assistance to LEAs from the four (4) Regional Specialist that were hired specifically to assist with the implementation of services for ARP Homeless Funds.

The ALSDE also plans to implement a compliance monitoring piece to ensure that LEAs used ARP-HCY supplements for support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and does not replace ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

2. The extent to which the SEA will use its State-level activities funds to award subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness, and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services; and
The extent to which the ALSDE will use its State-level activities funds to award subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness, and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services through 2-1-1 Connects Alabama.

Dialing 2-1-1 will connect identified homeless students and their families to a trained operator 24/7 with access to a comprehensive database with a multitude of services in each community throughout Alabama. By its design, the 2-1-1 system is ideally suited for serving as the initial contact point for various programs. 2-1-1 is designed to assist families from all walks of life, but most importantly, benefits our most vulnerable populations such as children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness by facilitating access to public services.

3. How the SEA will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.

The ALSDE will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness through on-going training that will be provided or brokered as needed by the ALSDE. Updated guidance and other information will be disseminated through e-mail, webinars, and other forms of communication. District training and technical assistance from ALSDE Regional Specialists on homeless education and working in collaboration with community-based organizations can be requested or will be determined from a needs assessment for compliance.
EHCY subgrantees), and how it has or will ensure that supports from ARP Homeless I can urgently reach them.

ii. For ARP Homeless II:

1. How the SEA will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for State-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies, for school year 2021-2022; and

2. How the SEA will use at least 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for distribution to LEAs in accordance with the final requirements. This must include a description of how the SEA will distribute funds in accordance with the required formula to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness and the extent to which the SEA has encouraged or will encourage the creation of consortia for those LEAs that may not meet the required minimum formula amount.

For both ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II:

1. How the SEA will ensure that ARP-HCY supplements the support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and does not replace the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness;

2. The extent to which the SEA will use its State-level activities funds to award subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness, and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services; and

3. How the SEA will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.

| Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name): |
| Eric G. Mackey |
| Signature: [Signature] |
| Date: 7/16/2021 |
The Chief State School Officer or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

a. The SEA will conduct all its operations so that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under the ARP-HCY program or activity based on race, color, national origin (including a person's limited English proficiency or English learner status and a person's actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics), sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, or disability. These non-discrimination obligations arise under Federal civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. In addition, the SEA must comply with all regulations, guidelines, and standards issued by the Department under any of these statutes.

b. The State will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B and D (Assurances for Non-Construction and Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders, and regulations.

c. With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the State will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” when required (34 CFR part 82, Appendix B); and the State will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 CFR part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.

d. Any LEA receiving funding under this program will have on file with the State a set of assurances that meets the requirements of section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232e.

e. To the extent applicable, an LEA will include in its local application a description of how the LEA will comply with the requirements of section 427 of GEPA, 20 U.S.C. 1228a.

f. The description must include information on the steps the LEA proposes to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede access to, or participation in, the program.

g. The SEA will comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) requirements in Subpart D—Post Federal Award Requirements (2 CFR §§ 200.300-200.345) and Subpart E—Cost Principles (2 CFR §§ 200.400-200.475) to ensure that LEAs, including charter schools that are LEAs, are
using ARP-HCY funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the ARP Act and the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431-11435.

h. The State and other entities will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations, and assurances; the provisions of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485; and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

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<tr>
<th>Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eric G. Mackey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Signature]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: 7-16-2021</td>
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Appendix A: Relevant Excerpts from ARP Section 2001 and McKinney-Vento

ARP Section 2001 – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available through the Education Stabilization Fund, there is appropriated to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $122,774,800,000, to remain available through September 30, 2023, to carry out this section.

(b) GRANTS.—From funds provided under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—(1) use $800,000,000 for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with—
   (A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19; and
   (B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities; and

(2) from the remaining amounts, make grants to each State educational agency in accordance with this section.

Relevant McKinney-Vento Act Requirements

§722. Grants for State and local activities for the education of homeless children and youths

(e) State and local subgrants

(1) Minimum disbursements by States

From the sums made available each year to a State through grants under subsection (a) to carry out this part, the State educational agency shall distribute not less than 75 percent in subgrants to local educational agencies for the purposes of carrying out section 723, except that States funded at the minimum level set forth in subsection (c)(1) shall distribute not less than 50 percent in subgrants to local educational agencies for the purposes of carrying out section 723.

(2) Use by State educational agency

A State educational agency may use the grant funds remaining after the State educational agency distributes subgrants under paragraph (1) to conduct activities under subsection (f) directly or through grants or contracts.

(f) Functions of the Office of the Coordinator

The Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths established in each State shall—

(1) gather and make publicly available reliable, valid, and comprehensive information on—
   (A) the number of homeless children and youths identified in the State, which shall be posted annually on the State educational agency's website;
   (B) the nature and extent of the problems homeless children and youths have in gaining access to public preschool programs and to public elementary schools and secondary schools;
   (C) the difficulties in identifying the special needs and barriers to the participation and achievement of such children and youths;
   (D) any progress made by the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State in addressing such problems and difficulties; and
   (E) the success of the programs under this part in identifying homeless children and youths and allowing such children and youths to enroll in, attend, and succeed in, school;

(2) develop and carry out the State plan described in subsection (g);

(3) collect data for and transmit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require, a report containing information necessary to assess the educational needs
of homeless children and youths within the State, including data necessary for the Secretary to fulfill the responsibilities under section 724(h);

(4) in order to improve the provision of comprehensive education and related services to homeless children and youths and their families, coordinate activities and collaborate with—

(A) educators, including teachers, special education personnel, administrators, and child development and preschool program personnel;

(B) providers of services to homeless children and youths and their families, including public and private child welfare and social services agencies, law enforcement agencies, juvenile and family courts, agencies providing mental health services, domestic violence agencies, child care providers, runaway and homeless youth centers, and providers of services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); 1

(C) providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing to homeless children and youths, and their families, including public housing agencies, shelter operators, operators of transitional housing facilities, and providers of transitional living programs for homeless youths;

(D) local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) for homeless children and youths; and

(E) community organizations and groups representing homeless children and youths and their families;

(5) provide technical assistance to and conduct monitoring of local educational agencies in coordination with local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii), to ensure that local educational agencies comply with the requirements of subsection (e)(3) and paragraphs (3) through (7) of subsection (g);

(6) provide professional development opportunities for local educational agency personnel and the local educational agency liaison designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) to assist such personnel and liaison in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless children and youths, and provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness specified in sections 103, 401, and 725 to the liaison; and

(7) respond to inquiries from parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and (in the case of unaccompanied youths) such youths, to ensure that each child or youth who is the subject of such an inquiry receives the full protections and services provided by this part.

§723. Local educational agency subgrants for the education of homeless children and youths

(c) Awards

(1) In general

The State educational agency shall, in accordance with the requirements of this part and from amounts made available to it under section 726, make competitive subgrants to local educational agencies that submit applications under subsection [723](b). Such subgrants shall be awarded on the basis of the need of such agencies for assistance under this part 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 early childhood education and other preschool programs, elementary schools, 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 identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youths.

(B) The extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youths.

(C) The extent to which the applicant exhibits in the application and in current practice (as of the date of submission of the application) 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 extent to which the applicant will promote meaningful 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 into 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 part will be coordinated with other services available to homeless children and youths and their families.

(G) The extent to which the local educational agency will use the subgrant to leverage resources, including by maximizing nonsubgrant funding for the position of the liaison described in section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) and the provision of transportation.

(H) How the local educational agency will use funds to serve homeless children and youths under section 1113(c)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(c)(3)).

(I) The extent to which the applicant's program meets 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.

(d) Authorized activities

A local educational agency may use funds awarded under this section for activities that carry out the purpose of this part, 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 standards as 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 English learners, services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.] or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).

(3) Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support 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 part, 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 711(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, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, 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 other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.

(10) The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or 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 specialized instructional support 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 and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.

(14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under subsection [723](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 and participate fully in school activities.
Appendix B: State Allocation Data (updated June 2021)

Under section 2001(c) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the amount of each grant shall be allocated by the Secretary to each State in the same proportion as each State received under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the most recent fiscal year.

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<th>SEA</th>
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<th>Revised ARP Homeless II (75 percent$^1$)</th>
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<td>WYOMING</td>
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¹ The revised amounts are calculated after adjustments for national activities and the allocation to SEAs.
Appendix C: Privacy Act Statement

Authority: Section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 authorizes the collection of this information.

Purpose: The U.S. Department of Education (Department) will use this information to obtain the contact information of the individuals responsible for implementing ARP-HCY programs in SEAs. The information collected will be used by Department staff who need the information to provide oversight and support to the States.

Routine Uses: Among those disclosures permitted under 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, information contained in this system may be disclosed outside of the Department as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) when the disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the records were collected and the routine use is published in the applicable system of records notice. The routine uses are detailed in the system of records notice titled Education’s Central Automated Processing System (EDCAPS) (18-04-04), which system of records notice may be updated by ED in the future to include new or modified routine uses. While the Department intends to make publicly available each ARP-HCY SEA implementation plan on the Department’s website, the Department will only do so with appropriate redactions rules applied. The following Personally Identifiable Information will be collected but will be redacted prior to posting on the Department’s website: name, email, phone, and address.

Disclosure: Furnishing this information is required under the ARP-HCY grant terms and conditions that were agreed upon receipt of ARP-HCY funds. If this information is not provided, ED may take additional steps to ensure compliance with all grant terms and conditions, including additional grant award conditions and increased monitoring of grantee program implementation.