

**State Plan for the
American Rescue Plan
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund -
Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)**



Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Submitted: September 13, 2021

Grantee and Contact Information

ARP-HCY PR Award Number: S425W210002 - 21A

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To the best of my knowledge and belief, all information and data included in this plan are true and correct.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name): Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education & Early Development	
Signature: 	Date: 9/13/2021

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 Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) plans to use the 25 percent of the ARP-HCY I State-level activities to provide access to essential staff awareness training for all LEAs in Alaska. There are LEAs in Alaska that have historically not identified any homeless students. By providing specific training to all essential staff within each LEA, the likelihood of appropriately identifying homeless students will increase.

DEED has supported LEAs to plan for wrap-around services for school year 2021-2022, in collaboration with State and local agencies, by including two questions in the ARP-HCY I application as required by the U.S. Department of Education. The two questions are as follows:

- *Does the LEA(s) plan to award contracts to community-based organizations 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, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant or parenting youth, and connect them to educationally related support and wraparound services?*
- *List 2-3 state or local agencies with which you are coordinating to meet the identified needs.*

DEED has determined that existing Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grantees would be awarded ARP-HCY I funds based on their capacity and the concentration of homeless children and youth in their districts.

In addition, DEED will use prior EHCY State-level activity grant funding to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP-HCY II funds. Districts will be invited to participate in webinar(s), starting in October 2021, to receive this capacity building support.

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 Alaska State Legislature did not provide DEED with the needed federal receipt authority within the operating budget to accept and expend the ARP-HCY I funds until June 30, 2021. Therefore, DEED was unable to support increased access to summer programming in 2021.

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.

DEED plans to use 75 percent of the funds awarded under ARP-HCY I to supplement existing EHCY subgrants to allow for more rapid fund distribution to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness. These grantees have the highest concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness in Alaska, between 3% and 53%. These grants will address the needs of identified students experiencing homelessness to help ensure that support from ARP-HCY I will reach grantees in an expedient manner.

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

DEED plans to use the 25 percent of State Activities funds to award a grant to an organization with direct experience addressing homelessness to provide wrap-around services in collaboration with LEAs. Depending on the success of awarding that grant, DEED may also initiate a competitive grant process to award grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide wrap-around services in collaboration with LEAs.

Prior EHCY state-level funds will be used to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEAs levels. This support will include supporting LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services for school year 2021-2022 in collaboration with State and local agencies.

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.

DEED will distribute 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP-HCY II using the following formula:

- *50 percent based on the proportional amount an LEA received under Title I, Part A, for the most recent year; and,*
- *50 percent based proportionally to the number of homeless children and youth identified by each LEA relative to all LEAs in the State, using the greater of the number of homeless children and youth in either the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school year in each LEA.*

DEED will encourage the creation of a consortia for those LEAs that do not meet the minimum allocation requirement of \$5,000. A special webinar will be held in October 2021 for these LEAs to encourage collaboration and the forming of a consortia.

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 [ARP-HCY I Request for Applications](#) (RFA) includes the supplement not supplant provision to ensure ARP-HCY I funds supplement 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. This condition about supplementing will be highlighted in technical assistance sessions.

For ARP-HCY II funds, LEAs will sign an assurance that these will not supplant the support and services provided with 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

DEED is planning to use the State Activities funds to award a grant to an organization with direct experience addressing homelessness to provide wrap-around services in collaboration with LEAs. Depending on the success of awarding that grant, DEED may also initiate a competitive grant process to award grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide wrap-around services in collaboration with LEAs. In either case, the application and award will require the grantee to connect any student experiencing homelessness to educationally related

support and wrap-around services. DEED wants to ensure that all students experiencing homelessness receive the support and services needed, as all these students are considered underserved.

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

In technical assistance sessions, which will occur quarterly with all homeless liaisons within the LEAs, DEED will highlight the grant(s) that have been awarded. Since these grants will help identify and support all students experiencing homelessness to be connected to educationally related support and wrap-around services, DEED would use these technical assistance sessions to encourage LEAs to work closely with the organization and/or community-based organizations to ensure as many students as possible are identified, supported, and receiving services.