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U.S. Department of Education

Arkansas 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.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
PART A: APPLICATION COVER SHEET
(CFDA 84.425W)**

<p>Legal Name (State Educational Agency): Education, Arkansas Department of</p>	<p>DUNS Number: 781558564</p>
<p>Address (Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code): Arkansas Department of Education Four Capitol Mall Little Rock, AR 72201</p>	<p>Contact Information for State Program Representative: Name: Jayne Green Position & Office: State Director of McKinney-Vento / Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code: Four Capitol Mall, Box 29 Little Rock, AR 72201 Telephone: 501-683-5428 Email address: Jessica.Hickman@ade.arkansas.gov</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name): Johnny Key, Secretary of Education, Arkansas</p>	<p>Telephone: 501-682-4203</p>
<p>Signature of Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative:</p>	<p>Date:</p>

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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;

Arkansas will award subgrants, up to \$513,082.00 ARP Homeless I funds, to regional education service cooperative(s) that partner with community-based organization(s) for the purpose of assisting in the identification of historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness and providing wraparound services. Many LEAs utilized ESSER funds to provide 2021 summer programming for all students.

Arkansas provided on-site instruction in every public school district during the 2020-2021 school year. Arkansas experienced an increased attendance rate among students experiencing homelessness during the 2020-2021 school year, as reported below. Data Source: Statewide Information System Reports

Students	Year	Attendance Rate
Homeless	2018	90.32%
Homeless	2019	90.33%
Homeless	2020	89.74%
Homeless	2021	91.90%

School districts were surveyed in spring 2020 to call attention to the need for wraparound services for students experiencing homelessness. The survey asked LEAs to identify the constraints they face when trying to provide services and also to identify the most needed wraparound services for students experiencing homelessness. Data from this survey will drive instructional choices for training that is being planned. [2021 American Rescue Plan Homeless Liaison Feedback](#)

Arkansas utilizes 5% of free/reduced lunch numbers to consider if a LEA is identifying the approximate number of students experiencing homelessness. During the 2020-2021 school year, the state may have under-identified students experiencing homelessness when comparing the data for previous years (see table below). Please note that the expected data is not an exact expectation but is used to monitor if a district is in range of expectation.

In addition, reported data indicated that several LEAs identified no students experiencing homelessness. These identified LEAs, as well as LEAs who have not formerly received subgrants, will be prioritized by the awardee for training, technical assistance, and capacity-building for

community members and LEA staff, and identification of wraparound services for students. Data Source: Statewide Information System Reports

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
State - 4th Quarter - Total identified students experiencing homelessness	13,865	13,808	13,242	11,740
State - expected identified students experiencing homelessness	15,100	15,175	15,545	15,503

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

Arkansas provided on-site instruction in every public school district during the 2020-2021 school year. Many LEAs are utilizing ESSER funds to provide 2021 summer programming for all students. Arkansas developed the Statewide Community Resources Portal <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/scr> to provide contact information of wraparound services available to students.

State-level activity funds will be utilized to provide multiple training opportunities for the state about identification of students experiencing homelessness and the community framework for wraparound services. The subgrantee will be responsible for coordinating services with the Homeless Liaison for each LEA.

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.

\$1,539,246.00 ARP Homeless I funds will be awarded to current EHCY grantees to supplement existing EHCY subgrants to allow LEAs to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Concentrations of students experiencing homelessness in the state were analyzed and mapped according to 2019-2020 data. Notes were made indicating which areas were currently being served by a subgrant and which areas were not. This process has helped us identify areas that are likely underidentified and will need training and support on accurately identifying students experiencing homelessness. Training will be provided for all LEAs including those that are not currently receiving an EHCY subgrant. [2019-2020 Fourth Quarter Homeless Map](#)

The McKinney-Vento state director will provide additional training and support to the EHCY grantees on how to supplement the existing EHCY subgrants.

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

Arkansas will award subgrants, up to \$1,540,246.00 ARP Homeless II funds, to regional education service cooperative(s) that partner with community-based organization(s) for the purpose of assisting in the identification of historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness and providing wraparound services.

Arkansas developed the Statewide Community Resources Portal <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/scr> to provide contact information of wraparound services available to students.

State-level activity funds will be utilized to bring awareness to the state about identification of students experiencing homelessness and the community framework for wraparound services. The subgrantee will be responsible for coordinating services with the LEA Homeless Liaison.

The McKinney-Vento state director will work closely with the subgrantees.

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.

Arkansas will award at least \$4,620,738.00 ARP Homeless II funds to eligible LEAs. Arkansas will allocate funds in accordance with the required formula to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Arkansas will encourage all LEAs not meeting the required minimum formula amount to join a consortium. Arkansas has been meeting with Education Service Cooperatives to encourage regional consortiums. Arkansas has also been meeting with LEA Federal Program Coordinators to recommend consortiums.

Arkansas will utilize an allocation formula based equally on the proportional share of an LEA's allocation under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 for the most recent fiscal year, and the LEA's proportional share of 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 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year in each

LEA. Arkansas will post the preliminary allocations on the DESE website at <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/fiscal-and-administrative-services/school-funding/allocations>

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;

Arkansas will include assurances that reflect 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 McKinney-Vento state director will provide training and communication to grantees regarding this supplement requirement.

The McKinney-Vento state director will monitor the reimbursement of funds to grantees to ensure the use of funds 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

Arkansas plans to award the state-level activities funds to subgrants with educational service cooperatives that partner with community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in underserved populations and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services. The community-based organizations focus on building relationships in those underserved communities that benefit students who are experiencing homelessness. The subgrantees will be working with LEA Homeless Liaisons and community partners to ensure all underserved populations have been addressed. The McKinney-Vento state director will oversee all state-level activities and subgrants.

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

ARP Homeless I - Current EHCY grantees will be encouraged to contract with community-based organizations that serve and support historically underserved populations to supplement existing EHCY subgrants and allow LEAs to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento state director will meet periodically with the current EHCY grantees to

monitor the progress of the grants and to share community-based organization success.

ARP Homeless II - Consideration for contracting with a community-based organization will be included in the LEA and consortium applications. Arkansas will promote collaboration with community-based organizations that serve and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness through communications. The McKinney-Vento state director will meet periodically with the LEA Homeless Liaisons and Federal Program Coordinators to monitor the progress of the grants and to share community-based organization success.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):

Johnny Key, Secretary of Education, Arkansas

Signature:

Date: