

OMB Number: 1810-0761  
Expiration Date: 01/31/2022

# **Colorado Department of Education's** **responses to the** **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.

## **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:

- a. Funds awarded under this application (ARP Homeless II) will adhere to the final requirements at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/07/EO-12866-OESE-FY-21-NFR-ARP-HCY-with-disclaimer.docx>.
- 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,
- d. Within 60 days from publication of this application, the SEA will submit a plan to [HomelessED@ed.gov](mailto: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;

Response: The Colorado Department of Education received the ARP-HCY I funding on 4/26/21. The McKinney-Vento (MV) State Coordinator and Director of the Office of Student Supports (OSS) immediately sent information to all LEAs/ BOCES via specific emails to the field utilizing the MV Liaison listserv, included a section in the MV monthly newsletter and co-presented with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Office at CDE's weekly office hours devoted to discussing leveraging federal funds, including federal stimulus funds under ESSER, to best meet the needs of Colorado students. Participants in office hours include LEA/ BOCES leadership, district and school administrators, ESEA directors, MV liaisons, etc. Office hours are open to all LEA/ BOCES.

Within 10 business days of receiving notice of funding, a Colorado ARP-HCY I and II plan was developed for both the state-level support and distribution dollars and approved by

CDE's Executive Leader Team and Commissioner of Education. This plan included building capacity at the state level by increasing the program assistant of the program from 10% to 50%. This enabled the state office to provide a greater number of customized supports for grantees familiar with MV, as well as those that run programming but do not receive subgrants and/or those that are newer to MV. The program assistance also supported both the competitive funding and the formula grant process.

Webinars on serving MV students have been ongoing to all LEAs/ BOCES through formal state training, as well as monthly peer to peer sessions for the full field with timely topics determined by the field. Peer to peer sessions include experts on the specific subject matter at hand so that LEAs/ BOCES participants could ask questions directly to the subject matter experts and increase collaboration between MV liaisons and other state agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs). Individual TA has been provided and continues to be provided for all LEAs/ BOCES.

It was decided early on that CDE would reserve 25% for state level supports, utilizing a smaller portion of state-level dollars for direct support, with at least 70% of funding (70% of the 25%) going to a CBO partnership(s) to help support the field.

In an effort to get funding out to LEA/ BOCES and students as quickly as possible, CDE prioritized activities, per the timeline below.

- HYC-ARP I- Competitive
  - May/June 2021- first round competition- funding awarded to current subgrantees
  - July/August 2021- 2nd competition - funding prioritized for non-subgrantees
- ARP-HCY II- Formula
  - August/September 2021- formula application and distribution release
- State-level supports
  - Of the 25% for both ARP-HCY I and II,
    - CDE will be utilizing less than 30% of the 25% for state-level activities
      - June 2021 and ongoing- Increased program capacity and field-level supports at the state level
    - CDE will grant 70% of the 25% for state-level activities to partner with CBOs
      - July/August - determine procurement process for formal CBO partnerships, including funding
      - September/October 2021- CBO mini-grant competition to further support immediate needs of students
      - The grant competition application will echo the priorities and assurances set forth in HCY-ARP I and II.

Prior to and after receiving the funds, the MV program has been collaborating with wraparound supports through 21st CCLC program and working with CDE leadership to connect MV students with Extended Learning Programs that are being further developed through other federal and state funds. For an outline of activities connecting MV students with wraparound supports please see the response to question #2 below.

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

Response: As stated above, prior to and after receiving the funds, the MV program has been collaborating with wraparound supports through 21st CCLC program. Both programs are located under OSS, which afforded the programs the opportunity to work closely in increasing access for students experiencing homelessness. This partnership was particularly important when Colorado's 21st CCLC program received a federal waiver to run programming during the day for the last school year when students were not in school or were in asynchronous learning environments. Collaborations with CBOs allowed districts to open remote learning centers providing food, warmth, positive adults to help promote school engagement, computers and other technology as well as enrichment programming. We have many examples of how this waiver and the collaboration between CDE, 21st CCLC districts, MV liaisons and schools, CBOs, students and families were successfully served and continue to be served during the pandemic. Those collaborations were expanded upon in spring and summer 2021 and have been critical to successful fall onboarding for the 2021-22 school year and beyond. In addition:

- State program staff cross-references 21st CCLC funded districts with numbers of students experiencing homelessness and sends information connecting district McKinney-Vento liaisons and 21st CCLC Directors.
- Information on serving the needs of homeless students, particularly from underserved populations, is part of 21st CCLC training with new and current subgrantees. Conversely, MV liaisons are informed about the resources and support available in wraparound programs like 21st CCLC and other funded out-of-school time programs.
- We collaborate with the Colorado Afterschool Partnership (CAP) a state network for out-of-school time (wraparound support) programs to get information out to the full OST field on the needs of MV students, particularly from historically underserved populations and how important OST programming is for MV students.
- 21st CCLC end of year reports include success stories of serving homeless students through wraparound supports.
- Scored rubric questions on serving students experiencing homelessness was also included in the new 21st CCLC RFP.

These activities allowed the state office to work prior to and after ARP-HCY I and II funding was received to connect MV students with wraparound supports including after school, before school, 5th day programming during 4 days school weeks and summer 2021 programming.

2. 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.

Response: CDE's MV program analyzed a Colorado state map cross referenced with MV student totals to determine where significant concentrations of students and families were across the state and sent out information on the grant opportunity. Further, the application for the second round of competitive dollars had a "demonstration of need" section (MV student need analysis) that was scored in the competitive grant process. This process also prioritized those LEAs that are not subgrantees through the current MV supplemental grant program.

Throughout this process, CDE's MV program worked in collaboration with the Directors of CDE's Grants and Awards Office and CDE's Grants Fiscal Management Unit to distribute 75% of HCY I to ensure all costs were reasonable and necessary and that the uses of funds align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the McKinney-Vento Act. This collaboration also ensured the required mandates of the funding were met and a high quality review and level of analysis was completed for submitted applications. Accordingly, when considering funding decisions, all applications asked LEAs/BOCES to analyze the needs of students experiencing homelessness in their community, specifically in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its extraordinary impact.

See process and timeline below:

- Competition for HYC I.a- May/June 2021
  - Immediate funding was provided to current subgrantees proportional to the total number of MV students identified SY18-19 (35%).
    - Subgrantees filled out a succinct grant update that included all ARP-HCY assurances, uses of dollars and questions pertaining to collaborating with CBOs with experience in serving historically underserved populations of MV students, preschool students and unaccompanied youth, how the funding would be prioritized for MV student outreach, identification, school re-engagement, retention, access to services and connections with wraparound supports, and expectations on data reporting 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.
    - Budgets were reviewed by both the MV program office and CDE's Office of Grants fiscal.
- Competition for ARP-HCY I.b- July 2021
  - Launch of a full grant competition open to all LEAs/ BOCES.
  - All LEAs/ BOCES were eligible to apply, with priority points given to LEAs/ BOCES that are not current subgrantees.
    - Application questions included those similar to those in the application to existing subgrantees above.
    - Grant application trainings and webinars on the funding were provided to the full field.
    - Applications were released on 7/14/21 and due back to the state office by 8/4/21.
    - Competitive review teams scored the applications. All 12 applicants received funding. Of note, 10 of the 12 applicants are from LEAs/ BOCES that are not current subgrantees- success!

- Notifications of awards were sent to the field the first week of Sept with a performance period from 7/1/21-9/30/23.

Copies of competitive grant applications are available upon request.

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

Response: The same process for state-level supports will be used as described in the sections above. We will continue to offer webinars, training, and customized TA that is data-driven and based on feedback from the field. We will collaborate with other offices at the department, participating in ESEA office hours, ESSER meetings, and other professional development and technical assistance offered to the field on both the micro (LEA specific) and macro (full field) levels. See above the plan to collaborate with CBOs at the state-level.

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.

Response:

ARP-HCY II - funding received 7/28/21

- August/September- training and formula application and distribution to districts
  - The MV program office worked with CDE's Grants Fiscal Office to determine funding amounts based on the mandated 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. CDE's MV Program office and Grants Fiscal Management Unit will also ensure the additional parameters associated with ARP-HCY II are met.
  - A shortened application with funding amounts was released in early September. Applications and accompanying budgets will be reviewed by CDE's MV program office and the Office of Grants Fiscal Management prior to the release of Grant Award Letters.
  - We are discussing the requirements and encouraging consortia during presentations at ESEA office hours, the Rural Alliance meeting (with over 100 rural school districts participating), and a specific webinars planning to discuss building successful collaborations and consortia.

Colorado's ARP-HCY II formula application is available upon request.

**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;

Response: CDE's MV program office is working directly with the CDE's Chief Strategic Recovery Office (CSRO) whose job is to ensure a collaboration with all ESSER funding. The Director of the Office of Support and the CSRO are directly working together to 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 ESEA office hours presentations also address this specific topic.

Additionally, MV program staff are a part of the overall ESSER review committees that review applications for other ESSER funds for LEAs/ BOCES. Further, the Director of the Office of Student Supports participates in weekly ESSER leadership meetings that discuss implementation and areas of collaboration that build upon student supports without creating redundancies.

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

Response: The specific grant application for the CBO mini-grant competition will prioritize 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 experience and how the CBO will connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services. Applications will be scored and reviewed by a review committee.

Further, grant application training will be provided to the CBO community, that will include content specific training on the needs of students experiencing homelessness and recommended practices on connecting them with schools.

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

Response: Trainings and webinars included information on how LEAs/BOCES can contract with CBOs to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. All competitive and formula applications included points for contracts with CBOs. If an LEA/BOCES stated that they have not partnered to date, they were required to give rationale on why they have not to date and how they will partner in the future. Follow-up by the state office for compliance and support will occur throughout the funding period. Those LEAs/BOCES that marked that they have not partnered with CBOs will be prioritized for follow-up and support in this area.