

Delaware Department of Education ARP-HCY Response

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;*

From Delaware ARP ESSER State Plan:

Students experiencing homelessness

- Provide access to in-school and out-of-school opportunities including extra-curricular activities.
- Provide social, emotional, behavioral health support.
- Provide access to credit recovery for lost instructional time.
- Continue connectivity efforts related to internet accessibility and affordability.
- Develop interventions to address high absenteeism rates in comparison to peers.

Homeless education liaison support

As with the other specific roles, the DDOE quickly engaged with the LEA Homeless Education Liaisons. At the beginning of COVID, the DDOE initiated virtual meetings that were both optional and mandatory. These meetings will continue to occur every two to three weeks.

DDOE encouraged district and charter school homeless education liaisons to connect with their students and families via phone throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, district and charter homeless education liaisons distributed needed items for school and home to students and their families. Drop-offs were coordinated at food hubs or through individual home visits.

McKinney-Vento Funds (\$332,869)

McKinney-Vento funding is provided to Delaware districts and charters to identify and support students experiencing homelessness. All districts and charter schools in Delaware receive Title I funds and are required to designate a portion of these funds for students experiencing homelessness. Per the Consolidated Grant, these funds can be used for school supplies, personal hygiene items, and connectivity/technology. Delaware provides 90% of the transportation costs for these students. McKinney-Vento competitive grants provide additional monetary support for specific district and charter school interventions geared toward improving the success of students experiencing homelessness. In the past, these additional funds have been used for extra learning time and other innovative strategies. During COVID-19, DDOE's homeless education state coordinator has been involved in providing

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technical support for the start-up of dedicated hotel-based learning spaces. These spaces were funded with both district and charter monies and other non-education related COVID relief.

ARP Homeless Children and Youth Funds (\$2,690,527)

The new ARP Homeless Children and Youth (HCY) funds provide DDOE with a portion of funds to support Delaware’s children and youth experiencing homelessness. At least 75% of ARP-HCY funds are allocated to districts and charter schools.

	Total ARP Homeless Allocation	ARP Homeless I (25 percent)	ARP Homeless II (75 percent)
DELAWARE	\$2,690,527	\$672,632	\$2,017,895

DDOE has engaged with stakeholders on the potential uses of these funds. Suggestions include the following:

- Additional professional development for school staff on understanding the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness.
- Establishment of new community partners and partnerships.
- Additional access to out-of-school time educational opportunities.

The Delaware Strategy for Accelerating Learning for Students is providing opportunities for high-dosage tutoring (for over 5,000 students) that can be targeted toward students experiencing homelessness. Additionally, DDOE has been working closely with the Delaware State Housing Authority and its Community of Care program to identify resources that can be shared with Delaware’s district and charter school homeless education liaisons in an effort to cooperatively work with students and families experiencing homelessness.

At a minimum, district and charter ARP ESSER plans must describe the following:

- How the district or charter will ensure that the ARP ESSER funded interventions, including but not limited to the 20% set-aside, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students. A sample template has been provided within eGrants for districts and charters to include information related to their priority subgroups.

Delaware started work with regular McKinney-Vento and Title I Homeless Set-Aside funds and other state funds. LEAs can be reimbursed (by recoding items as ARP-HCY I and II back to spring 2021. Some things LEAs have done this summer include providing transportation to and from summer programming offered to entire school community and temporary stays at hotels, as well as items mentioned above.

Delaware has developed and will implement a strategic outreach and targeted technical assistance plan which includes:

- Creating multiple direct contacts with each LEA to provide tailored assistance;
- Expanding the community of practice that has been used to improve identification, including monthly meetings;

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- Creating clusters of similar LEAs for peer-based learning, inter-district work groups and possible mentoring from LEAs with strong McKinney-Vento programs;
 - Developing and delivering interactive virtual training opportunities;
 - Working with LEAs to create individualized identification action plans;
 - Developing and disseminating user-friendly identification tools (such as a script for registrars, posts for social media and websites, trainings for school-based staff, videos, etc.);
 - Offering Soft skills training to improve how school staff talk about inadequate housing and sharing housing in culturally sensitive ways that encourage families and youth to share their stories;
 - Communicating and coordinating between state agencies who deal with same families and DDOE, including the Delaware Housing Authority and Delaware Health and Social Services.
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;*

See the response to 1. Above.

In addition, resources to food through the Food Bank; the Harry K. Foundation; Love, Inc; local churches, and LEA nutrition departments have been needed and well-received.

Technology and connectivity have been distributed for temporary student use from the very first days of the pandemic and continue today.

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.*

ARP- HCY I funds are allowed to be given to existing EHCY McKinney-Vento subgrantee LEAs. Delaware announced new Year 1 McKinney-Vento awards in June 2021 after a McKinney-Vento grant announcement and submissions. All 11 LEAs that submitted a McKinney-Vento application received qualifying scores. These 11 LEAs have been given ARP-HCY I funds to supplement their McKinney-Vento grants, computed in the same manner as ARP-HCY II Funds: 50% of each allocation is calculated as a proportion of the number of students experiencing homelessness (the greater of 2018-19 or 2019-20) and the remaining 50% as a proportion of the Title I dollars these 11 LEAs generate, with the state reserving 25% of the ARP-HCY I funds for statewide technical assistance. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the LEAs' allocations were given out as soon as the state could, and the remaining 25% of the LEAs' allocations will be disbursed when each LEA completes its ARP-HCY grant with a completed budget in our online eGrants system.

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See also question 1 response to how supports to all LEAs have been given throughout the summer to the present.

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;*

Delaware has developed and will implement a strategic outreach and targeted technical assistance plan which includes:

- Creating multiple direct contacts with each LEA to provide tailored assistance;
 - Expanding the community of practice that has been used to improve identification, including monthly meetings;
 - Creating clusters of similar LEAs for peer-based learning, inter-district work groups and possible mentoring from LEAs with strong McKinney-Vento programs;
 - Developing and delivering interactive virtual training opportunities;
 - Working with LEAs to create individualized identification action plans;
 - Developing and disseminating user-friendly identification tools (such as a script for registrars, posts for social media and websites, trainings for school-based staff, videos, etc.);
 - Offering Soft skills training to improve how school staff talk about inadequate housing and sharing housing in culturally sensitive ways that encourage families and youth to share their stories;
 - Communicating and coordinating between state agencies who deal with same families and DDOE, including the Delaware Housing Authority and Delaware Health and Social Services.
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.*

Delaware used the method given to compute ARP-HCY II Funds: Fifty percent (50%) of each allocation is calculated as a proportion of the number of students experiencing homelessness (the greater of 2018-19 or 2019-20) and the remaining 50% as a proportion of the Title I dollars these 11 LEAs generate, with the state reserving 25% of the ARP-HCY II funds for statewide technical assistance. The state recalculated ARP-HCY II funding using the full 75% of ARP-HCY II funds for the LEAs that generated more than \$5000 initially. The state will use part of the 25% of ARP-HCY II funds reserved for state-level activities to support consortia when they are created. LEAs' ARP-HCY II allocations will be disbursed when each LEA completes its ARP-HCY grant with a completed budget in our online

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eGrants system. Information about forming consortia will be provided to those LEAs that did not meet the \$5000 threshold.

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 state will make the statement 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” an assurance in the eGrants ARP-HCY grant application. Delaware’s First State Financials (FSF) accounting system allows the state to review each LEA’s financial transactions transparently, so reviews of ARP ESSER funds can be made at any time to check that LEAs are in compliance with this “supplement, not supplant” rule.

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;*

Delaware is in the process of communicating with the following community organizations to see how they can help with identification of children and youth experiencing homelessness and how best to connect children and youth experiencing homelessness to educationally-related support and wraparound services:

- The Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. (DAPI), which provides a standards-based education for pregnant and parenting teens with unique outreach, mentoring and supportive services promoting empowerment and self-sufficiency;
- Children and Families First, which helps children facing adversity on their journey to adulthood, using proven methods to help families raise their children so they can flourish;
- The Parent Information Center, which helps parents of children with disabilities and youths with disabilities acting as self-advocates by providing information, individual assistance, and training to enable them to ensure inclusion in general education classrooms and extracurricular activities with peers whenever possible; meet functional and academic goals; meet challenging expectations established for all children, including college- and career-ready academic standards; and prepare to achieve positive postsecondary outcomes that lead to lives that are as productive and independent as possible;
- First State Community Action, which works to eliminate the paradox of poverty by replacing despair with opportunity, enabling each individual to reach his/her full potential and enjoy the highest standard of life; and

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- The Latin American Community Center, which empowers the Latino Community through education, advocacy, partnerships and exceptional services.

Delaware has developed and will implement a strategic outreach and targeted technical assistance plan which includes:

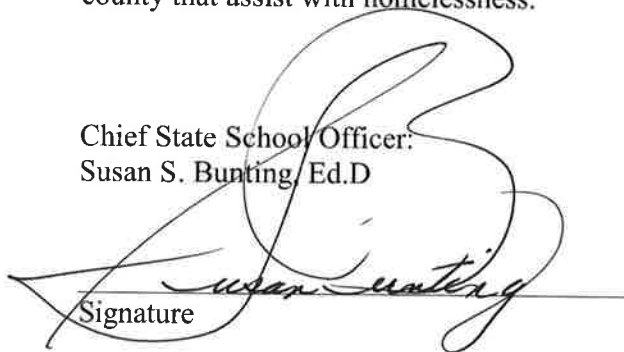
- Creating multiple direct contacts with each LEA to provide tailored assistance;
- Expanding the community of practice that has been used to improve identification, including monthly meetings;
- Creating clusters of similar LEAs for peer-based learning, inter-district work groups and possible mentoring from LEAs with strong McKinney-Vento programs;
- Developing and delivering interactive virtual training opportunities;
- Working with LEAs to create individualized identification action plans;
- Developing and disseminating user-friendly identification tools (such as a script for registrars, posts for social media and websites, trainings for school-based staff, videos, etc.);
- Offering Soft skills training to improve how school staff talk about inadequate housing and sharing housing in culturally sensitive ways that encourage families and youth to share their stories;
- Communicating and coordinating between state agencies who deal with same families and DDOE, including the Delaware Housing Authority and Delaware Health and Social 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.*

There will be a prompt regarding how the LEA will award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness in the Delaware ARP-HCY eGrant.

Delaware will also host a virtual session with LEA leaders, including LEA Homeless Education Liaisons and community agencies in the state that assist with homelessness. We will also hear from Delaware 211, which maintains a resource list of community agencies by county that assist with homelessness.

Chief State School Officer:
Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D



Signature

September 7, 2021
Date