

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

Legal Name (State Educational Agency):	DUNS Number: 102594426
Address (Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code):	Contact Information for State Program Representative: Name: Melissa Ferrell Position & Office: Kentucky State Homeless Coordinator Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code: 300 Sower Blvd., 5 th floor, Frankfort, KY 40601 Telephone: 502-564-1473 Ext. 4020 Email address: Melissa.ferrell@education.ky.gov
<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>	
Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name): Jason E. Glass, Ed.D.	Telephone: (502) 564-3141
Signature of Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative: 	Date: 09/07/2021

ARP-HCY State Plan for Kentucky

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;**

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff have engaged in collaborative planning efforts regarding the thoughtful and intentional use of ARP Homeless I funds. To date, Kentucky has not begun to use our ARP Homeless I funds. However, the state coordinator continues to provide technical assistance to districts about using Title I and McKinney-Vento funding for immediate needs, including wraparound services, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The office of the state coordinator has provided online professional learning courses through McKinney-Vento Learning, LLC for all district homeless liaisons for the past four years. These courses engage liaisons in topics around identification, enrollment, and reducing barriers. KDE will continue to build capacity using SEA McKinney-Vento funds to pay for this online training for homeless coordinators/liaisons in all school districts across the state.

The state coordinator and other state level staff have participated in technical assistance webinars and meetings which provided guidance, technical assistance, and state examples for using ARP-Homeless funds. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the percentage of students experiencing homelessness decreased in Kentucky from approximately 4% to 3.1%. Anecdotally, districts have reported difficulties in identification and tracking student location to determine whether students are enrolled somewhere other than their district; several districts noted the greatest area for improvement is in locating homeless students. The districts went on to say that without proper attendance records, they lost track of some students – even with the additional communication options available through learning management systems and social media. These districts also voiced concerns for a potential increase in the mobility of many families due to evictions. Many unaccompanied homeless youths depend on libraries or McDonald's or other places where they can wash, rest, access the internet, and be safe when not in school. With social distancing and many sheltering options unavailable, homeless youth have been extremely transient and difficult to find.

Several school districts have requested additional training for staff throughout their districts to ensure they understand the rights of students experiencing homelessness and the processes for identification and enrollment. To meet this request and need, KDE will

use SEA ARP-Homeless funds to implement a pilot in which several districts from every region across the state will be invited to engage in professional learning opportunities through online mini-courses. The mini-courses are created by the same vendor that provides the online training, McKinney-Vento Learning, LLC. The mini-courses are designed to address the roles of different staff throughout a district so they have the knowledge and skills to identify and serve students and families who are experiencing some form of homelessness. The state coordinator will collect and analyze data through participant usage data, surveys, and anecdotal observations in order to measure participant engagement. The analyses will drive technical assistance and support services, inform monitoring protocols and processes, and serve as the driver of additional statewide resources. The pilot of the mini-courses will assist the department in determining whether purchasing a statewide license is necessary and appropriate.

KDE also will build capacity in districts that have not received a McKinney-Vento grant in the past. Technical assistance will include guidance through an FAQ document which will include information on

- The coordination of ARP Homeless funds with ARP-ESSER and other funding sources;
- The supplementary nature of ARP ESSER funds;
- How districts should ensure students can access all district services available to them, including services and academic opportunities during the summer;
- Conducting a needs assessment and planning for the use of funds; and
- Any other information that will help districts use their ARP Homeless funds efficiently and effectively.

Guidance and technical assistance also will be provided through quarterly meetings and office hours. Also, KDE will be setting up a booth at the Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP) conference on September 16, 2021 to engage in face-to-face conversation regarding homeless education and the ARP Homeless funds.

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

Initial conversations are underway with KDE staff from the Division of Student Success regarding possible future collaboration on wraparound services and promoting continuity of services when students move between districts. This collaboration could include work with the Early Warning Tool and the Persistence to Graduation Tool. These tools use data from the statewide student information system to identify students who are at risk of dropping out of school. Schools and districts can use this data to provide students with additional supports to help them get back on track to graduate. In conjunction with the Division of Student Success, possible collaboration also could include work with organizations such as the Kentucky Housing Council and the Kentucky School Counselor Association.

To promote the continuity of services when students move between districts, we also will investigate the possibility of using state ARP Homeless funds to add a tab to the statewide student information system. Although districts can create a tab for their district and enter the services a student is receiving, the information is not available to other districts. Some districts have requested the addition of a statewide tab; the state ARP Homeless funds could be used to add this feature. District homeless liaisons will be able input the wraparound services students are receiving. If a student moves to a new district, the information would be available to the homeless liaison and could help ensure services are promptly arranged for the student.

- 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.**

KDE will use 75 percent of the ARP Homeless I funding to supplement existing 14 EHCY (Education of Homeless Children and Youth) subgrants (16 districts). A competitive RFA process was completed in spring and summer 2018, and 16 districts were selected for McKinney-Vento funding for 2018-21. These 16 districts will be eligible to apply for the ARP Homeless I funds. KDE will use 75 percent of the ARP Homeless I funding to supplement these existing EHCY subgrants. The homeless program data from 2019-20 shows that 50 percent of homeless students in Kentucky are in subgrant districts. KDE has developed and sent an application for ARP-Homeless I funds to these existing McKinney-Vento grantees. The state homeless coordinator's office is working closely with the KDE Finance department. The state homeless coordinator will work with other KDE staff to review the applications when they are submitted. The state coordinator has provided ongoing outreach to these grantees to prepare them for the application process, and guidance was provided along with the applications to provide support so districts can submit the application in a substantially approvable form. Funds will be awarded as soon as possible.

- 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**

During the 2021-22 school year, KDE plans to implement the following state-level homeless program activities to address the state consolidated plan and the KyEHCY annual plan.

- Attend state or national conferences that address homelessness and/or chronic absenteeism, special education, persistence to graduation, trauma, social-emotional learning, and other topics the co-exist with homelessness. The state coordinator, homeless program consultant, and other staff who support the work of the office of the state coordinator will attend. Mini-grants will be provided to LEAs that do not have a McKinney-Vento grant so they can attend.
- Fund mini-grants to support LEA homeless projects (e.g., identification activities, transportation support, conference attendance) in districts with large HCY counts but which have not received a McKinney-Vento subgrant, and districts who are under-identifying homes children and youth and need more training and technical assistance. The mini-grants will be for an estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000. KDE will develop guidance for districts on the purpose of the mini-grants, examples of the types of projects that could be undertaken, and an application. KDE will provide technical assistance to districts as they develop their project proposals.

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.**

KDE Finance department staff will use a formula based on each district's Title I allocation and homeless student counts to determine the amount of funding for which each district is eligible. For districts that are eligible to receive less than \$5,000, districts will be encouraged to join a consortium. Guidance about the consortia, contracting with community-based organizations (CBOs), and using the ARP-Homeless funds to supplement and not replace ARP-ESSER funds will be developed to share with districts. KDE staff will develop an FAQ document to distribute to all districts and will hold a live webinar to review the FAQs in the document and answer questions from districts. The goal is to develop and communicate the guidance and the webinar by December 2021. The application will be available to districts in the online application system by January 2022.

- iii. 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;**

KDE will provide guidance in the FAQ document referenced in question ii.2 and will cover this topic during the webinar, quarterly meetings, and office hours. When

completing the ARP-HCY applications, districts will agree to a set of assurances that the expenditure of these are in accordance with other state and federal statutes and regulations. Through the state's monitoring efforts, KDE will ensure that students experiencing homelessness were able to access the opportunities and services made available to all students in those districts being monitored. During the monitoring process, districts will be asked to self-evaluate and elaborate on the ARP-HCY support services they offer, provide supporting documentation that aligns to programmatic implementation and outcomes and fiscal management requirements.

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

While identification strategies in schools are vital, many unaccompanied homeless youths have dropped out of school therefore KDE has considered awarding subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations to support the identification of children and youth experiencing homelessness. At this time we do not anticipate awarding subgrants or contracts to community based organizations due to limited staff and time constraints. However, if we do decide to begin an RFA process to select potential community partners, these could include:

- Youth shelters, transitional housing, and independent living programs
- Street outreach programs
- Youth drop-in centers
- Law enforcement
- Juvenile Justice system
- Child welfare
- Public health clinics
- Gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender support programs
- Social services
- Pregnant and parenting teen programs
- Immigrant and refugee support centers
- Legal services
- Soup kitchens and food banks

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

KDE will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations by communicating and providing guidance and technical assistance in the FAQ document and webinar previously mentioned. In the FAQ document and webinar, KDE will communicate the importance of the collaboration between liaisons and community

partners which assists in identification efforts and is a means of obtaining resources and expertise. The office of the state coordinator also will provide training to liaisons on ways that they can initiate and sustain collaborations. The application for ARP Homeless II funds also will include an opportunity for districts to elaborate on whether they intend 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.