

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.**

Louisiana Department of Education received \$4,266,793 for ARP Homeless I. \$1,066,698 which is 25% of the total ARP Homeless I award was set aside for state level activities. The State Homeless Coordinator held a webinar for the 16 McKinney Vento Subgrantees on June 30, 2021 to inform them about the available funds. More specifically, the purpose of the webinar was to build capacity, provide training on the use of ARP Homeless I funds and provide technical assistance on how to navigate the newly developed consolidated application in the electronic grants management system to access funds. Liaisons were encouraged to braid MV funds and consider implementing high leverage activities that would make a significant impact in the identification process and outreach of homeless students. Subgrantees were also informed about the additional ARP Homeless II funding that would be available later in the Fall and were encouraged to engage in long term planning for the substantial amount of funds received.

From the state level set aside amount, **\$639,000** of the award was used to purchase online professional development for ALL Homeless Liaisons statewide and essential staff. McKinneyVento.Org was purchased to build the capacity of school staff even in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant. The courses are offered to personnel for two years in the following areas: administration, extracurricular, counseling, early childhood, food service, enrollment, media centers and libraries, special education, title I, and transportation. Essential Staff courses are aimed to equip all school personnel with knowledge to heighten their awareness of and capacity to respond to specific problems in education of homeless children and youth. After completing the courses, school staff will know who their own district liaison is, and everyone will be ready to connect homeless students and their families to critical resources and services. The MV.org training will aid in identification and enrollment of HCY.

In addition to the purchase of online professional development, **\$352,000** was allocated to raise awareness of the need of parental engagement in a child’s education. Louisiana’s homeless counts have dropped significantly during the pandemic and parents and students have become disconnected from their schools and liaisons. Therefore, the homeless office in collaboration with the state’s new parent and family engagement team has found an innovative-alternative way to provide outreach to parents during this uncertain Covid-19 era, which is by utilizing the PimsPoints Engagement App. The ARP Homeless I funds will provide each school in the state (1383) with a retractable vinyl banner housed in the front office to invite parents to register for the App so that they can stay abreast of McKinney Vento Services, available resources, curriculum activities, etc. Other digital flyers and notices will be sent home to encourage families to be Engaged. The App will allow liaisons and other personnel to send text and emails to all families, get documents signed electronically, host virtual events that reward parents for attending, and provide community resources. This App will strengthen the identification of homeless students and will cultivate a relationship between the school and families.

Lastly, **\$8,000** of ARP Homeless I funds will be set aside for wraparound services for all homeless students statewide. The Louisiana Department of Education has partnered with Harvard Innovation Lab to provide access to 24/7 mental health counseling and tutoring for approximately 10,000 homeless students. These services will

	<p>benefit our McKinney Vento families during the pandemic because it doesn’t require initial face to face contact. Families will be given a number and anytime they are in need of someone to talk to or academic assistance they can call the number and within two minutes they will be connected to a counselor or tutorer. Since this is a pilot program, the first 6,000 students will be receive access to the chatbot free of charge and the state will incur the cost for the other 4,000 students.</p>
2.	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Summer Programming: Unfortunately, there were no activities supported by the ARP Homeless I funding for the summer programming of 2021 due to the fact that the department did not release funding until late August. The delay was due to having to create a new consolidated application in the electronic grant management system that would provide a more comprehensive approach to planning and braiding of funds. However, during the upcoming webinar on ARP Homeless II funding, which will be held on September 21, 2021, the State Coordinator will stress the importance of allocating funding to summer programming and wrap around services provided from community organizations. During the webinar there will be two presentations dedicated to these critical areas 1) on best practices for summer programming 2) Coordinated System of Care resource and wraparound services.</p> <p>Wraparound Services: Aforementioned in question #1, the state has set aside funds from ARP Homeless I to provide support to LEAs for wraparound services through a partnership with Harvard Innovation Lab. All homeless students will receive access to free mental health counseling and tutoring services. Additionally, Homeless Liaisons will be encouraged to establish mentoring partnerships with their local Boys and Girls Clubs and Sororities and Fraternities for areas that are lacking a variety of community based resources.</p> <p>To model efforts of collaboration with local agencies, the State Homeless Coordinator and Homeless Consultant appeared as a special guest during a webinar held on August 11, 2021 with Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing. The series of conversations around homelessness entitled, “No Place Like Home” provided a platform to raise awareness about the state of homelessness in Louisiana and provided an opportunity to increase outreach efforts across the state. https://www.facebook.com/events/370024971163025</p>
3.	<p>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.</p>
	<p>The department awarded \$3,200,095, which is 75% of the ARP Homeless I award to all the current McKinney Vento Subgrantees. The cohort benefitted from the additional funding due to the extremely low enrollment numbers acquired from the previous hurricanes and impact of the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year. The subgrantees were faced with many challenges last year. Many of their students did not enroll last year, choose the virtual option, or became transit providing little to no information on whereabouts to the homeless liaisons.</p>

Therefore, the consolidated application was developed to encourage braiding of funds to provide opportunities for innovative ways to aid in identification, enrollment and outreach purposes.

All of the McKinney Vento subgrantees have demonstrated a need for funding by producing large homeless counts and consistent request for funding. The McKinney Vento Subgrant funds are mostly used on the mandatory areas that all subgrantees must fund such as: tutoring, wraparound services, professional development, transportation, summer programming, payment of fees and supplies. The additional funding from ARP Homeless I will be used to supplement services in the providing temporary shelter, store cards, cell phones for unaccompanied youth and other areas in a more robust manner during the 2021-2022 school year.

ARP Homeless II

4. **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.**

The Louisiana Department of Education received \$12,808,812 for ARP Homeless II. **\$3,202,203** was set aside for state level activities. So far, three state level activities have been identified to utilize funding on.

- 1) In partnership with Louisiana Public Broadcasting, the department has allocated approximately **\$59,000** to purchase materials (learning kits) to host 750 homeless families in STEM workshops. All homeless liaisons will be trained across the state on how to facilitate the trainings in their respective LEAs on an ongoing basis. The training will teach parents how they can be engaged at home with their children in light of Covid-19 by using basic home supplies. 2 trainers from LPB will provide the trainings statewide.

Ready to Learn Research -- <https://lpb.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/ready-to-learn-research/>
Sesame Street in Communities -- <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/>
<http://lpb.org/education>
<http://lpb.org/athome>

- 2) Another state-level activity that will be funded from ARP Homeless II is professional development training that will be in collaboration with the community based organization, MetroMorphosis. The **\$59,000** contract provides training and technical assistance throughout the year to LEAs. The CBO will provide 3 regional trainings across the state on Collective Impact. Each homeless liaison will collaborate with their LEA’s parent and family engagement coordinator on how to effectively bring all stakeholders to the table and establish common goals and priorities to achieve the same outcome, which is student success. Following the training, a total of 2 hours of technical assistance will be provided for each LEA.
- 3) Louisiana has seen a significant decline over the past 3 years in the identification of homeless students and student academic performance. After the administration of its first annual parent and family engagement survey in spring of 2021, over 10,000 families reported that they were unaware of the homeless liaison position. This response raises an alarm to increase communication and the need to be more strategic in

how messages are relayed to families about available services and the McKinney Vento Program. Due to the high turnover in liaison positions, the challenges introduced through Covid-19 and frequent natural disasters, there is need for innovative ways to get parents to be more engaged and knowledgeable about resources available to them even when they are not physically visiting the school campus.

We are seeking ways to foster relationships and keep families informed outside of the normal McKinney Vento poster that may hang in the laundry mat or library. Therefore, the department will partner with MESH, a local community based organization that provides consulting services on how to connect with your audience in strategic ways. The department will allocate approximately **\$72,000** towards the consulting services that will produce commercials, radio air time, social media traffic, etc. to increase engagement and identification.

The remainder of the funds will be allocated towards hiring temporary staff at the state level that will be able to elevate the work of the current two person team in a more efficient manner and create robust systems that will be sustainable even if there is a reduction of staff in the future.

5. 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.

Louisiana Department of Education received \$12,808,812 for ARP Homeless II funding. \$9,606,609, which is 75% of the award will be flowed out to all “accepting” LEAs.

Many State Coordinators have reported that some LEAs have opted out of receiving the ARP Homeless II funding due to a small amount of funding that will be received. The formula that will be used to generate the allocation amounts is: 50% in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title I-A for FY 2020 allocations and 50% in proportion 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 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year enrolled in each LEA.

With that in mind, we currently have 185 LEAs. Of the 185 LEAs approximately 29 LEAs will need to form consortiums because they will generate less than \$5,000.

The State Homeless Coordinator will host the postponed ARP Homeless II webinar (due to Hurricane Ida) on September 21, 2021. During this webinar, the information will be shared with all LEAs about the guidelines, allowable uses of funds, and the administration process for receiving the funds. The State Coordinator will follow up with each LEA following the webinar informing them of how much they would receive if they accept the funds including those that would need to form a consortia if interested. Examples of consortiums would be provided during the webinar to encourage full participation.

All LEAs that agree to the terms would complete a form to accept the funding and return to the SEA within 5 business days and funds will be loaded into the electronic grants management system. By following this process, this will alleviate the constant redistribution of funds from the onset.

Both ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II	
6.	<p>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.</p>
	<p>The McKinney Vento and ARP Homeless I recipients attended a webinar on June 30, 2021 that fully explained the allowable uses of funds and were encouraged to continue to utilize MV funds on the 16 authorized activities. The Subgrantees were also encouraged to utilize the ARP funds for the unique allowable activities that are not permissible with MV such as temporary housing, store cards, and unaccompanied youth cell phones. McKinney Vento and ARP Homeless I funds are housed in a consolidated application to encourage the braiding of funds from those two funding streams.</p> <p>The ARP Homeless II funding will be housed in a different application called Achieve in the electronic grants management system. All LEAs that accept those funds will be encouraged to once again to fund those unique allowable activities that are not permissible under other funding streams. All McKinney Vento subgrantees will be expected to develop a more robust summer program and wraparound partnerships with CBO that may have been implemented on a smaller scale initially.</p>
7.	<p>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.</p>
	<p>The state department will utilize a variety of methods to provide broad outreach services to the most vulnerable populations. However, the majority of the subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations will be generated directly from the LEAs to the community agencies. Those contracts will be better suited coming from the LEAs in which they are in close proximity to and understand the trends and needs of the underserved population.</p> <p>A few of the aforementioned contracts that will be generated at the state level are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) PimsPoints Engagement App-which is an innovative way to provide outreach to parents and students during this lengthy Covid-19 era. The ARP Homeless I funds will provide each school in the state (1383) with a retractable vinyl banner housed in the front office to direct parents/students to register for the App so that they can stay abreast of McKinney Vento Services, available resources, curriculum activities, etc. Other digital flyers and notices will be sent home to encourage families to be engaged. The App will allow liaisons and other personnel to send text and emails to all families, get documents signed electronically, host virtual events that reward parents for attending, and provide community resources. This App will strengthen the identification of homeless students and will cultivate meaningful relationships between the school and families.

	<p>2) The MetroMorphosis training on Collective Impact will provide each homeless liaison and Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator with training on how to effectively bring all stakeholders to the table and establish common goals and priorities to achieve the same outcome, which is student success. This contract will encourage liaisons to meet with their related community agencies on a regular basis to develop a plan of action to better serve the underserved populations.</p> <p>3) The department will partner with MESH, a local community based marketing organization that provides consulting services on how to connect with all audiences in strategic ways. The social media platform will probably be the most utilized strategy for the student population. Commercials, radio air time, etc. will all aid in increasing engagement and identification.</p> <p>4) The State Homeless Coordinator is committed to continuing to foster the relationship with Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing for a series of conversations around homelessness entitled No Place Like Home. https://www.facebook.com/events/370024971163025</p> <p>This list is not exhaustive of all of the collaborations and partnerships that will exist, but it does provide a direction for use of funds and partnerships for the duration of the ARP Homeless I and II funds.</p>
8.	<p>How the SEA will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.</p>
	<p>During the webinar the State Homeless Coordinator will encourage the partnerships with community based organizations. A list of organizations and services that are provided will be provided to all LEAs. LEAs will be encouraged to utilize funding for contracts with mental health counselors. To aid in this process, information will be provided from the mental health summit held on August 6, 2021 hosted by Children’s hospital New Orleans, New Orleans Health Department and Louisiana Department of Education https://www.chnola.org/summit/ . Additionally, the State Coordinator will serve on the 2021-2022 Louisiana School Health Advisory Council and will stay abreast of CBO that are willing to partner with LEAs and make that information available to liaisons on an ongoing basis.</p>