



## Minnesota American Rescue Plan – Education for Homeless Children and Youth Part B: Programmatic Narrative

Submitted September 7, 2021

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;**

MDE recognizes the unprecedented impact that funding awarded under ARP HCY has to support children and youth experiencing homelessness and their families. By September 30, 2024 MDE will use funds provided for state level activities to expand systems and build capacity in our state through focus on the identification of homeless children and youth including historically underserved populations, engaging and re-engaging homeless children and youth and their families in school, as well as expanding wrap-around services provided to homeless children and youth, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MDE will use 25% of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for planning state-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the state level and at the LEA level by ensuring there are specialists to improve grant management, research and evaluation, and coordination of statewide services for homeless children and youth including systems navigation. MDE will leverage ARP HCY state and LEA level funding to implement evidence-based practices that are aligned to the state priority list articulated on pages 28-30 on the [Minnesota State ARP](#) plan.

For example, the Full-Service Community School model is an evidence-based model which holds particular promise for homeless children and youth and their families. The Full-Service Community model is designed to help schools support students and their families so that they can fully engage in high-quality learning opportunities. The purpose of a Full-Service Community School is to coordinate resources to mitigate both academic and non-academic challenges for children, students, families, and communities. Evidence-based community school approaches include: integrated student supports, active family and community engagement, expanded learning time opportunities, and collaborative leadership and practices. Services could include: primary health and dental care, mental health, childcare, career counseling, and enriched learning experiences outside of the school day. Funding could be used to create a plan and begin to implement or expand services to homeless children and youth within the full-service community schools model, including hiring a community school coordinator to implement the model or increasing services for historically underserved students,

especially students experiencing homelessness who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures.

Other examples of strategies from Minnesota's ARP ESSER plan include but are not limited to expanding access to tutoring, providing after school activities and summer learning opportunities; implementation of a multi-tiered teaching framework to provide high-quality instruction that is responsive to the needs of all learners; increasing student support personnel (counselors, social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, and chemical dependency staff); and expanding language access for families who do not speak English as a first language (translation services, cultural liaisons, and culturally-specific public engagement).

Additionally, MDE will collaborate with partners at Minnesota Housing to amplify the provision of wrap-around services in conjunction with Minnesota's [Homework Starts with Home](#) (HSWH) program, a \$3.5 million biennial grant program focused on addressing homelessness and housing instability among students and their families. The HSWH collaboration, which has garnered bipartisan support in Minnesota, brings together service agencies in a geographic region to provide coordinated, temporary rental assistance and wrap-around services to stabilize families. This program was created through a unique interagency partnership between MDE, Minnesota Housing, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness, with support from the Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative. This program reaches students and families disproportionately impacted by homelessness such as black students, students of color, indigenous students, students with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning/queer (LGBTQ) young people.

MDE 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 to increase access to summer programming in 2021 by providing training via webinar to eligible ARP HCY I subgrantees on June 3, 2021, via individual outreach to eligible subgrantees beginning in May of 2021, and via statewide and ongoing training for school administrators and school business managers beginning in April of 2021. MDE will continue to support LEAs in planning for and providing wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies for school year 2021-2022 via ongoing training via webinar, holding office hours for technical support throughout school year 2021-2022, enhancing the MDE Homeless Education newsletter which is sent monthly to Minnesota homeless liaisons, and through a collaboration with the Minnesota Administrators of Educators of Homeless Children and Youth (MAEH CY) network.

MDE 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 by prioritizing technical assistance for rural districts with high free and reduced lunch counts and low homeless counts in conjunction with monitoring of the homeless set-aside in Title I, Part A. Additionally, MDE has delivered training via webinar beginning in August 2021 and will continue to do so throughout the implementation of this plan. MDE will also provide information to school leaders and homeless liaisons via the Superintendent's Bulletin which is sent weekly to all superintendents and charter school directors in the state, as well as other appropriate newsletters, electronic mailings and websites.

- 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;**

MDE has used 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 by providing training via webinar to eligible subgrantees which specifically included information about contracting with state, local and community-based organizations. Additionally, MDE provided technical assistance via phone and email to address individual subgrantee specific questions about such contracts. MDE plans to continue and expand this work by inviting state, local and community-based organizations to address homeless liaisons via training.

- 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.**

MDE awarded 75 percent of funds available under ARP Homeless I to 16 LEAs with existing McKinney Vento subgrants in order to supplement existing McKinney Vento subgrants in the 16 allowable uses of McKinney Vento funding while focusing on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with an emphasis on:

- connecting students experiencing homelessness and their families to summer learning and enrichment programs in summer 2021 and engage students and their families in preparation for the fall
- providing contracts to community-based organizations to identify historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, students of color and American Indian students, students receiving special education services, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant or parenting youth, and connect them to educationally related support and wraparound services
- enhancing identification, enrollment, outreach, retention, and educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness

Funds were distributed to existing McKinney Vento subgrantees and were made available on July 1, 2021 using a competitive grant amendment process and included creation of a separate finance code to allow for separate tracking and accounting of the funds. Applications for ARP HCY I funds were due to MDE on June 9, 2021. LEAs were granted funding authority back to May 18, 2021 which was the date that MDE was granted legislative funding authority from the Minnesota state legislature.

Competitive priority for the existing cohort of McKinney Vento subgrantees was based on LEAs which have the highest numbers of students experiencing homelessness in the state. In accordance with subgrant competition requirements of the McKinney Vento program whereby the McKinney Vento subgrant is re-competed every three years, MDE awarded a new cohort of McKinney Vento subgrants as of July 1, 2021. Upon review and analysis of the data, MDE awarded subgrants based on the highest numbers as well as the highest concentrations of students experiencing homelessness. This allowed MDE to award McKinney Vento subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) with smaller numbers but significant concentrations of students experiencing homelessness thus including LEAs that had not previously received McKinney Vento subgrants.

MDE will continue to supplement this new cohort of McKinney Vento subgrantees with any funding remaining from the original cohort which will close on September 30, 2021. This is so MDE can ensure this vital support from Homeless ARP I reaches students experiencing homelessness and their families whose need is the most urgent in an ongoing manner until the end of the availability period which is September 20, 2024.

Some examples of how funding from ARP HCY I have been utilized by LEAs include but are not limited to:

- coordinating a robust summer re-identification process, which included outreach to students who did not stabilize during the prior school year, ensuring identification of eligible students and connection to needed supports the very first day of school.
- addressing access to quality childcare programming to support summer learning and enrichment using a two-generational approach which also addressed persistent gaps in access to quality childcare programming to support and meet the childcare needs of caregivers who are currently employed, seeking employment or pursuing education opportunities.
- addressing barriers to technology that limit children, youth and families in accessing available resources and supports, including increasing access to hotspots and prepaid cell phones to support increased student/ caregiver engagement and the identification of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- investing in additional staff time to support the enrollment process for summer programming by bringing in staff who have experience connecting with families in their home language to make sure that families and students have what they need to consistently attend summer programming and to prepare for school in the fall.
- investing in on-demand transportation options to support immediate attendance and to troubleshoot transportation challenges.
- to connect and amplify the community voices of the East African homeless population through contracting with a community based organization to translate documents, provide office support time, and connect with Somali families to help facilitate relationships with Somali families experiencing homelessness.
- hiring school social workers during the summer to provide social emotional support to homeless students in summer school.

#### **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;**

MDE will use 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for state-level activities to implement training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the state and LEA levels by increasing staffing at the SEA to include staffing focused on coordination of statewide services for homeless children and youth including systems navigation to build bridges between school-based supports for homeless students and the homeless response system aimed at increasing the number of homeless students connected with resources that can resolve their housing crisis, research and evaluation, and improved grant management.

MDE will support LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with state and local agencies, for school year 2021-2022 by enhancing collaboration with partners at Minnesota Housing to amplify the provision of wrap-around services in conjunction with Minnesota's [Homework Starts with Home](#) (HSWH). HSWH supports [Heading Home Together: Minnesota's 2018 – 2020 Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) and its efforts to prevent homelessness whenever possible, and if homelessness does occur, to help ensure that it is rare, brief, and nonrecurring. For example, MDE may provide funding to further incentivize LEA HSWH partners to improve school attendance and academic achievement by providing needed wrap-around services including but not limited to:

- Health services
- Trauma informed care, mental health services, and social emotional supports.
- Transportation services
- Contracted services
- Tutoring – extra time and help with professional partners
- Extra time and help through short term staffing

MDE will implement training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement through development and implementation of a targeted and strategic technical assistance plan addressing but not limited to the following:

- Direct contact with LEAs to provide tailored assistance
- Developing and delivering training opportunities and useful templates and other documents
- Establishing and offering regular office hours to allow LEAs to check in, network, ask questions and receive further technical assistance
- Providing financial incentives or awarding contracts
- Engaging and re-engaging unaccompanied youth including immigrant and migrant students
- Training to assist school staff in talking about inadequate housing and sharing housing in culturally sensitive ways to assist with identification and provision of 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.**

MDE will use 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II to LEAs in accordance with the final requirements by supporting and training eligible LEAs throughout the life-cycle of the funding to target the 16 allowable uses of McKinney Vento funding as well as:

- Needs related to identification, enrollment, participation, and success of children and youth experiencing homelessness and to provide them with wrap-around services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic including academic, social, emotional and mental health needs. Such wrap-around services which can include:
  - Health services
  - Trauma informed care, mental health services, and social emotional supports.
  - Transportation services
  - Contracted services
  - Tutoring – extra time and help with professional partners
  - Extra time and help through short term staffing
- Needs of students experiencing homelessness and their families in order to access enrichment programs, and to engage students and their families in preparation for school.
- Contracts with community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations and connect them to educationally-related support and wrap-around services.

- Support of historically underserved populations such as rural youth, Tribal youth, students of color, students with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant / parenting youth

MDE allocated funds using the required formula consisting of two parts:

- Fifty percent of each LEA’s allocation is in proportion to the amount the LEA received under Title I, Part A for the most recent fiscal year (FFY20/SFY21), and
- Fifty percent in proportion to the number of homeless children and youth identified by the LEA relative to all LEAs in the state, using data from either the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year, whichever is greater in each LEA.

The table below illustrates an example of the formula for allocation of funds. In the example, the number of homeless students identified in SY 2020 was greater than SY 2019 so the SY 2020 number was used in the calculation.

LEA	Allocation based on Homeless Student Count Greater of SY 19 or SY 20	Allocation Based on Percent of Title I SY 21	Total ARP-HCY II Preliminary Allocation
Medium District	\$29,207.72	\$23,821.17	\$53,028.89
	SY 19 = 213 students <b>SY 20 = 214 students</b>	0.978% of statewide Title I allocation	

LEAS were notified of preliminary (prior to consortium formation) allocations on August 13, 2021 via the Superintendent’s Newsletter and through communication with school district homeless liaisons. [Further information](#) about this grant opportunity is posted on the [Federal Relief Funds webpage](#) of MDE’s website. This information includes further details about forming a consortium in order to access the funding. Statewide training was offered on August 18, 2021 and will be repeated throughout the award acceptance and application submission process. A total of 498 LEAs, including independent school districts, charter schools, regional entities, and intermediate districts, generated funding based on number of identified homeless students, percentage of Title I allocation or both metrics. Of these, 152 LEAs received an allocation above the \$5,000 threshold. The remaining 346 LEAs would need to form a consortium in order to receive an allocation.

Below are timelines and key dates involved in the allocation and application process for ARP HCY II:

- July 1, 2021 – Spending authority date for ARP HCY II FIN 159 subgrants
- September 10, 2021 – Deadline to submit Intent to Form a Consortium
- September 17, 2021 - ARP HCY II FIN 159 awards and applications available in SERVS Financial, MDE’s current grant management system

- October 30, 2021 – Deadline to submit application for ARP HCY II FIN 159 in SERVS Financial
- Sept. 30, 2024 - Deadline to obligate funds under ARP HCY II FIN 159
- Nov. 30, 2024 - End of Period of Liquidation under ARP HCY II FIN 159

MDE has encouraged the creation of consortia for those LEAs not meeting the required minimum formula amount of \$5,000 providing by specific outreach to LEAs needing to form a consortium as well as existing consortia in the state (including existing Title III consortia) which may be well-positioned to successfully implement a consortium in order to benefit homeless children and youth. MDE published an Intent to Form a Consortium process and will continue to provide training and outreach to potential consortium members throughout the timeframe established. MDE will reallocate funding to eligible LEAs and consortia should funding remain after all consortia are formed.

**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;**

MDE 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 by aligning strategies articulated in the Minnesota ARP ESSER plan. MDE will utilize stakeholder input gathered and described on pages 18-21 of the Minnesota ARP ESSER plan in ensuring that use of funds are responsive to the needs of students, families and educators. MDE plans to assign specific staff to conduct ongoing analysis of all ARP activities to track cross agency collaboration, avoid duplication and to ensure that ARP HCY supplements the support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds. Additionally, MDE will align the LEA ARP HCY II application for funding with the LEA ARP ESSER application for funding in order to specifically analyze how ARP HCY supplements ARP ESSER initiatives and strategies.

**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**

MDE will use 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 by awarding subgrants and/or contracts to such entities. In determining awards and contracts, MDE will prioritize:

- Systems navigation particularly focused on resolving underlying housing issues for students experiencing homelessness to ensure that those served are connected to resources for which they are eligible

- Provision of wrap-around services including addressing trauma issues
- Culturally and linguistically responsive approaches
- Restorative justice approaches

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

As in the Minnesota ARP ESSER plan, MDE will encourage LEAs to contract with community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness by providing training on services offered by the various community-based organizations in the state. MDE will provide web-based resources so that information including contact information is easily accessible by the LEAs. MDE will highlight successful partnerships through panel discussions, newsletters, and other means in order to further support such contracts throughout the life-cycle of the ARP HCY grant.

MDE plans with both Minnesota Housing and Minnesota Department of Human Services who fund a number of community-based providers with funds to prevent and end homelessness. Both state departments host annual meetings with grant administrators providing an opportunity for a more intentional connection between our programs. Additionally, the contact information for both the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program and Homework Starts with Home program which are statewide programs to prevent and end homelessness will be shared with LEAs.