

American Rescue Plan Education of Homeless Children and Youths Missouri State Plan

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 ARPHomeless II;

Response The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MODESE) continues to await spending authority through the state appropriations process. Consequently, MODESE took no action on statewide activities during spring 2021. MODESE is currently consulting with other agencies and the field to establish the availability of wraparound services across the state. MODESE may contract with other agencies or vendors to supply these services, when the Missouri Legislature appropriates funds. There is no clear timeline for funds to be appropriated.

MODESE plans to support the LEAs in providing wrap-around services by offering one-day Homeless Summits in multiple regions around the state. MODESE will provide focused training for homeless liaisons and LEA staff at MODESE’s Missouri Federal Programs Conference. MODESE will identify and publish resource materials specifically designed to assist the administration of homeless programs in school districts.

To further support LEAs, MODESE will contract with its Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs) to provide professional development, program support, and professional expertise to LEA personnel. Placing homeless specialists in these RPDCs will provide LEAs with these resources.

MODESE believes that proper identification of homeless students can be improved. In addition to increased training at the Regional Homeless Summits and the Federal Programs Conference, MODESE is exploring the development of software that will allow LEAs to accurately determine families' homeless status through a decision tree-based process.

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
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Response As noted earlier, MODESE does not yet have spending authority for the ARP-HCY funds. No actions were taken in regard to wraparound services for summer 2021.

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.
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Response MODESE is planning a new competition for all LEAs with 20 or more identified homeless students. The competitive grant will allow the top scoring LEAs to receive up to \$100,000.00 in ARP-HCY funds. Awards will be made and funds will be available to successful applicants as quickly as practicable following spending authority.

MODESE will review data on the number of identified homeless students in each LEA. By requiring the LEA to have a minimum of 20 identified students before being eligible to apply for ARP-HCY I, funds will support LEAs with the highest concentration of homeless students.

ii. 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
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Response As noted earlier, MODESE is establishing collaborative partnerships with other agencies to provide wraparound services across the state. Priorities for this work

include locating students who have disengaged as well as providing the supports to homeless children and youth.

Also as noted earlier, MODESE believes that additional training and a software solution are necessary to improve accurate identification of homeless families. Identification is the first step. Ensuring that educationally related supports and wraparound services such as trauma-informed care, social and emotional support, and mental health services are provided and will be a critical priority, both locally and at the state level.

The personnel placed in RPDCs across the state will provide professional development to LEA personnel. Placing homeless specialists in these RPDCs will provide our LEA Homeless Liaisons with additional support throughout the year. MODESE may choose to augment its own capacity within the Office of the State Homeless Coordinator.

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 MODESE will first use the Title I formula to determine an ARP HCY II amount comparable to the LEA's Title I amount. DESE will then calculate an amount based on the highest homeless student count for each LEA for the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year. An allocation list is attached.

DESE has created a Fact Sheet to distribute to LEA legal teams and homeless liaisons. The Fact Sheet provides guidance on HCY II as well as how to apply as a consortia. The DESE Fact Sheet is attached.

iii. ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II

1. How the SEA will ensure that ARP-HCY supplements the supports of 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 The ARP HCY I and II application requires that LEAs assure that ARP ESSER funds are supplemented by ARP HCY I and II funds. The question on the application asks, "What other federal funds will the LEA use to support the needs of children and youths experiencing homelessness?"


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 MODESE is currently surveying LEAs and other state agencies to identify community-based organizations that would serve as strong partners in identifying homeless children and youth. If strong and effective partners can be identified, MODESE will develop contracts to provide identification services to help LEA Homeless Liaisons in their search for homeless students.

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

Response MODESE will develop guidance for LEAs to use when considering the awarding of contracts to local education agencies that will include fiscal, programmatic and evaluation criteria.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):	
Margie Vandeven, Ph.D.	
Signature: 	Date: September 7, 2021