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# U.S. Department of Education

## Application for Funding under the American Rescue Plan Act Education for Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)

### Second Disbursement (ARP Homeless II)

CFDA Number: 84.425W



#### Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0761. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 22 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit under Section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this individual collection, or if you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form, application, or survey,

## **PROGRAM BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Purpose**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. The ARP Act included an unprecedented \$800 million reservation within the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to support the specific and urgent needs of homeless children and youth in recognition of the extraordinary impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on students experiencing homelessness. The Department is administering these funds through the ARP Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund (see Appendix A for the full text of the relevant sections of section 2001 of the ARP Act).

The purposes of the ARP-HCY Fund are to help States and local educational agencies (LEAs) identify homeless children and youth, provide wraparound services that address the multiple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on homeless children and youth, and ensure that homeless children and youth are able to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students experiencing homelessness are increasingly under-identified, as learning outside of school building settings likely impeded the critical role of educators and staff in schools and LEAs to properly identify students, and these students have remained underserved by schools, LEAs, and States. New ARP Act funding to support students experiencing homelessness has tremendous potential to expand the systems in your State to identify and support the needs of homeless children and youth.

### **Eligibility**

Each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

### **Funding**

The Department will award a total of \$799,000,000 to State educational agencies (SEAs) in proportion to each State's share of funds received under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) in the most recent fiscal year.

As described in Appendix B, the first disbursement of these funds, 25 percent of the total amount, was provided on April 26, 2021 (hereafter referred to as ARP Homeless I). The remainder of the State's allocation (ARP Homeless II) will be disbursed upon receipt and approval of this application.

For ARP Homeless II, States may reserve up to 25% of their allocation for State uses and must distribute at least 75% of their allocation to LEAs via a formula that uses the LEA's allocation under part A of title I of the ESEA and the number of identified homeless children and youth in either school year 2018-19 or 2019-20, whichever number is greater. Additional parameters are described in Appendix A.

## **Timeline**

Funds appropriated under section 2001 of the ARP Act are available initially through September 30, 2023. Under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, funds not obligated and expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year following the fiscal year for which funds were appropriated remain available for obligation and expenditure for an additional year. Accordingly, funds appropriated under the ARP-HCY program will be available until September 30, 2024. The deadline for drawing down or expending obligated funds is 120 days later, or January 31, 2025 (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(b)).

## **Uses of Funds**

Funding under this program must be used for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with (A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID–19; and (B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

Funding provided under ARP Homeless II must follow the final requirements at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/07/EO-12866-OESE-FY-21-NFR-ARP-HCY-with-disclaimer.docx>.

Furthermore, funding under the ARP Homeless I and II programs must adhere to the allowable uses of funds described in Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act). Under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs may use subgrant funds for activities that support the purposes of the program, including:

- (1) The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths.
- (2) The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).
- (3) Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this part, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
- (4) The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- (5) The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A) of the McKinney-Vento Act, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 732(g)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Act.

- (6) The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.
- (7) The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.
- (8) The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
- (9) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
- (10) The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or youths.
- (11) The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- (12) The provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- (13) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
- (14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under section 723(a)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act to provide services under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- (15) The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
- (16) The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

Activities under both ARP Homeless I and II may include any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of homeless children and youth in order to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, such as:

- providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services);

- purchasing needed supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items);
- providing transportation to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities;
- purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied, homeless children and youth to enable such children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities;
- providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities;
- paying for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
- providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.

LEAs must ensure that all costs are reasonable and necessary and that these uses of funds align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the McKinney-Vento Act. In addition, when considering funding decisions, we want to emphasize that section 723(d)(16) of the McKinney-Vento Act allows the use of funds for “other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.” Accordingly, when considering funding decisions, LEAs should analyze the needs of students experiencing homelessness in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its extraordinary impact.

## **Contact**

Email: [HomelessEd@ed.gov](mailto:HomelessEd@ed.gov)

# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

To receive the State's allocation under the ARP-HCY Fund, the SEA must submit a signed PDF of this Application, by email, to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) at [HomelessEd@ed.gov](mailto:HomelessEd@ed.gov) within 14 days of publication of this Application. The Application must include the following:

- A completed cover sheet that includes the signature of the SEA's authorized representative. *(Part A)*
- Programmatic, fiscal and reporting assurances. *(Part B)*
- Other assurances and certifications. *(Part C)*

## APPENDICES

Appendix A – Authorizing Statutes and Regulations

Appendix B – State Allocation Data

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

<p>Legal Name (State Educational Agency):  New Jersey Department of Education</p>	<p>DUNS Number:  806417911</p>
<p>Address (Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code):  100 Riverview Plaza P.O. Box 500 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500</p>	<p>Contact Information for State Program Representative:  Name: Kathleen Ehling  Position &amp; Office: Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services  Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code: 100 Riverview Plaza, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500  Telephone: (609) 376-9100  Email address: <a href="mailto:kathleen.ehling@doe.nj.gov">kathleen.ehling@doe.nj.gov</a></p>
<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>	
<p>Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name): Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner</p>	<p>Telephone:  609-346-9070</p>
<p>Signature of Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative: </p>	<p>Date: September 7, 2021</p>

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PART B: PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES

The Chief State School Officer or his/her authorized representative assures the following:

- a. Funds awarded under this application (ARP Homeless II) will adhere to the final requirements at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/07/EO-12866-OESE-FY-21-NFR-ARP-HCY-with-disclaimer.docx>.
- b. The SEA will award at least 75% of its total allocation to LEAs, based on the formula set out in the final requirements. The funds remaining after subgrants are made to LEAs may be used by the Office of the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth for State-level activities as reflected in sections 722(f) and (g) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- c. The SEA will comply with, and ensure that LEAs comply with, all reporting requirements at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including but not limited to the requirements under the McKinney-Vento Act, and including but not limited to numbers of students experiencing homelessness identified and supported through ARP-HCY funding, and specific details about supports and services received by students.
- d. Within 60 days from publication of this application, the SEA will submit a plan to [HomelessED@ed.gov](mailto:HomelessED@ed.gov) that contains the following information:
  - 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;  
**New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) reserved 25% of the ARP Homeless I funds for the following State-level activities:**
      - a. **Employing an experienced professional to build capacity and engagement at the SEA level to support the work of the EHCY State Coordinator. This professional will assist in the provision of training and technical assistance on the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act to existing EHCY regional grantees, District Homeless Liaisons (DHL), administrators, and other essential district staff. In addition to strengthening existing partnerships, the work will include establishing new partnerships with non-educational agencies; conducting outreach to specific districts that have not identified children and youth experiencing homelessness; coordinating and providing technical assistance to LEAs around data collection to ensure identification of 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.

- b. Securing a contractor to conduct a Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) for the purpose of 1) determining the number and location of children and youth experiencing homelessness across the State; 2) identifying barriers to the provision of educational services to this population; and 3) identifying gaps in educational, social, and health (including mental health) needs. Data and other relevant information will be obtained and analyzed from varying sources, including NJDOE's existing EHCY grantees, the New Jersey Governor's InterAgency WorkGroup on Homelessness, and established partnerships with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Education Stability; the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Office of Homeless Prevention, the Statewide Head Start Collaborative, County Homeless Continuum of Care (COC) body's, inter-faith networks, community-based organizations, and others responsible for providing summer and wrap-around services to students experiencing homelessness. The CNA will be used to assist in the development of an improved strategic approach to facilitating the delivery of educational services to this population through the establishment of specific goals and objectives.
  - c. Building capacity at both the SEA and LEA level by offering every DHL (including DHLs who have not identified children and youth experiencing homelessness), essential district staff, and NJDOE's 21 County Educational Specialists, an opportunity to become certified in McKinney-Vento requirements through a training and certification process. The goal will be to educate as many essential staff members in the school system as possible to ensure the educational excellence and success of our children and youths, and the stability of our families experiencing homelessness. The certification courses will be offered through NJDOE's existing vendor, MV Learning LLC, and will be provided Statewide over the next 2 years at no cost to participants. The trainings will include:
    - i. *Certification Level 1* provides comprehensive, mandated training for DHLs based on Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). Topics include identification, enrollment, dispute resolution, and transportation for children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. Participants will gain the knowledge necessary to ensure access to and receipt of educational services for which homeless children and youth are eligible, including knowledge of Early Head Start and Head Start programs, early intervention services under Part C of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, and other preschool programs administered by the school district;
    - ii. *Certification Level 2* provides a deeper understanding of compliance for ESSA requirements and helps Liaisons move from a basic understanding of the law to meaningful practice in helping move students toward stability and success; and
    - iii. *The McKinney-Vento Essential Staff Training Course* for all school personnel (registration, etc.), will heighten essential staff awareness of and capacity to respond to specific problems in the education of homeless children and youths which is a requirement of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
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

The NJDOE previously established a three-year competitive grant program to create partnerships between an LEA (including Special Services School Districts and Educational Services Commissions) and service agencies located in each region of the state for the purposes of coordinating and providing supplemental academic programs and support services to homeless children and youth residing in the partnership's regional area. Recipients of the competitive grant program cover five regions that encompass New Jersey's twenty-one (21) counties. In addition to providing leadership and technical assistance to LEAs within their regions, the regional projects identify and establish mandated formal agreements with regional service providers, state, county and local resources, community-based and social service organizations, faith-based institutions, and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to identify, coordinate, plan, develop, and provide services to homeless students within their respective region. It is through these formal agreements that support for summer programs and wrap-around services are provided. For each regional project, it is expected that, with the assistance of DHLs, all identified homeless children and youths within the region are provided services based on the individual need/s.

The EHCY State Coordinator and the newly hired professional will continue to provide technical assistance and support to regional projects as they support the array of academic and social service supports needed for student and family success.

2. 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.

As described in detail above, the NJDOE's EHCY program is structured with five funded subgrantees. To ensure rapid distribution of the ARP Homeless I funds, allocations were made to the current EHCY subgrantees as supplements to their existing McKinney-Vento grant awards. The supplemental funds will enable the regional grantees to award subgrants or contracts to CBOs that are well-positioned to identify homeless children and youth and connect them to housing and educationally related supports and wraparound services, as well as address social-emotional needs. A review of existing subgrantee annual performance reports revealed that regional projects provided funding for participating LEA and CBO resource providers for summer learning programs offered to McKinney-Vento eligible students, and for the purchase of non-instructional supplies for students participating in the summer programming. Summer programs primarily focused on addressing learning acceleration, and the social-emotional needs of students and youth. Regional programs will utilize the supplemental ARP Homeless I funds to continue to support resource providers in the 21-22 school year and beyond by also addressing the digital divide (providing Chromebooks, iPads, wireless devices, etc. as needed) and food disparities within the regions.

It should be noted that as a condition of the existing McKinney-Vento grant award, subgrantees are required to conduct a regional CNA every three years to identify: 1) the number of homeless children and youths in each region by town; 2) the nature and extent of the problems homeless children and youths have in gaining access to public preschool programs and to public elementary and secondary schools; and (3) the regional assets and the difficulties in identifying the special needs and barriers to the participation and achievement of children

and youths. The data provided from the CNA will be utilized by the subgrantees to guide the effective use of the supplemental awards.

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;

The NJDOE will reserve 8.4% of the ARP Homeless II funding for the following State-level activities:

- I. Secure a FTE Data Analyst using ARP Homeless II funds to develop, in coordination with the NJ State McKinney-Vento Coordinator, data dashboards and Federal and State reports on the impact of ARP Homeless funds on historically underserved populations, such as rural children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness. The Data Analyst also will provide technical assistance to LEAs.
  - II. Purchase a State Homeless Case Management System (HCMS) to assist LEA Homeless Liaisons (DHLs) with tracking and monitoring students and youths identified under McKinney-Vento (e.g. student data, documents, intra- and out-of-district transfers, service history, etc.) to ensure homelessness goals are met. The HCMS provides the ability to collect, report, and analyze high-quality, timely data on homelessness, and leverages a variety of data sets to plan, target, and scale needed housing and service interventions.
  - III. Conduct an annual update of the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment in 2023 and 2024.
  - IV. Develop a Statewide Homeless Five-Year Strategic Plan in 2022 (following completion of 2021/2022 CNA).
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.

Per the final requirements of ARP Homeless II, the NJDOE will make LEA subgrants using the 2020-2021 Title I, Part A formula and homeless enrollment data from 2019-2020. This results in a larger number of LEAs receiving ARP Homeless II funds, therefore, increasing access to services for students experiencing homelessness. These funds will support the work of the designated DHL in each LEA, as required by the McKinney-Vento Act, and build capacity in LEAs, which will help to identify greater numbers of students experiencing homelessness and better coordinate services for those students in LEAs receiving funding through this formula.

ARP Homeless II requires that an LEA have an allocation of at least \$5,000 under the formula to be eligible for an ARP Homeless II subgrant on its own. If an LEA's allocation is less than \$5,000, the LEA must join a consortium of LEAs in which the sum of its members' allocations meets the

\$5,000 threshold. In New Jersey, approximately 327 LEAs will receive less than the \$5,000 minimum award. Consequently, existing regional EHCY grantees become the Consortium Lead LEAs/Fiscal Agents. As Consortium Leads, they are responsible for:

- i. Ensuring that LEAs participating in the consortium fulfill their fiscal and programmatic responsibilities under ARP HCY II;
- ii. Ensuring the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success for homeless students are addressed through the provision of quarterly training and technical assistance;
- iii. Maintaining a triennial comprehensive needs assessments (CNAs) (with annual updates) that identifies: (1) the number of homeless children and youths in each region; (2) the nature and extent of the problems homeless children and youths have in gaining access to public preschool programs and to public elementary schools and secondary schools; and (3) the regional assets and the difficulties in identifying the special needs and barriers to the participation and achievement of such children and youths;
- iv. Employing a minimum of a .5 FTE Community Resource Navigator. The Consortium navigator will work closely with LEA Liaisons ensuring students, youth, and their families are connected to community and social resources;
- v. Developing formal collaborations with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, which could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services;
- vi. Partnering with a cohort of universities that are willing to assign a campus homeless liaison; and
- vii. Implementing authorized activities consistent with section 723(d) of the EHCY statute, [42 U.S.C. § 11433\(d\)](#). These activities may include any expenses that are reasonable and necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youths.

Acceptance of a subgrant will require LEAs, at a minimum, to budget these funds as needed, according to the authorized activities consistent with section 723(d) of the EHCY statute, [42 U.S.C. § 11433\(d\)](#). These activities may include any expenses that are reasonable and necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youths.

**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 New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will ensure the ARP ESSER Homeless II funds supplement the support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and do not replace the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness in the following ways:

- a. As part of the ARP ESSER Homeless II LEA application submission, each LEA will be required to:
  - o Complete a set of assurances specific to the use of these funds, all associated cost principles, and other relevant rules and regulations applicable to federal funding. One of the assurances included in the LEA application is specific to using the ARP ESSER Homeless II funds to supplement the supports and services provided with ARP ESSER funds rather than replace the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students

experiencing homelessness. LEAs will be instructed to read and check each listed assurance as part of the application submission. Upon completion, a date will be stamped in the application to show when the LEA attested to each assurance; and

- o Enter specific information to detail how the ARP ESSER Homeless II funds will not replace ARP ESSER funds. An LEA will be required to enter explicit details to show the ways in which it will monitor that these funds are used in a supplemental fashion for enhanced supports and services. As part of the application review process, a question will be added to the review guide checklist to ensure this element is evaluated and approved.
  - b. Integral to the ongoing planning and evaluation process is the development of an LEA monitoring system to determine if LEAs are meeting the intents and purposes of the ARP ESSER Homeless II program. As with all federal funds, including McKinney-Vento funds, the NJDOE will establish a system to evaluate the use of these funds for evidence-based programs and services and the effectiveness of each in serving children and youths experiencing homelessness. The NJDOE's McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth (ECHY) Program Quality Review Guidance, as adapted for ARP Homeless (which is in the final stages of review and approval) will be utilized to ensure adherence to all applicable programmatic and budgetary rules and regulations.
  - c. In preparation for implementation of the ARP Homeless II program and to support the effective use of all ESSER funds, the NJDOE is hiring a professional employee who will focus on analyzing and using applicable data for program implementation. The NJDOE State McKinney-Vento Program Coordinator, in conjunction with the professional employee, will meet monthly with the Data Analyst and regional subgrantees/consortia leads to identify and analyze relevant program outcome data to inform the implementation of supports and services that are supplemental in nature. This work will entail the formation of LEA data teams, per region, that will share best practices on the use of supplemental evidence-based interventions and strategies that supplement those funded with ARP ESSER funding.
  - d. LEAs will be required to attend a series of mandatory technical assistance sessions conducted by the NJDOE in collaboration with the regional grantees, focused on programming ARP ESSER Homeless II funds to supplement supports and services provided by ARP ESSER funding. These sessions will be designed to enhance subrecipients' knowledge and understanding of the intents and purposes of the funding, as well as to ensure 'best practices' are shared among all LEAs within established regions. Various technical assistance resource tools will be developed and presented at each session including a needs assessment template, rubrics for program evaluation, guidance documents (i.e., identification of students), fact sheets (i.e., methods for more robust and sustained parent and family engagement), and programmatic and budgetary checklists.
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

The NJDOE's model of administering its McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program funds on a regional basis (five, current EHCY regional grantee partners) will serve as the mechanism by which State-level activities funds will be awarded to subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations (CBOs). Given the \$5,000 funding threshold, the regional grantee partners will serve as Consortia Leads/Fiscal Agents so that all LEAs with less than the required threshold amount will be able to access the ARP ECHY funds. The regional grantee partners are uniquely positioned in that each identify and establish mandated formal agreements with numerous CBOs and groups within their respective region, such as regional service providers; state, county, and local resources; community-based and social service organizations; faith-based institutions; and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), to identify, coordinate, plan, develop, and provide services to homeless students. Having an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of a region enables each regional grantee partner to ensure that rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students who experience homelessness are connected directly to educationally-related supports and wraparound services. In addition, having extensive knowledge of Continuum of Care (COC) programs in each region will assist each regional grantee partner in connecting these underserved populations to secure transitional emergency and permanent housing; thereby, facilitating long-term stability for these students and their families.

3. How the SEA will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. The NJDOE State McKinney-Vento Program Coordinator will develop an annual training plan to host regional quarterly roundtable trainings with DHLs. These roundtables will focus on spotlighting CBOs, COCs and other resource providers located in the specific regions. The DHLs will be encouraged to establish formal partnerships to ensure support services are provided to children and youths and their families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the roundtables will guide DHLs on the use of available tools to access local resources: 1) My Resource Pal - is a free, up-to-date database of direct services primarily in Southern New Jersey counties, available at no cost. The tool was developed by the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers in response to a community need to move beyond the traditional binder of local resources; and 2) NJ Health Matters - The North Jersey Health Collaborative is an independent, self-governed 501(c)(3) organization with more than 200 partner organizations across multiple sectors representing health care, public health, social services and other community organizations. In addition, on a monthly basis, selected Community Navigators will share best practices on building rapport with families and CBOs.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):	
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner	
Signature: (b) (6)	Date: September 7, 2021

## **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PART C: OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

The Chief State School Officer or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- a. The SEA will conduct all its operations so that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under the ARP-HCY program or activity based on race, color, national origin (including a person's limited English proficiency or English learner status and a person's actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics), sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, or disability. These non-discrimination obligations arise under Federal civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. In addition, the SEA must comply with all regulations, guidelines, and standards issued by the Department under any of these statutes.
- b. The State will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B and D (Assurances for Non-Construction and Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders, and regulations.
- c. With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the State will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 CFR part 82, Appendix B); and the State will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 CFR part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
- d. Any LEA receiving funding under this program will have on file with the State a set of assurances that meets the requirements of section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232e.
- e. To the extent applicable, an LEA will include in its local application a description of how the LEA will comply with the requirements of section 427 of GEPA, 20 U.S.C. 1228a.
- f. The description must include information on the steps the LEA proposes to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede access to, or participation in, the program.
- g. The SEA will comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) requirements in Subpart D—Post Federal Award Requirements (2 CFR §§ 200.300-200.345) and Subpart E—Cost Principles (2 CFR §§ 200.400-200.475) to ensure that LEAs, including charter schools that are LEAs, are

using ARP-HCY funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the ARP Act and the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431-11435.

- h. The State and other entities will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations, and assurances; the provisions of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99; the 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 the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name): Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner	
Signatur (b) (6)	Date: September 7, 2021

## **Appendix A: Relevant Excerpts from ARP Section 2001 and McKinney-Vento**

### **ARP Section 2001 – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund**

- (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available through the Education Stabilization Fund, there is appropriated to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$122,774,800,000, to remain available through September 30, 2023, to carry out this section.
- (b) **GRANTS.**—From funds provided under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—(1) use \$800,000,000 for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with—
  - (A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID–19; and
  - (B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities; and(2) from the remaining amounts, make grants to each State educational agency in accordance with this section.

### **Relevant McKinney-Vento Act Requirements**

#### **§722. Grants for State and local activities for the education of homeless children and youths**

##### **(e) State and local subgrants**

###### **(1) Minimum disbursements by States**

From the sums made available each year to a State through grants under subsection (a) to carry out this part, the State educational agency shall distribute not less than 75 percent in subgrants to local educational agencies for the purposes of carrying out section 723, except that States funded at the minimum level set forth in subsection (c)(1) shall distribute not less than 50 percent in subgrants to local educational agencies for the purposes of carrying out section 723.

###### **(2) Use by State educational agency**

A State educational agency may use the grant funds remaining after the State educational agency distributes subgrants under paragraph (1) to conduct activities under subsection (f) directly or through grants or contracts.

##### **(f) Functions of the Office of the Coordinator**

The Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths established in each State shall—

- (1) gather and make publicly available reliable, valid, and comprehensive information on—
  - (A) the number of homeless children and youths identified in the State, which shall be posted annually on the State educational agency's website;
  - (B) the nature and extent of the problems homeless children and youths have in gaining access to public preschool programs and to public elementary schools and secondary schools;
  - (C) the difficulties in identifying the special needs and barriers to the participation and achievement of such children and youths;
  - (D) any progress made by the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State in addressing such problems and difficulties; and
  - (E) the success of the programs under this part in identifying homeless children and youths and allowing such children and youths to enroll in, attend, and succeed in, school;
- (2) develop and carry out the State plan described in subsection (g);
- (3) collect data for and transmit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require, a report containing information necessary to assess the educational needs

of homeless children and youths within the State, including data necessary for the Secretary to fulfill the responsibilities under section 724(h);

(4) in order to improve the provision of comprehensive education and related services to homeless children and youths and their families, coordinate activities and collaborate with—

(A) educators, including teachers, special education personnel, administrators, and child development and preschool program personnel;

(B) providers of services to homeless children and youths and their families, including public and private child welfare and social services agencies, law enforcement agencies, juvenile and family courts, agencies providing mental health services, domestic violence agencies, child care providers, runaway and homeless youth centers, and providers of services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); <sup>1</sup>

(C) providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing to homeless children and youths, and their families, including public housing agencies, shelter operators, operators of transitional housing facilities, and providers of transitional living programs for homeless youths;

(D) local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) for homeless children and youths; and

(E) community organizations and groups representing homeless children and youths and their families;

(5) provide technical assistance to and conduct monitoring of local educational agencies in coordination with local educational agency liaisons designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii), to ensure that local educational agencies comply with the requirements of subsection (e)(3) and paragraphs (3) through (7) of subsection (g);

(6) provide professional development opportunities for local educational agency personnel and the local educational agency liaison designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) to assist such personnel and liaison in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless children and youths, and provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness specified in sections 103, 401, and 725 to the liaison; and

(7) respond to inquiries from parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and (in the case of unaccompanied youths) such youths, to ensure that each child or youth who is the subject of such an inquiry receives the full protections and services provided by this part.

## **§723. Local educational agency subgrants for the education of homeless children and youths**

### **(c) Awards**

#### **(1) In general**

The State educational agency shall, in accordance with the requirements of this part and from amounts made available to it under section 726, make competitive subgrants to local educational agencies that submit applications under subsection [723](b). Such subgrants shall be awarded on the basis of the need of such agencies for assistance under this part and the quality of the applications submitted.

#### **(2) Need**

In determining need under paragraph (1), the State educational agency may consider the number of homeless children and youths enrolled in early childhood education and other preschool programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools, within the area served by the local educational agency, and shall consider the needs of such children and youths and the ability of the local educational agency to meet such needs. The State educational agency may also consider the following:

- (A) The extent to which the proposed use of funds will facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youths.
- (B) The extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youths.
- (C) The extent to which the applicant exhibits in the application and in current practice (as of the date of submission of the application) a commitment to education for all homeless children and youths.
- (D) Such other criteria as the State agency determines appropriate.

### **(3) Quality**

In determining the quality of applications under paragraph (1), the State educational agency shall consider the following:

- (A) The applicant's needs assessment under subsection (b)(1) and the likelihood that the program presented in the application will meet such needs.
- (B) The types, intensity, and coordination of the services to be provided under the program.
- (C) The extent to which the applicant will promote meaningful involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of their children.
- (D) The extent to which homeless children and youths will be integrated into the regular education program.
- (E) The quality of the applicant's evaluation plan for the program.
- (F) The extent to which services provided under this part will be coordinated with other services available to homeless children and youths and their families.
- (G) The extent to which the local educational agency will use the subgrant to leverage resources, including by maximizing nonsubgrant funding for the position of the liaison described in section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) and the provision of transportation.
- (H) How the local educational agency will use funds to serve homeless children and youths under section 1113(c)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6313(c)(3)).
- (I) The extent to which the applicant's program meets such other measures as the State educational agency considers indicative of a high-quality program, such as the extent to which the local educational agency will provide case management or related services to unaccompanied youths.

#### **(d) Authorized activities**

A local educational agency may use funds awarded under this section for activities that carry out the purpose of this part, including the following:

(1) The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths.

(2) The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.] or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).

(3) Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the

needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this part, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.

(4) The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.

(5) The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 711(g)(4)(A), not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 722(g)(3).

(6) The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.

(7) The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.

(8) The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.

(9) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.

(10) The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or youths.

(11) The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5).

(12) The provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.

(13) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.

(14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under subsection [723](a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.

(15) The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.

(16) The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

(Pub. L. 100–77, title VII, §723, as added [Pub. L. 107–110, title X, §1032, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 2001](#); amended [Pub. L. 114–95, title IX, §9103, Dec. 10, 2015, 129 Stat. 2134](#).)

**Appendix B: State Allocation Data (updated June 2021)**

Under section 2001(c) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the amount of each grant shall be allocated by the Secretary to each State in the same proportion as each State received under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the most recent fiscal year.

<b>SEA</b>	<b>Revised Total ARP Homeless Allocation</b>	<b>ARP Homeless I (Unchanged) (25 percent<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>Revised ARP Homeless II (75 percent<sup>1</sup>)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>800,000,000</b>		
<b>National Activities</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>		
<b>Amount to SEAs</b>	<b>799,000,000</b>	<b>199,750,000</b>	<b>599,250,000</b>
ALABAMA	13,239,031	3,308,135	9,930,896
ALASKA	2,350,009	587,431	1,762,578
ARIZONA	16,922,395	4,228,531	12,693,864
ARKANSAS	8,213,312	2,052,328	6,160,984
CALIFORNIA	98,757,695	24,677,307	74,080,388
COLORADO	7,643,776	1,910,019	5,733,757
CONNECTICUT	7,247,850	1,811,091	5,436,759
DELAWARE	2,691,098	672,632	2,018,466
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	2,531,300	632,646	1,898,654
FLORIDA	46,127,238	11,526,067	34,601,171
GEORGIA	27,849,370	6,958,912	20,890,458
HAWAII	2,701,880	675,243	2,026,637
IDAHO	2,882,705	720,464	2,162,241
ILLINOIS	33,129,062	8,278,217	24,850,845
INDIANA	13,072,898	3,266,643	9,806,255
IOWA	5,075,905	1,268,374	3,807,531
KANSAS	5,443,402	1,360,194	4,083,208
KENTUCKY	13,281,817	3,414,094	9,867,723
LOUISIANA	17,075,605	4,266,793	12,808,812
MAINE	2,694,822	673,564	2,021,258
MARYLAND	12,787,274	3,195,247	9,592,027
MASSACHUSETTS	11,994,087	2,997,079	8,997,008
MICHIGAN	24,378,753	6,091,723	18,287,030
MINNESOTA	8,655,053	2,162,734	6,492,319
MISSISSIPPI	10,664,254	2,664,754	7,999,500
MISSOURI	12,822,529	3,204,078	9,618,451
MONTANA	2,502,430	625,607	1,876,823
NEBRASKA	3,577,701	893,998	2,683,703
NEVADA	7,025,680	1,755,540	5,270,140
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2,296,237	573,993	1,722,244
NEW JERSEY	18,118,225	4,527,381	13,590,844
NEW MEXICO	6,416,504	1,603,335	4,813,169
NEW YORK	58,910,436	14,720,327	44,190,109
NORTH CAROLINA	23,588,229	5,894,156	17,694,073
NORTH DAKOTA	1,999,979	499,915	1,500,064
OHIO	29,308,662	7,323,606	21,985,056
OKLAHOMA	9,788,535	2,445,941	7,342,594

<b>SEA</b>	<b>Revised Total ARP Homeless Allocation</b>	<b>ARP Homeless I (Unchanged) (25 percent<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>Revised ARP Homeless II (75 percent<sup>1</sup>)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>800,000,000</b>		
<b>National Activities</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>		
<b>Amount to SEAs</b>	<b>799,000,000</b>	<b>199,750,000</b>	<b>599,250,000</b>
OREGON	7,346,860	1,835,834	5,511,026
PENNSYLVANIA	32,748,656	8,183,177	24,565,479
PUERTO RICO	19,438,068	4,857,120	14,580,948
RHODE ISLAND	2,719,153	679,643	2,039,510
SOUTH CAROLINA	13,841,864	3,458,766	10,383,098
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,502,430	625,607	1,876,823
TENNESSEE	16,303,363	4,073,839	12,229,524
TEXAS	81,388,454	20,337,095	61,051,359
UTAH	4,033,829	1,008,006	3,025,823
VERMONT	1,868,242	466,994	1,401,248
VIRGINIA	13,825,002	3,454,572	10,370,430
WASHINGTON	12,140,633	3,033,718	9,106,915
WEST VIRGINIA	4,990,123	1,246,924	3,743,199
WISCONSIN	10,097,813	2,523,241	7,574,572
WYOMING	1,989,772	497,365	1,492,407

## Appendix C: Privacy Act Statement

**Authority:** Section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 authorizes the collection of this information.

**Purpose:** The U.S. Department of Education (Department) will use this information to obtain the contact information of the individuals responsible for implementing ARP-HCY programs in SEAs. The information collected will be used by Department staff who need the information to provide oversight and support to the States.

**Routine Uses:** Among those disclosures permitted under 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, information contained in this system may be disclosed outside of the Department as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) when the disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the records were collected and the routine use is published in the applicable system of records notice. The routine uses are detailed in the system of records notice titled [Education's Central Automated Processing System \(EDCAPS\)](#) (18-04-04), which system of records notice may be updated by ED in the future to include new or modified routine uses. While the Department intends to make publicly available each ARP-HCY SEA implementation plan on the Department's website, the Department will only do so with appropriate redactions rules applied. The following Personally Identifiable Information will be collected but will be redacted prior to posting on the Department's website: name, email, phone, and address.

**Disclosure:** Furnishing this information is required under the ARP-HCY grant terms and conditions that were agreed to upon receipt of ARP-HCY funds. If this information is not provided, ED may take additional steps to ensure compliance with all grant terms and conditions, including additional grant award conditions and increased monitoring of grantee program implementation.