

**New Mexico Public Education Department**

**Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program**

**ARP-HCY State Plan**

**How the SEA has used or will use funds reserved at the state level 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 supported LEAs to plan for and provide wraparound services for immediate needs in the spring of 2021, and how it will support LEAs during the upcoming 2021-22 school year. It also should include the extent to which the SEA has built or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past, to ensure those LEAs are well-prepared to use the ARP-Homeless II funds they receive.**

<b>ARP Homeless Children and Youth Snapshot NMPED Received \$6,413,341.00</b>		
	<b>ARP Homeless I (25%)</b>	<b>ARP Homeless II (75%)</b>
<b>Amount of Funding NMPED Received</b>	\$1,603,335.00	\$4,810,006.00
<b>SEA reservation for state-level activities</b>	\$400,833.75	\$1,203,292
<b>Announcement of HCY-ARP Funds Made by NMPED</b>	<p>April 26, 2021  <a href="https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/news-releases/">https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/news-releases/</a></p> <p>ECHY Subgrant Request for Applications:  <a href="https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Request-for-Application-Education-for-Homeless-Children-and-Youth-Program.doc">https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Request-for-Application-Education-for-Homeless-Children-and-Youth-Program.doc</a></p>	<p>August 30, 2021</p> <p>Please find the application attached</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to download a spreadsheet</a> of initial disbursements</p>
<b>Allocation of Funds to LEAs</b>	<p>The NMPED reserved these funds for LEAs that are existing EHCY subgrantees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twenty-eight subgrantees received the ARP-HCY I funds.</li> <li>• These subgrantees cover about 80% of the students identified as McKinney-Vento eligible statewide.</li> </ul>	<p>These funds were administered via a formula that uses the LEA's allocation under Title I, Part A (Title I) of the ESEA and the number of identified homeless children and youth in 2018-19 or 2019-2020, depending on which was larger.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>53 LEAs applied and are being awarded these funds (in process)</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Assistance Webinar Provided to subgrantees</b>	July 7, 2021	September 25, 2021
<b>Allocated Funds to Subgrantees</b>	July 7, 2021 ECHY Subgrantees: <a href="#">24113 Homeless Education</a>  ARP-HCY I Subgrantees: <a href="#">24350 ARPA_ESSERIII_Homeless Children &amp; Youth</a>	September 30, 2021  *final distributions are in process and will be posted soon

The number of students identified as experiencing homelessness decreased drastically from SY 18-19 (12,025) to SY 20-21 (6,241). Homeless student counts can be found here:

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NMPED-HOMELESS-STUDENT-COUNT-BY-LOCAL-EDUCATION-AGENCY-LEA.xlsx>

The ARP-HCY I funds are being used hire additional staff to support the ECHY Office of the State Coordinator in providing training, technical assistance, capacity-building, engagement and monitoring at the State and LEA levels for the duration of the ARP-HCY funding. The additional staff will assist the State Coordinator with positions will include:

- ECHY Assistant Program Manager,
- Part-time ECHY staff person at Regional Educational Cooperative (REC) 9
- Business Operations Specialist.

The NMPED will also use these funds to create an awareness video (approximately 20 min.) for a variety of viewers, including homeless liaisons, educators, public partners, health and welfare professionals, and the general public. The purpose of the video is to:

- Increase understanding of manifestations of family/youth homelessness in New Mexico;
- Viewers will understand the basics of the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act; and
- Improve awareness of and response to the needs of McKinney-Vento eligible students and families.

The remaining ARP –HCY I funds will be used to support LEAs with a consistent training platform meant to increase the identification of students experiencing homelessness. The NMPED is in the process of purchasing the McKinney-Vento Online Liaison Credentialing Program Levels I & II and the McKinney-Vento Online Essential Staff Training for every school in the state.

- The *Level 1 McKinney-Vento Liaison Credentialing Course* provides comprehensive and ESSA mandated training for anyone fulfilling the role of homeless liaison for their school

or district. Topics include identification, enrollment, dispute resolution, transportation, and more.

- The *Level 2 McKinney-Vento Liaison Credentialing Course* 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.
- The *McKinney-Vento Essential Staff Training Courses* aims to equip all school personnel with professional development and training to heighten their awareness of, and capacity to respond to specific problems in the education of homeless children and youths (a requirement of the McKinney Vento Homeless Youth Act). Specific courseware is available for each staff position in any public district or charter.

The NMPED released the ARP-HCY II funds on July 7, 2021 with the intent that LEAs would be able to use the funds to increase students experiencing homelessness' access to summer learning and enrichment opportunities and prepare students and their families for the fall. A webinar was held at the same day that encouraged LEAs to partner with community based organizations to provide wraparound services to their students and families requiring more intensive assistance.

Specific plans are in place to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant. The NMPED has engaged in an analysis of LEAs' ECHY data and determined that fifty-two LEAs appear not to be adequately identifying their McKinney-Vento eligible students. The PED will provide targeted outreach and technical assistance to those LEAs to help them improve their identification policies and practices and increase the number of children and youth identified as homeless. Primarily, these LEAs are located in rural areas, serve a higher number of Native American students, and/or are charter schools.

This work will include:

- Reviewing McKinney-Vento data and poverty data to create identification benchmarks for each LEA.
- Researching the demographics and identify strengths and challenges related to identification in each LEA.
- Developing and implementing a strategic outreach and targeted technical assistance plan that includes:
  - Multiple direct contacts with each LEA to provide tailored assistance;
  - Improving identification
  - Creating clusters of similar LEAs for peer-based learning, inter-district work groups and possible mentoring from LEAs with strong ECHY programs;
  - Developing and delivering interactive virtual training opportunities;
  - Working with LEAs to create individualized identification action plans;
  - Developing and disseminating user-friendly identification tools
  - Soft skills training to improve how school staff talk about inadequate housing and sharing housing in culturally sensitive ways that encourage families and youth to share their stories;

- Including a financial incentive to ensure LEAs have the resources needed to support families in form of a mini-grant of \$1,000 - \$2,500 to each LEA. Mini-grant funds will be restricted to paying for needs that support identification and students' stability,
- Additional elements will be determined through the data review and demographic research.

A statewide effort will be made to avoid the word “homeless” and increase strengths-based messaging, to bolster the success of outreach and identification statewide. This rebranding will be shared through media, social media, Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs) and parent-school organizations.

In delivering these services, work will be provided by community-based organizations (CBOs) working with students, families and LEAs in New Mexico, as well as with Native American Homeless Liaisons, to ensure inclusion and cultural competence in all aspects of the work. The voices of young people who have experienced homelessness will be also be utilized to ensure all training and technical assistance includes the perspectives and expert advice of students with lived experience.

**How the SEA is using funds reserved at the state level to provide support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming and to plan for and provide wraparound services during the summer of 2021, in collaboration with state and local agencies and community-based organizations.**

NMPED is utilizing ARP ESSER funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time by supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

At \$3.8 million, NMPED provided grants to districts and partner organizations to provide summer programming that is designed to facilitate enrichment activities focused on one of five targeted areas: 1) STEM programs, 2) outdoor, environmental education programs, 3) museum-based, arts, or cultural programs, 4) at-risk youth and teen-oriented programs, and 5) land-based, agricultural, or CTE type programs. A requirement of these programs will be to re-engage youth and provide strong SEL support so that students are socially, emotionally, and academically better prepared to begin school in August.

Additionally, the NMPED has been working with Engage NM (<http://nmengaged.com/>) to provide personal academic coaches and counselors to support students struggling with engagement and/or chronic absenteeism. Students are locally identified and the project tracks success and interventions.

Please refer to the ARP ESSER State Plan pages 32-37 for details:

[New Mexico ARP ESSER State Plan S425U210023 resubmission clean version.pdf](#)

As stated previously, the NMPED released the ARP-HCY II funds on July 7, 2021 with the intent that LEAs would be able to use the funds to increase students experiencing homelessness' access to summer learning and enrichment opportunities and prepare students and their families for the fall.

**How the SEA has or will distribute at least 75 percent of funds to LEAs according to EHCY requirements. This must include whether the SEA is supplementing existing EHCY grants to allow for faster fund distribution and whether the SEA analyzed where there are significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness and has or will ensure that ARP Homeless I can reach them urgently.**

The NMPED chose to distribute 75% of the ARP-HCY funds to existing ECHY subgrantees in an effort to allow for faster distribution of funds. The new grant cycle is from SY 2021-2024, which perfectly aligns with the ARP-HCY funds.

The most recent ECHY Subgrant RFA required all applicants to conduct a data needs analysis of the past three years, as data suggests that a significant achievement gap exists among students experiencing homelessness and their stably housed peers – especially during the COVID pandemic. They were asked to determine the strategies that the LEA will develop to overcome gaps and give students experiencing homelessness the opportunities to succeed.

Twenty-eight subgrantees (includes 3 RECs) received the ECHY subgrant, as well as the additional ARP-HCY I funds. These subgrantees serve about 80% of the students identified as McKinney-Vento eligible statewide.

Below are the results to a survey conducted last school year on Homeless Liaisons. They were asked to prioritize the needs of their students experiencing homelessness:

Food	66.67%
Mobile hotspots or internet access	66.67%
Hygiene Supplies (e.g. soap, toothpaste, feminine hygiene)	63.64%
Devices (e.g. laptops, tablets, computers, phones)	57.58%
Lack of parent/adult homework assistance	54.55%
Concern that lack of income will shortly lead to loss of housing	51.52%
Emotional/Mental Health needs (e.g. anxiety, depression, toxic stress related to food/housing/financial insecurity, overcrowded and/or substandard housing, living with an abusive/mentally ill/addicted person(s), illness or death of a loved one, caretaker responsibilities for other members of the household)	51.52%
Quiet location to study	45.45%
COVID-19 related cleaning/safety supplies	42.42%
Tutoring	33.33%
Forced to leave a doubled-up living situation (COVID-19 related – e.g. stress of more people at home during longer hours, illness of a family member)	30.30%
Teaching support/homework/curriculum packets	30.30%
Laundry facilities	27.27%
School supplies	27.27%
Water	24.24%
Special education support services	24.24%
Showers/running water	21.21%
Apartment/house rental eviction	18.18%
English Learner support services	18.18%
Those evicted or forced to leave report lack of funds to get a hotel room	12.12%
Activity Ideas (e.g. enrichment worksheets)	12.12%
Alternative assignments or relaxed deadlines due to extenuating circumstances	9.09%
Motel eviction	6.06%
Those evicted or forced to leave report shelters are not accepting new clients	6.06%
Foreclosure	3.03%

**For ARP Homeless II:**

**How the SEA will use funds reserved at the state level to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the state and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to plan for and provide wraparound services, in collaboration with state and local agencies, for the 2021-22 school year.**

The ultimate goal of the NMPED is to increase the number of children and youth identified as homeless in New Mexico and to provide them with the interventions they need to be successful in school and in life.

A current area of focus is to increase the number of children and families experiencing homelessness who are accessing high quality early childhood services, through designing and implementing a community of practice on homelessness for early childhood programs.

In collaboration with the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) and contractors, the NMPED will develop a community of practice on homelessness for early childhood programs statewide. The goal of the community of practice will be to increase the number of children and families experiencing homelessness who are accessing high quality early childhood services.

The community of practice will consist of:

- 30-minute calls featuring an expert speaker who will share specific, replicable strategies on a variety of topics, including:
  - The legal definition of homelessness, data on family homelessness in New Mexico, and general contextual and background information;
  - Identification and outreach strategies, including appropriate ways to discuss homelessness with families;
  - Recruitment strategies, such as how to address the unique challenges of families experiencing homelessness in the enrollment process, language for websites and social media regarding enrollment without documents;
  - Information about how to reserve slots for children experiencing homelessness;
  - Strategies to remove barriers to attendance, such as providing transportation, offering full-day services, and collaborating with child care providers;
  - Strategies to consult and involve parents experiencing homelessness; and
  - Additional topics drawn from the early childhood performance standards and the McKinney-Vento Act.
  
- Follow-up activities will be provided after each call.

Another area of focus is to increase the number of youth experiencing homelessness who transition successfully into post-secondary education, through designing and implementing a community of practice on homelessness in post-secondary education.

The NMPED and contractors will develop a community of practice on homelessness in post-secondary education. The goal of the community of practice will be to increase the number of youth experiencing homelessness who transition successfully. Efforts will start with outreach to community colleges and universities, sharing information about student homelessness, federal financial aid policies impacting students experiencing homelessness, and strategies to provide basic needs support. Then, a community of practice will be launched to bring together Homeless Liaisons, career and technical education programs, post-secondary institutions, and service providers.

The community of practice will include:

- A kick-off training and network-building event including Homeless Liaisons, career and technical education programs, representatives of post-secondary institutions, and service providers. The event will review relevant legal information, share replicable best practices, and create opportunities for attendees to gather in cohorts by community to begin planning for how to implement strategies locally. One or more students who have experienced homelessness will speak at the kick-off. This event will be virtual.
- Monthly follow-up activities with each cohort to continue building the network and support their implementation of strategies. Each meeting will consist of a professional development component with opportunities to build community and establish and strengthen partnerships. Presenters will include students with lived experience and representatives of post-secondary institutions that have developed strong supports for students experiencing homelessness.
- Problem-solving with institutions on issues of metrics and systems to collect data for students experiencing homelessness attending college.
- Informal, topical conversations for Homeless Liaisons and others
- Thirty-minute topical conversations on key topics in implementing the McKinney-Vento Act in the context of pandemic recovery will be offered to all Homeless Liaisons. The NMPED will choose the topics, in collaboration with contractors. The conversations will feature liaisons with robust McKinney-Vento programs, chosen strategically to represent geographic and demographic diversity. At least one session will feature students who have experienced homelessness.

The NMPED also intends to increase the number of children and youth identified as homeless in New Mexico by working closely with The New Mexico Regional Education Cooperatives Association (NMRECA). The NMRECA is comprised of ten regional education cooperatives that are located throughout New Mexico, supporting 68 districts (most of them rural), charter schools, and state-supported schools. In addition, NMRECA members work directly with the New Mexico Public Education Department on state-wide projects and initiatives.

The ECHY program is taking this opportunity to implement regional programs within the RECs in the form of a pilot project. Best practices will then be shared with other RECs for capacity building purposes in the LEAs that they work with. The larger plan is for the RECs to continue to keep staff on to support the ECHY program long after the ARP-HCY funds are gone.



The contract will include a position that will provide coordination and support services for the REC member school districts in the ECHY Regional Homeless Education Program. Many of these member LEAs underreport or do not report students experiencing homelessness.

Homeless Liaisons in small LEAs (both rural and state charter schools) often wear many hats and sometimes do not have the time or capacity to perform their legal duties. All liaisons in this pilot project will receive a \$3,000 stipend (per district) as an incentive. RECs have seen success with other programs, such as Child Find, and want to see if it works in this position as well

The sixteen liaisons in these RECs will also receive mileage reimbursements for home visits/transportation needs, a cell phone allowance and virtual attendance to the NAEHCY Conference.

Additionally, the State Coordinator is developing a Pilot Project with RECs to improve the identification and services provided to students experiencing homelessness in rural LEAs. RECs are trusted and respected, and are the ideal partners to assist with strengthening these LEAs' homeless education programs. Currently, the RECs work with about 80% of all New Mexico's LEAs.

This project will include a contractor who will provide coordination and support services for the REC member school districts. The contractor will, among other things:

- Conduct a regional homeless education needs assessment to determine the needs of homeless children and youth and to map community resources in REC region.
- Conduct regularly scheduled regional meetings of district liaisons to provide specific training and technical assistance to build capacity for collaboration and coordination.
- Build support and partnerships within the region's community(ies) among human service agencies, faith-based organizations, related service providers, schools, and businesses to facilitate awareness and understanding of homeless issues, as well as coordination of services and supports to homeless students, and
- Support districts during the monitoring reviews and recommend documentation/evidence to meet ECHY monitoring requirements.

Homeless Liaisons have voiced that they would like a statewide ECHY conference to share best practices and for networking opportunities. The NMPED will use some of the ARP-HCY funds to host two conferences for all Homeless Liaisons statewide to attend. The first conference is scheduled for October 2021 and will be virtual. The second conference will be in person and is scheduled for October 2022.

**How the SEA will distribute at least 75 percent of funds to LEAs according to the final requirements. This must include a description of how the SEA will distribute the funds according to the required formula and whether the SEA has or will encourage the creation of consortia for LEAs that do not meet the minimum funding threshold under the formula.**

**The NMPED was awarded \$3,609,877 for ARP-HCY II.**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>ARP Homeless II Total</b>	<b>Maximum SEA Reservation for State-Level Activities (25 percent)</b>	<b>Minimum Distribution Amount to LEAs (75 percent)</b>
NEW MEXICO	4,813,169	1,203,292	3,609,877

The NMPD calculated subgrants utilizing the required formula provided by ED.

- 50 percent in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title 1-A for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 (School year 2020-2021) allocations; and
- 50 percent in proportion to the number of homeless children and youth identified by each LEA relative to all LEAs in the State, using the greater of the number of students experiencing homelessness in either the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year.

[Click here to download a spreadsheet](#) of initial disbursements.

LEAs that accepted these funds had to apply. See application attached.

LEAs that refused these funds had to send an email stating that these funds were declined.

LEAs with an allocations less than \$5,000 were encouraged to apply in consortium with one or more LEAs that raise the combined allocation amount to \$5,000 or more. Only two LEAs applied in consortia.

In total, 53 LEAs will receive the ARP-HCY II funds. The final allocations are in process and disbursements are planned for September 2021.

**For both ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II:**

**How the SEA will ensure that ARP-HCY funds supplement the supports and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and do not replace ESSER funds to support students experiencing homelessness.**

LEAs have been notified in various ways (announcements, emails, and webinars) that the ARP-HCY funds are intended to supplement the supports and services provided by ARP ESSER funds, not replace them. The ARP-HCY II application guides applicants by requiring them to identify the other federal fund(s) they are using to support the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness specifically. The choices they had are: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds;

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act; MV/Homeless Subgrant unused/encumbered 2020-21 award funds; Title IA - Homeless Set-Aside and Other.

**The extent to which the SEA will use its state-level 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, and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services.**

The NMPED is currently exploring several options to use its state-level funds to award subgrants or contracts to CBOs that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations. The initial plan was to determine the top five areas with highest #'s of students experiencing homelessness and to contract with a CBO to work with in each area. This has proven to be more difficult than initially thought, as many CBOs are struggling through this pandemic as well, and are understaffed and not able to take on more projects at this time. This still may be a viable path, but other options are also being explored.

One option is to subcontract with the 11 agencies that are currently contracted with the Children, Youth and Families Department's (CYFD) High Fidelity Wraparound Program [New Mexico High Fidelity Wraparound](#). These agencies provide care management structures for children with complex behavioral needs and their families. Only children with Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) under the age of 18, who have had a diagnosable mental, behavioral or emotional disorder that resulted in functional impairment and have not responded well to traditional treatment are eligible for these services.

The ECHY State Coordinator will meet with the NM Department of Health's Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH) next week to explore other avenues for collaborations with CBOs that provide wraparound services. This department works to improve student and adolescent health through integrated school-based or school-linked health services. <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/phd/pchb/osah/>.

**How the SEA will encourage LEAs to award contracts to CBOs to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.**

The PED has taken multiple approaches to encourage LEAs and CBOs to partner together to better support and serve their students and families experiencing homelessness.

The webinar on July 7th provided LEAs that received the ECHY and ARP-HCY subgrants with information about the federal priorities for these funds and strongly encouraged LEAs to award contracts to organizations that help identify and support this population. Real examples of LEA/CBO collaborations were provided to demonstrate effective partnerships.

In addition, NMPED provided robust guidance for students and families that experience homelessness during the pandemic, which was highlighted by the US Department of Education

Best Practices Clearinghouse to Highlight Innovative Practices for Reopening Schools and Campuses: [New Mexico Public Education Department Guidance for Students Experiencing Homelessness: Legal Obligations and Best Practices for School Reentry.](#)

The ECHY State Coordinator has taken another route to getting the word out to CBOs by attending numerous meetings with direct service providers and using them as opportunities to inform CBO's of the ARP-HCY funds. They are encouraged to reach out to their LEAs now if they feel that they would like to subcontract to perform wraparound services. These meetings were with the following:

- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program members (2 times)
- CYFD Weekly Shelter Provider meetings (3 times)
- New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness Quarterly Membership Meetings
- CYFD's Community Based Prevention, Intervention and Reunification (CBPIR) Peer to Peer meeting

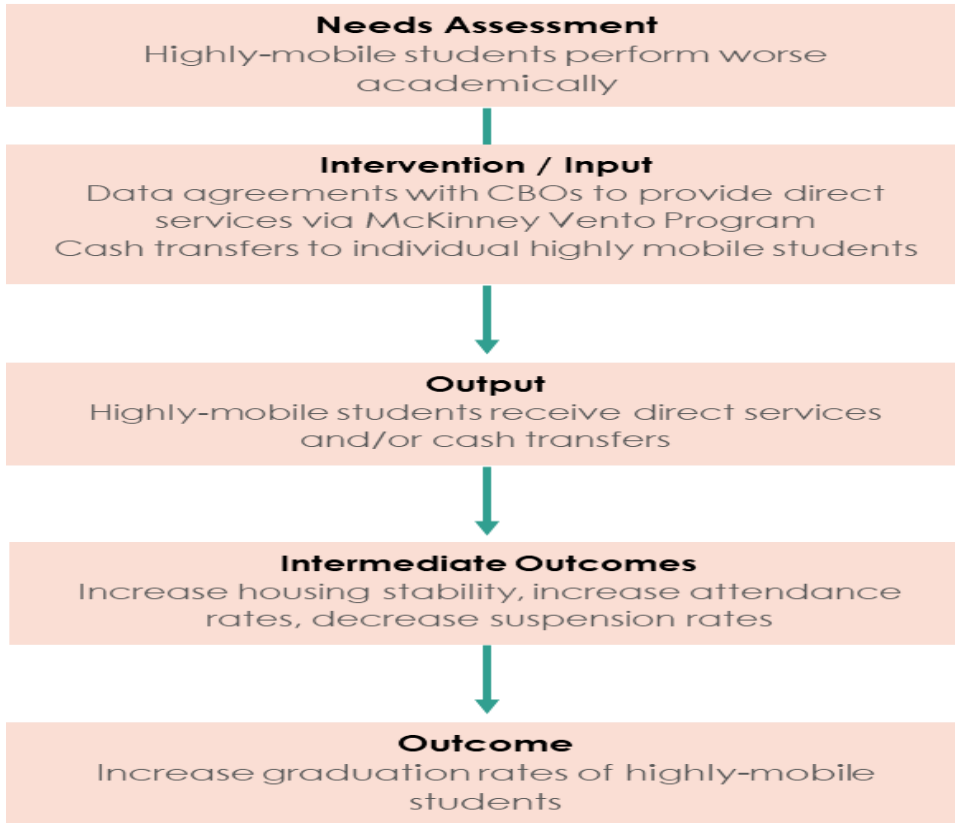
The HCY-ARP funds are also being considered for a pilot project to stabilize our highly-mobile students by braiding and leveraging federal and local funds. This project will include implementing Community School "Hubs" that will house a Community Navigator. The Community Navigator will work in coordination with the Community School Coordinator and will maintain a caseload of families. They will provide on-going, direct support to address needs outside of the educational system, such as housing, food, health, mental health, financial assistance, etc. The Hub will act as a referral point for the homeless and migrant education programs. This also supports the Integrated Student Supports pillar of community schools.

**Other elements of the pilot project include three different interventions:**

- Control Group: Community School strategy as currently implemented
- Treatment Group 1: Community School strategy with subcontracts to non-profit organizations who can provide direct services/Community Navigator
- Treatment Group 2: Community School strategy and cash transfers (from private donor) for a period of up to two years

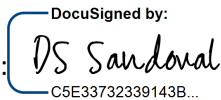
We will be able to determine which solution may work best to serve highly-mobile students and increase their academic and non-academic outcomes.

See model for pilot below:



This will be included in the next Community School application We are proposing an agreement with CBO's for a Community Navigator position that would cost: \$59,995 plus benefits (33%) = \$80,000. The PED will pay \$20,000 of the community Navigator's position, while the LEAs would need to supplement the rest by using their ARP Homeless I and II funds, or other funding resources. These schools will be able to implement the community school strategy in SY2022-23 as community schools implementation applicants.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):

Signature:   
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Date: 9/4/2021