

**New York State Education Department
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND
YOUTH (ARP-HCY) State Plan**

i. For ARP Homeless I:

- 1. How the SEA has used or will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for State-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming in 2021. This must include how the SEA has supported LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies for immediate needs this spring 2021, and how it will support LEAs for school year 2021-2022. This should include the extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past in order to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II.**

The New York State Education Department’s (NYSED or “the Department”) Office of ESSA-Funded Programs, which includes the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY), will use 25% of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for a state reserve to fund a Technical Assistance Center (TAC, “ARP HCY TAC”) that will support LEAs and the State in implementing programs and activities funded with ARP-HCY funds. The ARP-HCY TAC will provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including resources for LEAs to support an effective return to school in 2021-2022, and increase access to summer programming in 2022, 2023 and 2024. The ARP-HCY TAC will work with NYSED’s Office of ESSA-Funded Programs and the State Coordinator for the EHCY to assist LEAs on how to best leverage both ARP-HCY funds and dedicated homeless funding to support children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The primary responsibilities of the ARP-HCY TAC will include, but will not be limited to, support LEAs through:

- Provision of on-demand technical support on the strategic use of multiple fund sources to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, including providing wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19.
- Development of strategies and systems to re-engage and support students and families who continued to experience homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic but were unable to access traditional McKinney-Vento supports during SY19-2020 and SY 20-2021. This includes assisting LEAs with analyzing SY19-2020 and SY20-2021 data in order to determine how many students experiencing homelessness were “unaccounted for” during this time period, and to determine the reasons. It also includes a specific focus on the following 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.

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- Analysis of data to determine the geographic areas where there are a significant concentration of students and families experiencing homelessness, and development of strategies to ensure that supports provided through ARP-HCY funds can reach them.
- Development of sensitive, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant strategies to support returning McKinney-Vento students, as well as students who are newly experiencing homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Coordination between LEAs and other state and community-based agencies to ensure ARP-HCY funds, in combination with funds from other programs, are being maximized to best support a safe and full return to in-person instruction for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Provision of professional development and/or technical assistance with the goal of addressing the urgent needs of homeless children and youth, including strategies for how to leverage the use of ARP-HCY funds in combination with funds from other programs to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of homeless students.
- Provision of support to LEAs in the planning and implementation of wrap-around services to address the challenges COVID-19 has placed on children and youth experiencing homelessness supported with ARP-HCY funds.

The support provided by the ARP-HCY TAC will be differentiated in scope for LEAs that have received a EHCY subgrant in the past, and those that will receive ARP Homeless II funds without previous experience with EHCY sub-grant requirements. It is anticipated that most LEAs across New York State will receive an allocation of ARP Homeless II funds, and therefore it is incumbent upon NYSED to utilize the TAC to ensure that these LEAs receive the highest level of support in implementing the activities and programs focused on homeless youth.

The ARP-HCY TAC will support the Office of ESSA-Funded Programs by working collaboratively with the State Coordinator for EHCY and other ESSA-Funded Program staff on the following activities:

- Facilitation of collaboration between the State Coordinator and other internal stakeholders, as applicable, to ensure the successful administration, implementation, and monitoring of the ARP-HCY programs
- Facilitation of clear and timely communication among internal and external ARP-HCY grant stakeholders.
- Development of written policies and procedures for the successful administration, implementation, and oversight of the ARP-HCY programs.
- Preparation of monitoring forms and monitoring review protocols, including development of instruments and tools to ensure successful oversight of the ARP-HCY grant programs.
- Development of data collection tools focused on ensuring that NYSED provides the United States Department of Education (USDE) with the required data documenting use and impact of ARP-HCY funds.

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- Support for the preparation of required reports to be submitted by NYSED to the USDE.

NYSED will require the TAC to provide quarterly updates on the progress being made with the listed activities, as well as survey LEAs receiving ARP-HCY funds to ensure that NYSED and the TAC are providing effective technical assistance and needed resources.

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.

NYSED did not utilize any state-level ARP Homeless I funds to provide supports to LEAs implementing summer learning opportunities and wrap-around services for homeless students for Summer 2021. The entirety of the state-level ARP Homeless I funds will be used to support LEAs via the ARP-HCY TAC, which will not be in place until Spring 2022 due state procurement procedures. However, NYSED was able to leverage existing resources to provide LEAs with support that ensured that all students, including students experiencing homelessness, had access to programming for Summer 2021.

NYSED's Office of Student Support Services has published the [Handbook for Summer School Administrators and Principals](#). Within this Handbook, NYSED outlines the requirements for provision of summer programming, as well as promising practices to consider. To meet a range of student needs, summer learning programs should incorporate a variety of opportunities designed to support multiple needs, including the following:

- Opportunities for students and adults to catch up, keep up, and develop new skills;
- Empowerment of staff and schools to test and try out and measure innovative ideas, solutions, strategies before scaling;
- Partnering with leaders and organizations in new ways to break down silos in education and improve integration; and
- Use of hands-on summer program strategies to effect immediate, measurable, and lasting impact.

In addition to the Handbook, NYSED has also issued the [McKinney-Vento Summer School Information](#) memo, which provides guidance to LEAs related to the provision of summer programming to students experiencing homelessness. This guidance provides an overview of key protections and strategies that LEAs may use to ensure children and youth experiencing homelessness have an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive during available summer programming. Specifically, this memo reviews two central protections for students in temporary housing: (a) access to summer school, and (b) removal of barriers to summer school. This memo also provides reminders

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about how LEAs can appoint a summer liaison and where to find additional information on access to summer school and removal of barriers to summer school.

To support educators and administrators in meeting the social emotional learning (SEL) needs of all students, NYSED has created a COVID-19 website that includes SEL resources. One of these resources is [CASEL's District Resource Center](#). The District Resource Center helps school districts make social and emotional learning (SEL) an integral part of every student's education.

Along with the technical assistance already provided by the Office of ESSA-Funded Programs and the Office of Student Support Services, NYSED has laid the groundwork for a comprehensive technical assistance effort that will be funded through ARP-HCY funds for Fall of 2021 and Summer 2022.

To ensure that LEAs increase access to summer programming and plan for and provide wrap-around services for summer 2022, in collaboration with State and local agencies and other community-based organizations, the Department will utilize the following tools:

- The ARP-HCY TAC (as described in #1 above) will be charged with providing LEAs with technical assistance and professional development on creating responsive summer programming and wrap around services.
- LEAs will be provided with guidance prior to applying for ARP Homeless I funds, that they may use these funds to support costs related to the provision of summer programs and wrap-around services for summer 2021. LEAs will need to provide specific descriptions of how the summer program and the related wrap-around services were provided to students experiencing homelessness, and how the program and wrap-around services met the unique needs of these students. LEAs will be required to provide an assurance that any use of ARP-HCY funds for summer programming would need to be supplemental to any ESSER-ARP funds.
- Additionally, the funding applications for ARP Homeless II will include questions and assurances related to the provision of a responsive summer program and related wrap-around services for summer 2022. The application will include an assurance that the LEA will provide transportation to all summer programming for students experiencing homelessness.

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- 3. How the SEA has used or will use at least 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for distribution to LEAs in accordance with all requirements of EHCY. This must include the extent to which the SEA has or will use funds to supplement existing EHCY subgrants to allow for more rapid fund distribution to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness, and the extent to which the SEA analyzed and reviewed where there are significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness across the State (including in LEAs that are not existing EHCY subgrantees), and how it has or will ensure that supports from ARP Homeless I can urgently reach them.**

In order to release funds in an expedited manner, NYSED will provide ARP Homeless I funds to all current EHCY subgrantees to supplement previous awards. In addition to the current subgrantees, NYSED will provide ARP Homeless I funds to a small cohort of ten additional LEAs that had previously applied for EHCY funding during the competitive process but could not be supported because EHCY funding was not sufficient to provide resources to all “fundable” applications. NYSED will develop a streamlined application within its online system that will be leveraged to ensure an expedited review and approval process of the applications.

NYSED is currently in Year 3 of the 2019-2022 EHCY Grant cycle. The cohort includes 54 grantees serving 157 individual LEAs (LEAs with smaller allocations have formed consortia). EHCY grant programs provide high-quality supports and activities for a wide range of LEA sizes and contexts, including rural districts serving just over 100 students in temporary housing and large urban centers serving thousands of students in temporary housing.

By including the additional ten grantees, NYSED will be able to serve more additional LEAs located in both large urban centers and rural settings. ARP Homeless I funds will extend services to a total of 174 LEAs supporting 123,022 students in temporary housing.

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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.**

According to the [2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\) to Congress](#), New York State has seen a 3.2% increase in the number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in 2020. The Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) are deeply concerned about the mounting scope of this problem. NYSED is committed to supporting LEAs as they meet the needs of unaccompanied youth.

Unaccompanied youth are defined in New York State as youth who are not in the physical custody of their parents or legal guardian and are living in a temporary housing arrangement¹. This definition refers to all unaccompanied children and youth in temporary housing between the ages of 5 and 21, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, who are residing in New York State. Pursuant to Education Law §3202(1), a person over 5 and under 21 years of age who has not received a high school diploma is entitled to attend the public schools maintained in the district in which such person resides without the payment of tuition. Moreover, pursuant to Education Law §3205, school districts must ensure that all students within the compulsory school age attend upon full-time instruction. This group of unaccompanied children and youth in temporary housing may include immigrant, migrant, runaway, neglected and/or delinquent youths. Therefore, New York State school districts have an obligation to provide an educational opportunity to all resident students who are of compulsory school age, including unaccompanied youth.

The McKinney-Vento Act provides protections for these students as they relate to the provision of a free public education. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, unaccompanied youth must be enrolled immediately, without parental consent, in a school in the school district where they are temporarily living. They must be allowed to enroll immediately even if they don't have the documents normally needed for enrollment (such as vaccination and health records) and even if they have missed application or enrollment deadlines, if applicable. These students are also immediately eligible for free school meals.

NYSED will reserve \$6,500,000 in ARP Homeless II funds (approximately 15% of the overall ARP Homeless II allocation) to fund allocational grants to districts with disproportionately high numbers of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. NYSED currently collects this data from LEAs annually. NYSED will require eligible LEAs to apply and provide a plan for use of the funds, consistent with the uses of funds approved under the McKinney-Vento Act and under ARP-HCY.

¹ (See 42 U.S.C. §11434a[6]; Education Law §3209[1][a][1][v]; and 8 NYCRR §100.2[x][1][iii][6]).

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Three offices within NYSED will work with the ARP-HCY TAC to provide technical assistance to LEAs with unaccompanied youth that receive state reserve funds: the Office of ESSA Funded Programs (which includes the McKinney-Vento and Migrant Education programs); the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages, and the Office of Student Support Services. These offices with the TAC will coordinate supports to LEAs in a focused and responsive manner.

- 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.**

NYSED will distribute at least 75 percent of the ARP Homeless II funds to LEAs in accordance with the funding formula detailed in the final requirements. Specifically, allocations will be calculated as follows:

- 50 percent in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title I, Part A for FY 2020 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 homeless children and youth in either the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year enrolled in each LEA.

In LEA applications for ARP Homeless II funds, LEAs will provide a description of the greatest needs identified for homeless children and youth, and how they plan to utilize funds to address the greatest needs. LEAs will also provide an assurance that they will retain records of the number of students served and types of services received under the ARP Homeless II program.

For those LEAs with an allocation less than \$5,000, NYSED will encourage consortia among LEAs with common student needs that are geographically proximate.

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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.**

NYSED will ensure ARP-HCY funds are supplemental. To support LEAs in this approach, NYSED will use a variety of technical assistance and monitoring strategies during the pre-award/application review phase, program implementation phase, and post-award monitoring phase of the ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II programs.

The ARP-HCY TAC will provide guidance on the intent and purposes of ARP-HCY funds, including information about how the funds are intended to supplement, not replace ARP ESSER funds. The ARP-HCY TAC will create and present technical assistance webinars for LEAs. Written materials for the field will also emphasize that homeless students have unique needs due to unstable housing and ARP-HCY funds are intended to address such unique needs so that students experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

NYSED will include assurances in both LEA level ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II fund applications, ensuring that LEAs acknowledge that ARP-HCY funds are supplementary funds to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, NYSED will monitor the use of funds of the ARP-HCY program to verify that all costs were necessary and reasonable, and addressed the needs of students experiencing homelessness, as the budgets will be subjected to approval by NYSED. ARP-HCY funds will be monitored to ensure that LEAs use the funds for services that go beyond those services provided with ARP ESSER funds.

- 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.**

NYSED does not plan on using state-level activities funds to award subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations (CBOs). However, the vendor chosen to operate the ARP-HCY TAC will be selected in part on their demonstrated expertise in identifying and supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations, such as rural children, youth with disabilities, English language learners, LGBTQ+ youth; and pregnant or caregiving youth. The ARP-HCY TAC will also be directed to work with stakeholder groups that represent

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these underserved populations to develop and provide targeted professional development and technical assistance to LEAs in creating their ARP-HCY plans.

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

NYSED will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations by directing the ARP-HCY TAC to develop resources to support LEAs with identifying local CBOs, utilizing methods to facilitate collaboration, and navigating the subcontracting process. The ARP-HCY TAC will be directed to work with CBOs and LEAs alike to facilitate connections and share best practices in supporting historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the ARP-HCY applications for funds will include a question prompting LEAs to describe the extent to which they may utilize funds to award sub-contracts to CBOs to meet the needs of underserved populations experiencing homelessness.