

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

PENNSYLVANIA

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 Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will provide technical assistance, resources, professional development and supports to the LEAs to ensure that the children and youth experiencing homelessness in their schools have access to the programming offered during the summer, including access to agencies that will assist them and their families. The SEA has designated an individual that will focus on assisting LEAs (both current subgrantees and new grantees) in appropriately utilizing ARP-HCY I and II funding. Collaboration with local and state agencies to provide wrap around services will be facilitated through this position. PDE has offered and will continue to offer trainings on McKinney-Vento law, the authorized activities for using federal funds, and collaboration with non-profits and other organizations. PDE has begun plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past by organizing trainings, meetings, on-going partnership discussions and mentorship with regional coordinators who are experienced with McKinney-Vento facilitation and programming. Regional coordinators and their teams receive annual EHCY funding and are the recipients of ARP Homeless I funding.

- 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 Pennsylvania Department of Education will use its funds for state-level activities such as technical support and assistance, clarification of the use of funds, understanding of McKinney-Vento law, and training on best practices. PDE will also facilitate connections between the LEAs and organizations around the Commonwealth that provide tutoring, counseling, transportation, and other non-

instructional services. LEAs have been continually working on their summer programming and have solidified plans for students beginning in the spring of 2021.

- 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.**

PDE will use 75 percent of the funds awarded under ARP Homeless I by distributing to the existing Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) sub-grantees who have worked with communities across the Commonwealth for several years. These regional coordinators have established ties amongst the LEAs and communities they serve. Regional coordinators have also continually developed new partnerships with non-profits and organizations that serve our most underserved populations across the Commonwealth. Due to the regional coordinators' long-standing relationships in the communities that they serve, ARP-HCY I funding can quickly reach designated populations in the Commonwealth.

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; and**

PDE will provide LEAs with a variety of professional development and training for their staff. Some of the professional development and trainings that LEAs will have access to are:

- Video podcasts on McKinney-Vento Law, community collaborations, lived experiences and the needs of underserved and marginalized students experiencing homelessness, and other topics
- Opportunities to explore restorative practices and self-care in response to vicarious trauma experienced by staff
- Access to the state's annual conference on students experiencing homelessness
- Webinars and learning circles related to quality out-of-school-time (OST) topics, student engagement, re-acclimation to school environment & social norms, social and emotional support, and other homelessness issues
- Opportunity to participate in a Trauma-Skilled Specialist (TSS) Certification program facilitated by the National Dropout Prevention Center

Technical assistance will also be provided including:

- Capacity building
- Racial equity and student homelessness
- Community engagement
- Program implementation and challenges
- Evaluation

In addition, PDE will develop a statewide application (app) for smartphones. The app's primary user will be youth experiencing homelessness and will provide resources by geographic location related to education, food banks, clothing, shelter, and other resources. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and public transportation advertising will be used to create awareness for the app, communicated in multiple languages. In creating the app, Pennsylvania aims to increase the identification of students experiencing homelessness in Pennsylvania and to create a means to establish ongoing communication with this population, fostering the development of an online community.

- 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.**
 - a. how many receiving Title I and number of students/percentage LEA's**
 - b. LEA's who are eligible will receive an application -- with pre-formatted questions/narrative**

PDE will allocate \$18,424,109 to LEAs. Allocations were determined based on a formula that included a combination of counts of children and youth experiencing homelessness in the 2018-19 program year (the last full year that was unaffected by COVID-19), which included children and youth in the following categories: birth-age 2, age 3-5 and not yet in kindergarten, and K-12 age-grade as well as Title I allocation. In short, this means that selection for funding was based upon a LEA's proportional share of both its homeless count and Title I, Part A funding. This allowed us to identify LEAs with the greatest need.

To calculate the allocations, PDE determined a total student count for all the LEAs identified for funding. Then, PDE divided the total \$18 million allocation by the total student count for the identified LEAs. This yielded a per-student allocation. Finally, the per-student allocation amount was multiplied by the number of students in each of the identified LEAs to reach a total LEA allocation.

LEAs will receive their allocation after the approval of their application issued through the Office of the State Homeless Coordinator.

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;**

PDE is ensuring that ARP-HCY I & II funds supplement the supports and services provided to children and youth experiencing homelessness with ARP ESSER funds and does not replace the use of those funds. In order to ensure the proper use of the ARP-HCY I & II funds, PDE has built into the grant process safeguards by requiring subgrantees to complete and sign a certification statement, which is an assurance that expenditures are appropriate and in accordance with the federal award and approved project budgets. The certification statement must be signed by an official who is authorized to legally bind the subgrantee. PDE has created forms that LEAs will be required to complete that specify their use and indicate that no supplanting is taking place.


- 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**

PDE uses a tiered approach to ensure all LEAs in the state have access to training and resources related to students and families experiencing homelessness. The SEA works with its eight regional offices that each cover multiple counties; subgrants and contracts will be awarded to community-based and non-profit organizations that have demonstrated a history of providing services to rural children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness. Applicants will be required to describe their identification process for youth experiencing homelessness and identify in particular, how underserved populations will be served and potential community-based programs with which they will partner.

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

LEAs submitting applications will need to identify how they will connect with diverse community partners that serve marginalized young people and families, as well as with

shelters, food banks, and job training sites as these partnerships will be an essential step towards supporting historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. Technical assistance providers will be available to assist with community mapping and assisting LEAs in establishing partnerships. PDE will also provide training and technical assistance around Foster Care, Migrant Education, Pregnant and Parenting Teens, and other vulnerable population groups by reaching out to other programs' technical assistance providers. Their expertise and experience can benefit LEAs as they request assistance and guidance related to this project.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):	
Dr. Noe Ortega	
Signature: 	Date: 09/02/2021