

Within 60 days from publication of this application, the SEA will submit a plan to 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.**

Texas has allocated 18% of ARP Homeless I funds for SEA services to support LEAs during 2021-2022. The SEA will provide the majority of funds through supplemental grants to the twenty regional education service centers (ESCs) to assist the EHCY State Coordinator with regional and local technical assistance, professional development, capacity building, engagement activities, and development and dissemination of resource materials. The EHCY State Coordinator meets with all twenty ESCs regularly (at least nine times a year) to support the development of training, technical assistance, resources, and partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs) to increase identification and wrap-around services for students experiencing homelessness. During these regular meetings the EHCY State Coordinator provides legislative, program, and grant resources to the designated ESC McKinney-Vento Liaisons.

ESCs will utilize a data-driven plan to support all LEAs with the identification and enrollment of students experiencing homelessness and the implementation of wrap-around services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The EHCY State Coordinator has provided the ESC Regional McKinney-Vento Liaisons four years of LEA historical data reports coupled with training on data use and analysis. ESCs can use these reports to identify data trends in LEAs that have high or low identification of students experiencing homelessness. These trends will inform ESCs in the development of a data-driven plan to support LEAs for the 2021-2022 school year, as required by their supplemental grant. Both ESC Capacity Building and ESC supplemental grant funds, as part of Texas' broader state ARP strategy, will be utilized to provide specific and targeted training, technical assistance, services, and supports to small and rural LEAs and LEAs that historically have not applied for or received an EHCY subgrant.

Additionally, the Texas Education Agency has provided a wide range of activities to support LEAs and students experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EHCY State Coordinator has implemented statewide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement activities with current EHCY funds at the SEA and LEA levels during the development of ARP Homeless I budgets, grants, and programs. Activities with the greatest impact include:

- **Providing Statewide Training:** During April and May 2021 TEA, in partnership with the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) technical support center, provided ten statewide webinars to assist Texas ESCs and LEAs with strategies and best practices to support McKinney-Vento identification, enrollment, professional development, community partnerships, school of origin transportation, post-secondary planning, and the financial aid process. Additionally, the EHCY State Coordinator held two statewide webinars on McKinney-Vento implementation. Specifically, these webinars provided LEA's strategies and best practices for program data utilization to support the assessment and planning of their 2021 summer and fall McKinney-Vento programs in order to address the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness. Cumulatively, these twelve trainings provided ESCs and LEAs with data strategies and resources to develop summer programming, wrap-around services, and engagement activities such as hygiene distributions, emergency food purchases, provision of other educational supplies, and community resource dissemination to assist students experiencing homelessness as they transition back to school.
- **Providing a Free Statewide Summit:** The Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program Summit was provided for free on Tuesday, August 3rd and Thursday, August 5th, 2021. Several presentations were provided by the Texas Education Agency, including TEA Grants, Title I Part A, Migrant, Gifted and Talented, Foster Care, McKinney-Vento, Human Trafficking, Virtual School Network, and School Mental Health. TEA grants provided training on funding resources available and the TEA grant process. Additionally, the Texas Association of School Boards, Office of the Governor, Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions, Texas Head Start Collaboration Office, Texas Network of Youth Services, ESCs, and LEAs presented on McKinney-Vento implementation, human trafficking, youth services, community resources, and other program support services for students and families experiencing homelessness.
- **Expanding Regional Education Support Services (current activities):** As noted above, the Texas Education Agency provides all twenty regional education support centers (ESCs) with a capacity-building grant. ESCs use this grant to assist the agency with regional technical assistance, professional development, dissemination of TEA McKinney-Vento program materials, and supports for LEAs who historically have not received a McKinney-Vento grant. During the spring and summer of 2021, ESCs provided a variety of engagement and wrap-around services. These services included technical assistance; newsletters; collaborative regional meetings; and distribution of hygiene materials, emergency food kits, and other educational supplies to support students experiencing homelessness. Other activities included dissemination of marketing and registration materials for TEA's spring and summer professional development opportunities. These opportunities included the 2021 TEHCY Statewide summit, post-secondary college and career planning activities, McKinney-Vento best practices, trauma-informed best practices, At-Risk student updates, and Human Trafficking awareness.

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

Texas has allocated 18% of ARP Homeless I funds for SEA services to support LEAs during 2021-2022. The SEA will provide the majority of funds through supplemental grants to the twenty regional education service centers (ESCs) to assist the EHCY State Coordinator with regional and local technical assistance, professional development, capacity building, engagement activities, and development and dissemination of resource materials. The EHCY State Coordinator meets with all twenty ESCs regularly (at least nine times a year) to support the development of training, technical assistance, resources, and partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs) to increase identification and wrap-around services for students experiencing homelessness. During these regular meetings the EHCY State Coordinator provides legislative, program, and grant resources to the designated ESC McKinney-Vento Liaisons.

ESCs will utilize a data-driven plan to support all LEAs with the identification and enrollment of students experiencing homelessness and the implementation of wrap-around services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The EHCY State Coordinator has provided the ESC Regional McKinney-Vento Liaisons four years of LEA historical data reports coupled with training on data use and analysis. ESCs can use these reports to identify data trends in LEAs that have high or low identification of students experiencing homelessness. These trends will inform ESCs in the development of a data-driven plan to support LEAs for the 2021-2022 school year, as required by their supplemental grant. Both ESC Capacity Building and ESC supplemental grant funds, as part of Texas' broader state ARP strategy, will be utilized to provide specific and targeted training, technical assistance, services, and supports to small and rural LEAs and LEAs that historically have not applied for or received an EHCY subgrant.

Additionally, the Texas Education Agency has provided a wide range of activities to support LEAs and students experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EHCY State Coordinator has implemented statewide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement activities with current EHCY funds at the SEA and LEA levels during the development of ARP Homeless I budgets, grants, and programs. Activities with the greatest impact include:

- **Providing Statewide Training:** During April and May 2021 TEA, in partnership with the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) technical support center, provided ten statewide webinars to assist Texas ESCs and LEAs with strategies and best practices to support McKinney-Vento identification, enrollment, professional development, community partnerships, school of origin transportation, post-secondary planning, and the financial aid process. Additionally, the EHCY State Coordinator held two statewide webinars on McKinney-Vento implementation. Specifically, these webinars provided LEA's strategies and best practices for program data utilization to support the assessment and planning of their 2021 summer and fall McKinney-Vento programs in order to address the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness. Cumulatively, these twelve trainings provided ESCs and LEAs with data strategies and resources to develop summer programming, wrap-around services, and engagement activities such as

hygiene distributions, emergency food purchases, provision of other educational supplies, and community resource dissemination to assist students experiencing homelessness as they transition back to school.

- **Providing a Free Statewide Summit:** The Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program Summit was provided for free on Tuesday, August 3rd and Thursday, August 5th, 2021. Several presentations were provided by the Texas Education Agency, including TEA Grants, Title I Part A, Migrant, Gifted and Talented, Foster Care, McKinney-Vento, Human Trafficking, Virtual School Network, and School Mental Health. TEA grants provided training on funding resources available and the TEA grant process. Additionally, the Texas Association of School Boards, Office of the Governor, Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions, Texas Head Start Collaboration Office, Texas Network of Youth Services, ESCs, and LEAs presented on McKinney-Vento implementation, human trafficking, youth services, community resources, and other program support services for students and families experiencing homelessness.
- **Expanding Regional Education Support Services (current activities):** As noted above, the Texas Education Agency provides all twenty regional education support centers (ESCs) with a capacity-building grant. ESCs use this grant to assist the agency with regional technical assistance, professional development, dissemination of TEA McKinney-Vento program materials, and supports for LEAs who historically have not received a McKinney-Vento grant. During the spring and summer of 2021, ESCs provided a variety of engagement and wrap-around services. These services included technical assistance; newsletters; collaborative regional meetings; and distribution of hygiene materials, emergency food kits, and other educational supplies to support students experiencing homelessness. Other activities included dissemination of marketing and registration materials for TEA's spring and summer professional development opportunities. These opportunities included the 2021 TEHCY Statewide summit, post-secondary college and career planning activities, McKinney-Vento best practices, trauma-informed best practices, At-Risk student updates, and Human Trafficking awareness.

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.**

Texas has allocated 82% of ARP Homeless I funds for distribution to LEAs. TEA is currently utilizing existing EHCY subgrant funds while ARP Homeless I budgets, grants, and programs were being developed. During the Spring and Summer months, our current EHCY subgrantees provided a variety of engagement and wraparound services. These services included McKinney-Vento training for LEA

staff, newsletters, supplemental tutoring services, dropout prevention, family engagement activities, academic summer camps, summer school support services, distribution of hygiene kits, emergency food kits, and other educational supplies to support students experiencing homelessness. Our data analysis reflects that our EHCY subgrantees have identified over 50% of the students experiencing homelessness in Texas schools for the past four years. Therefore, TEA decided to provide increased funding to the new EHCY subgrantees. TEA will be utilizing ARP Homeless I grant awards to match EHCY subgrantees grant award for the duration of the current grant cycle. This is in alignment with the guidance provided by USDE indicating that SEAs may supplement new EHCY awards made on or after July 1, 2021. This allows for more rapid distribution of supplemental grants to the 2021-2022 EHCY subgrantees.

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**

Texas will use up 10% of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for State-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity building, and engagement for LEAs in partnership with ESC McKinney-Vento Liaisons. Funds will be utilized to support statewide quarterly McKinney-Vento training opportunities in partnership with the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) throughout the grant cycle. All statewide quarterly training opportunities will be provided free of charge and will occur virtually and in-person. In-person training will occur at different locations throughout the state. TNOYS will also assist with stateside assessment and evaluation to identify the training that LEAs deem most necessary to build capacity, provide wrap-around services, and increase the identification of historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.

- 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.**

Texas has allocated 90% of ARP Homeless II funds for distribution to LEAs. After further review of Texas homeless data, TEA decided to increase allocation of ARP Homeless II Funds to ensure that approximately 65% of LEAs will be eligible to apply for an individual grant. TEA will work closely with ESCs to market and support the develop of consortia for those LEAs that may not meet the required minimum formula amount.

iii. 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;**

Texas will provide several grant-specific trainings to assist LEAs with grant development, implementation, measurable progress, project evaluation, and any adjustments, as needed. TEA will provide training and resources with guidance and examples on the appropriate use of funds to ensure that ARP-HCY supplements the services provided with ARP ESSER grant funds. The EHCY State Coordinator will develop and provide ARP-HCY grant technical assistance and training to LEAs, in collaboration with the ESC McKinney-Vento Liaisons. All webinars will be recorded and posted for LEAs to review throughout the grant cycle. The EHCY State Coordinator will hold quarterly check-in meetings with LEAs to support the implementation of ARP Homeless I and II grants to ensure proper use of funds and program support implementation.

- 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 EHCY State Coordinator, in collaboration with the ESC McKinney-Vento Liaisons, will award contracts to community-based organizations that meet the specific needs of special populations in different regions throughout the state. ESCs will utilize their supplemental grant funds to award region-specific contracts to community-based organizations to assist LEAs with identifying and supporting historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.

Funds will be utilized to support statewide quarterly McKinney-Vento training opportunities in partnership with the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) throughout the grant cycle. TNOYS will be awarded a supplemental grant to expand statewide professional development opportunities, youth-focused services, and resources to support LEAs with identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations. All statewide quarterly training opportunities will be provided free of charge and will occur virtually and in-person. In-person training will occur at different locations throughout the state. TNOYS will also assist with statewide assessment and evaluation to identify the training that LEAs identify as most impactful to build capacity, provide wrap-around services, and increase the identification of historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.

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

Texas will provide several grant-specific trainings to assist LEAs with grant development, implementation, measurable progress, project evaluation, and any adjustments, as needed. Trainings, strategies, and tools will be provided to assist LEAs with identifying, evaluating, and awarding contracted services with community-based organizations to increase the capacity and resources needed to identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. The EHCY State Coordinator, in collaboration with the ESC McKinney-Vento Liaisons, will award contracts to community-based organizations that meet the specific needs of special populations in different regions throughout the state. ESCs will utilize their supplemental grant funds to award region-specific contracts to community-based organizations to assist LEAs with identifying and supporting historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.