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U.S. Department of Education

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

Second Disbursement (ARP Homeless II)

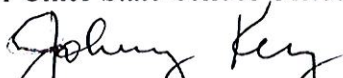
CFDA Number: 84.425W



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, please contact Deborah Spitz, Office of School Support and Accountability, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-6450, or HomelessEd@ed.gov, directly.

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

<p>Legal Name (State Educational Agency): Education, Arkansas Department of</p>	<p>DUNS Number: 781558564</p>
<p>Address (Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code): Arkansas Department of Education Four Capitol Mall Little Rock, AR 72201</p>	<p>Contact Information for State Program Representative: Name: Jayne Green Position & Office: State Director of McKinney-Vento / Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code: Four Capitol Mall, Box 29 Little Rock, AR 72201 Telephone: 501-683-5428 Email address: Jessica.Hickman@ade.arkansas.gov</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): Johnny Key, Secretary of Education, Arkansas</p>	<p>Telephone: 501-682-4203</p>
<p>Signature of Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative: </p>	<p>Date: 8/16/2021</p>

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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;

Arkansas will award subgrants, up to \$513,082.00 ARP Homeless I funds, to regional education service cooperative(s) that partner with community-based organization(s) for the purpose of assisting in the identification of historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness and providing wraparound services. Many LEAs utilized ESSER funds to provide 2021 summer programming for all students. Arkansas did not provide support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming in 2021 with ARP Homeless funds. Due to the timing of the release of the funds and the capacity within districts, no additional summer programming was feasible. As of the date of this application, the SEA set aside funds have not been expended. The SEA will award the subgrants when this application is approved.

Arkansas provided on-site instruction in every public school district during the 2020-2021 school year. Arkansas experienced an increased attendance rate among students experiencing homelessness during the 2020-2021 school year, as reported below. Data Source: Statewide Information System Reports

Students	Year	Attendance Rate
Homeless	2018	90.32%
Homeless	2019	90.33%
Homeless	2020	89.74%
Homeless	2021	91.90%

School districts were surveyed in spring 2020 to call attention to the need for wraparound services for students experiencing homelessness. The survey asked LEAs to identify the constraints they face when trying to provide services and also to identify the most needed wraparound services for students experiencing homelessness. Data from this survey will drive instructional choices for training that is being planned. [2021 American Rescue Plan Homeless Liaison Feedback](#)

Arkansas utilizes 5% of free/reduced lunch numbers to consider if a LEA is identifying the approximate number of students experiencing homelessness. During the 2020-2021 school year, the state may have under-identified students experiencing homelessness when comparing the data

for previous years (see table below). Please note that the expected data is not an exact expectation but is used to monitor if a district is in range of expectation.

In addition, reported data indicated that several LEAs identified no students experiencing homelessness. These identified LEAs, as well as LEAs who have not formerly received subgrants, will be prioritized by the awardee for training, technical assistance, and capacity-building for community members and LEA staff, and identification of wraparound services for students. Data Source: Statewide Information System Reports

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
State - 4th Quarter - Total identified students experiencing homelessness	13,865	13,808	13,242	11,740
State - expected identified students experiencing homelessness	15,100	15,175	15,545	15,503

Arkansas will utilize the SEA funds to award subgrants, up to \$513,082.00 ARP Homeless I funds, to regional education service cooperative(s) that partner with community-based organization(s) for the purpose of assisting in the identification of historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness and providing wraparound services.

An ARP Homeless committee has been formed consisting of DESE staff (Federal Programs including McKinney-Vento, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning, and Parent and Family Engagement), regional education service centers, and community-based organizations to plan a statewide effort to inform and support a multi-tiered rapid response system that identifies students experiencing homelessness and provides wrap-around services. The committee has met numerous times and provided information to all regional education cooperatives, EHCY grantees, and members of the community-based organizations.

Technical assistance is being provided via face-to-face conferences such as the Student Led Teacher Focus Conference held in Little Rock on September 29-October 1, 2021; the Regional Education Cooperative Retreat held at Petit Jean on October 7, 2021; and on-site training at Arkansas Dream Center on October 11, 2021. A webinar for ARP Homeless I grantees was provided on October 4, 2021, to provide technical assistance to eligible subgrantees. The DESE team meets bi-weekly with District Federal Program Coordinators to provide technical assistance for the 2021-2022 school year which includes training, guidance, and FAQ regarding identification and support for students experiencing homelessness. All information regarding ARP Homeless is available on the [DESE website](#). Additional Commissioner’s Memos, webinars, presentations, and other technical assistance will be provided and documented.

Subgrants will be utilized to provide regional support specialists to engage with district and school homeless liaisons and community partners. Meetings, training, and one-to-one support will be provided to improve the identification process and wrap-around services including academic, social and emotional support during school and out of school time.

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

Arkansas did not provide support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming in 2021 with ARP Homeless funds. Due to the timing of the release of the funds and the capacity within districts, no additional summer programming was feasible. As of the date of this application, the SEA set aside funds have not been expended. The SEA will award the subgrants when this application is approved.

Arkansas provided on-site instruction in every public school district during the 2020-2021 school year. Many LEAs utilized ESSER funds to provide 2021 summer programming for all students. Arkansas developed the Statewide Community Resources Portal <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/scr> to provide contact information of wraparound services available to students. The portal was developed with state funds and will be enhanced as additional community resources are identified.

State-level activity funds will be utilized to provide multiple training opportunities for the state about identification of students experiencing homelessness and the community framework for wraparound services. The subgrantees will be responsible for coordinating services with the Homeless Liaison for each LEA.

Technical assistance is being provided via face-to-face conferences such as the Student Led Teacher Focus Conference held in Little Rock on September 29-October 1, 2021; the Regional Education Cooperative Retreat held at Petit Jean on October 7, 2021; and on-site training at Arkansas Dream Center on October 11, 2021. A webinar for ARP Homeless I grantees was provided on October 4, 2021, to provide technical assistance to eligible subgrantees. The DESE team meets bi-weekly with District Federal Program Coordinators to provide technical assistance for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond which includes identification and support for students experiencing homelessness.

All information regarding ARP Homeless is available on the [DESE website](#). Additional Commissioner's Memos, webinars, presentations, and other technical assistance will be provided and documented. Regional facilitators will be identified to ensure support to all schools and districts.

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.

\$1,539,246.00 ARP Homeless I funds will be awarded to current EHCY grantees to supplement existing EHCY subgrants to allow LEAs to address the needs of students experiencing

homelessness.

Concentrations of students experiencing homelessness in the state were analyzed and mapped according to 2019-2020 data. Notes were made indicating which areas were currently being served by a subgrant and which areas were not. This process has helped us identify areas that are likely under identified and will need training and support on accurately identifying students experiencing homelessness. Training will be provided for all LEAs including those that are not currently receiving an EHCY subgrant. [2019-2020 Fourth Quarter Homeless Map](#)

The McKinney-Vento state director will provide additional training and support to the EHCY grantees on how to supplement the existing EHCY subgrants.

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

Arkansas will award subgrants, up to \$1,540,246.00 ARP Homeless II funds, to regional education service cooperative(s) that partner with community-based organization(s) for the purpose of assisting in the identification of historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness and providing wraparound services.

An ARP Homeless committee has been formed consisting of DESE staff (Federal Programs including McKinney-Vento, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning, and Parent and Family Engagement), regional education service centers, and community-based organizations to plan a statewide effort to inform and support a multi-tiered rapid response system that identifies students experiencing homelessness and provides wrap-around services. The committee has met numerous times and provided information to all regional education cooperatives, EHCY grantees, and members of the community-based organizations.

Technical assistance is being provided via face-to-face conferences such as the Student Led Teacher Focus Conference held in Little Rock on September 29-October 1, 2021; the Regional Education Cooperative Retreat held at Petit Jean on October 7, 2021; and on-site training at Arkansas Dream Center on October 11, 2021. A webinar for ARP Homeless I grantees was provided on October 4, 2021, to provide technical assistance to eligible subgrantees. The DESE team meets bi-weekly with District Federal Program Coordinators to provide technical assistance for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond which includes identification and support for students experiencing homelessness.

All information regarding ARP Homeless is available on the [DESE website](#). Additional Commissioner's Memos, webinars, presentations, and other technical assistance will be provided and documented. Regional facilitators will be identified to ensure support to all schools and districts.

Arkansas developed the state-funded Statewide Community Resources Portal <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/scr> to provide contact information of wraparound services available to students. The portal will be enhanced as additional community resources are identified. Arkansas's goal is to increase awareness of students experiencing homelessness and strengthen communication regarding federal, state, and local resources through partnerships with regional education cooperatives, LEAs, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations. The response from the stakeholders has been positive, and more organizations are wanting to assist with the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

State-level activity funds will be utilized to bring awareness to the state about identification of students experiencing homelessness and the community framework for wraparound services. The subgrantee will be responsible for coordinating services with the LEA Homeless Liaison.

The McKinney-Vento state director will work closely with the subgrantees. The SEA has/will host webinars that provide technical assistance for LEAs. These webinars will include, but are not limited to, training on best identification practices and introductions and relationship building with local community based organizations to increase the ability to meet student needs.

- Build local leadership and resource capacity to overcome the myriad of challenges facing Arkansas children and youth that have been exacerbated by COVID-19;
- Design and implement local multi-tiered rapid-response systems to meet student's basic needs within 24 hours of the identified need using local community-based organizations; and
- Provide classroom embedded and extended (summer, before/after school) enrichment opportunities to empower children and youth experiencing homelessness through curriculum based, hands on service learning activities.

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.

Arkansas will award at least \$4,620,738.00 ARP Homeless II funds to eligible LEAs. Arkansas will allocate funds in accordance with the required formula to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Arkansas will encourage all LEAs not meeting the required minimum formula amount to join a consortium. Arkansas has been meeting with Education Service Cooperatives to encourage regional consortiums. Arkansas has also been meeting with LEA Federal Program Coordinators to recommend consortiums.

Arkansas will utilize an allocation formula based equally on the proportional share of an LEA's allocation under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 for the most recent fiscal year, and the LEA's proportional share of 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 in each LEA. Arkansas will post the preliminary allocations on the DESI website at <https://desc.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/fiscal-and-administrative-services/school-funding/allocations>

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;

Arkansas will include assurances that reflect 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 McKinney-Vento state director will provide training and communication to grantees regarding this supplement requirement.

The McKinney-Vento state director will monitor the reimbursement of funds to grantees to ensure the use of funds support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

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

Arkansas plans to award the state-level activities funds to subgrants with educational service cooperatives that partner with community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in underserved populations and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services. The community-based organizations focus on building relationships in those underserved communities that benefit students who are experiencing homelessness. The subgrantees will be working with LEA Homeless Liaisons and community partners to ensure all underserved populations have been addressed. The McKinney-Vento state director will oversee all state-level activities and subgrants.

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

ARP Homeless I - Current EHCY grantees will be encouraged to contract with community-based

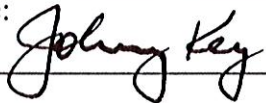
organizations that serve and support historically underserved populations to supplement existing EHCY subgrants and allow LEAs to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento state director will meet periodically with the current EHCY grantees to monitor the progress of the grants and to share community-based organization success.

ARP Homeless II - Consideration for contracting with a community-based organization will be included in the LEA and consortium applications. Arkansas will promote collaboration with community-based organizations that serve and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness through communications. The McKinney-Vento state director will meet periodically with the LEA Homeless Liaisons and Federal Program Coordinators to monitor the progress of the grants and to share community-based organization success.

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

Johnny Key, Secretary of Education, Arkansas

Signature:



Date:

8/16/2021