

California Department of Education

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



Due September 7, 2021

Submit to:

HomelessED@ed.gov

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Homeless I

- 1. How the state educational agency (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 local educational agency (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 2021–22. This should include the extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) subgrant in the past in order to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II.***

California understands the ARP Homeless I funding is to be used to identify and support the needs of homeless children and youth as quickly as possible. California has reserved the maximum 25 percent of ARP Homeless I funds for state-level activities to fund two newly-established technical assistance centers and increase the California Department of Education (CDE) homeless education program staff capacity. In order to target immediate needs, the CDE disseminated ARP Homeless I funds to 2021–24 EHCY grant recipients based on the encouragement of the U.S. Department of Education's April 23, 2021 letter. The letter stated, "*In order to facilitate urgent disbursement and use of these funds, the Department strongly encourages States to use the funds reserved for LEAs primarily to supplement existing EHCY LEA subgrants.*"

The CDE contacted all 2021–24 EHCY grant recipients and invited them to apply for ARP Homeless I funds since they had an established program and capacity to implement these funds immediately. Of the 121 eligible LEAs, 120 LEAs applied for and accepted the ARP Homeless I funds. The CDE supported these LEAs in the implementation of these funds through a kick-off webinar hosted in May 2021. This webinar consisted of an overview of the ARP Homeless I requirements, preliminary allocations, uses of funds, and re-engagement strategies on how to connect families to summer programs and prepare them for in-person instruction in the fall. The Integrated Student Support and Programs Office (ISSPO) within the CDE collected questions and feedback from the webinar, including what additional resources and guidance was needed regarding ARP Homeless I funds. The needs from the field included additional training on ARP, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), a desire to hear from others on their plans to implement new programs and services with ARP Homeless I funds, and time to collaborate amongst colleagues. Based on the feedback, the ISSPO developed an "ARP-HCY Resource Guide" and continues to update the guide to disseminate to LEAs, regardless of funding. This document will be posted on the CDE Resources for Homeless Education's web page, will be presented at future conferences, and will be disseminated through the Homeless Education Resource Listserv. On an ongoing basis, the ISSPO continues to provide training, updates, and technical assistance to the EHCY/ARP Homeless I recipients.

To support and inform LEAs not receiving EHCY/ARP Homeless I funds, the ISSPO is planning its first annual, virtual statewide conference entitled, *Educating California's Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: From Identification to Implementation*. This conference will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The ISSPO will provide state and federal updates, as well as provide training opportunities. Experts from the field, such as homeless liaisons, will present on a variety of topics such as Homeless Education 101, relationship/capacity building, data requirements, and collaboration with various housing agencies. During this conference, participants will hear from a youth panel as well as a motivational keynote speaker with the goal of building awareness around homeless education, and the importance of identification, enrollment, and support to these children and youth. With this statewide opportunity for all, LEAs will gain a better understanding of the requirements along with best practices.

The CDE has also developed and posted a request for application (RFA) to allocate \$1.5 million of the state-level reservation fund homeless education technical assistance centers (HE TACs) through a competitive process. The HE TACs will carry out activities from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2024, to support all LEAs within the state. The HE TACs will provide support and technical assistance to county offices of education (COEs) to ensure they have the capacity, resources, and the tools required to support all LEAs, regardless of funding, with implementation of the EHCY Program authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 11431 et seq.), as well as the ARP-HCY. The goal is to improve the COE homeless liaisons support to all LEAs within their counties with the implementation of the provisions under the EHCY Program as well as the ARP-HCY. The roles and responsibilities of the HE TAC, include, but are not limited to:

- Create, facilitate, and disseminate the implementation of training materials and resources that outline the needs, challenges, and barriers of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Develop and disseminate:
 - Strategies for identification, re-engagement to in-person instruction, participation in before and after school programs, and other enrichment activities
 - Best practices for counties to support the educational progress and academic outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness, from cradle to college and career
 - Sample templates, forms, and procedures as defined in state and federal legislation for consistent use within and across county programs to promote collaboration
 - Approaches to increasing school stability for students experiencing homelessness through transportation agreements, policies, and procedures

- Assist COEs to participate in the continuous improvement process by using support service and educational outcome data for students experiencing homelessness
- Deliver ongoing workshops and training, both in person and web-based, for COEs to assist in the application of uniform practices, including identification and wraparound services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Award a subgrant to or contract with a community-based organization (CBO) that is 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, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ+) youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness, and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services

The ISSPO is increasing their staff capacity by hiring two fiscal full-time equivalent staff to ensure that ARP Homeless I funds are sent out in a timely manner. These two staff members will also be responsible for assisting with the tracking and monitoring of these funds. All grant funds include reporting requirements, collection of grant award notifications (GANs), end of year program reports, evaluation of semi-annual expenditure reports, year-end fiscal reports, and data collection specific to the funds. In addition to the two additional fiscal staff, the ISSPO will be increasing program staff to assist with monitoring of ARP-HCY funds and providing technical assistance and support to LEAs.

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 ISSPO's kick-off webinar hosted in May 2021 consisted of an overview of the ARP Homeless I requirements, preliminary allocations, uses of funds, as well as other resources. The webinar included information on how LEAs can work with, contract with, and/or have an agreement with CBOs that provide wraparound services to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and their families. There was an emphasis on connecting families to summer programs, if applicable, and preparing students experiencing homelessness to return to school in the fall as it relates to identification, provisions of school supplies, etc. In July, the ISSPO hosted another webinar that allowed LEAs to discuss their planning and implementation of ARP Homeless I funds throughout the summer and upcoming fall. Three LEAs representing California's regional diversity presented activities and services already implemented, the successes they have experienced thus far, and a discussion of challenges. In addition, they outlined the process through which they are braiding various forms of funding and resources to produce strong and effective programs for homeless children and youth.

The presentation was disseminated to all LEAs receiving EHCY/ARP Homeless I funds. These strategies were added to the ARP-HCY Resource Guide.

The ISSPO has reached out to various members of the California's Homelessness Matters workgroup to provide external feedback and input for the ARP-HCY Resource Guide. This document will be posted on the CDE Resources for Homeless Education's web page, will be presented at future conferences, and will be disseminated through the Homeless Education Resource Listserv.

California added language in our ARP Homeless I GAN to emphasize the importance of collaboration with state and local agencies and other CBOs to provide wraparound services. By adding this language into the ARP Homeless I GAN assurances, it made collaboration a requirement and was signed by each of the ARP Homeless I recipients' Superintendents and/or their designee. Below is an excerpt from California's ARP Homeless I GAN:

The ARP Homeless I Program is authorized in section 2001(b)(1) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. ARP-Homeless Children and Youth funds, which includes the ARP Homeless I Program, supplements the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, and the uses of funds are governed by EHCY allowability. Uses of funds may include, when responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, expenses that are reasonable and necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youth. Grantees are encouraged to award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. The grantee must expend these funds by September 30, 2024.

- 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.**

The CDE's first action to support LEAs was to connect with each of the 121 LEAs that were approved for the 2021–24 EHCY grant funds. We asked the subgrantees to submit a letter of intent (LOI) to demonstrate their willingness and interest in receiving additional funds to support and serve children and youth experiencing homelessness under ARP Homeless I. 120 LEAs out of the 121 submitted an LOI. These funds were allocated to the 2021–24 EHCY subgrantees based on the encouragement indicated on the April 23, 2021, letter from the U.S. Department of Education, as these LEAs were

already planning a homeless education program and had the capacity to utilize these funds immediately. Based on their 2018–19 cumulative homeless enrollment, each LEA subgrantee was allocated a per pupil allocation by the ISSPO. ARP Homeless I GANs were disseminated and contained language to ensure that these funds would supplement their EHCY program and be used in a timely manner to provide services for summer and fall activities and support. The CDE supported these LEAs in the implementation of these funds through a kick-off webinar hosted in May 2021. This webinar consisted of an overview of the ARP Homeless I requirements, preliminary allocations, uses of funds, and re-engagement strategies on how to connect families to summer programs and prepare them for in-person instruction in the fall.

It is important to note that the 2021–24 EHCY RFA aligns to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as it relates to LEAs being awarded EHCY funds based on quality of application, need of program, and other components. Applications were scored based on a rubric and received additional impact points based on the percentage of the total homeless student enrollment to the total LEA student enrollment. Of those 120 LEAs receiving ARP Homeless I funds, 47 are COEs. These COEs support LEAs, including charter schools, by performing tasks that can be done more efficiently and economically at the county level. COEs provide or help formulate new curricula, staff development and training programs, and instructional procedures; design business and personnel systems; and perform many other services to meet changing needs and requirements. In the EHCY RFA, COEs are to use their EHCY funds according to the 16 authorized activities. They are also required to build capacity of all LEAs within their county, including charter schools, regardless of funding. The RFA for COEs' can be accessed on the CDE RFA web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r8/homeless21coerfa.asp> and it states:

Capacity building is the process by which organizations—such as COEs—obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do their jobs competently. It also allows organizations to perform at a greater capacity (larger scale, larger audience, larger impact, etc.). COEs must consider the following activities:

1. Use countywide homeless education data to target professional development activities, build awareness, and address the homeless education needs of LEAs in the county
2. Provide professional development and technical assistance to all homeless liaisons within the county, including charter schools
3. Develop memorandums of understanding with agencies within the community to better serve and support homeless children, youth, and their families
4. Create and disseminate homeless education materials and resources to all community agencies, school districts, and organizations working with homeless children, youth, and their families

5. Include what types of technical assistance, professional development, and other support the COE will provide to all the LEAs in the county within each question in the narrative

The COEs will continue their work, using both EHCY and ARP Homeless I funds, to reach out to those LEAs without EHCY funding, as well as those that might be under-identifying homeless students.

ARP Homeless II:

4. 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

California has reserved the maximum 25 percent of the ARP Homeless II funds to augment the ARP Homeless I state-level activities funds. The ARP Homeless II state-level activities funds will be used to document, evaluate, and disseminate innovative on-going practices to serve students experiencing homelessness and to fund additional HE TACs. These funds will also be used to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of these state-level activities.

The CDE will allocate a portion of its ARP Homeless II state-level funds to select LEAs through a competitive grant process who are developing innovative practices that can be studied, adapted, and shared statewide. These innovative practices would demonstrate the LEA's implementation of the EHCY Program authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 11431 et seq.) Practices would include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Increasing identification and support for children and youth experiencing homelessness through novel procedures
- Implementing professional development for other educators and stakeholders, within or beyond the LEA as well as within the community
- Expanding collaboration and coordination within and across communities to better support and serve homeless children, youth, and their families, including through community schools that provide wrap around support for the whole child
- Demonstrating increased educational outcomes in a variety of ways, including academic progress, attendance, student engagement, graduation rates, attendance, and social emotional wellbeing
- Addressing housing needs (including partnering with local housing organizations to provide long-term solutions to homelessness issues)

- Identifying and serving the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, those who have been engaged in the juvenile justice system, and others with particularly challenging situations
- Identifying evidence-informed strategies to support stability and address systemic inequities that impact students experiencing homelessness

LEAs that receive these funds will be required to share their practices through statewide training, dissemination of resources, and even peer-to-peer consultation.

The CDE will use a portion of ARP Homeless II state-level funds to select additional COEs to be HE TACs. The U.S. Department of Education encouraged SEAs use ARP HCY state-level funds to support training, technical assistance, capacity-building, engagement at the state and LEA levels, and to help LEAs identify and support children and youth experiencing homelessness. The CDE wants to increase the number of HE TACs to facilitate the goals of these funds as well as provide LEAs with real-time activities that have been used to make a difference in the education of homeless students. California is broken up into 58 counties, with approximately 1,700 LEAs statewide, serving close to 250,000 children and youth experiencing homelessness. These additional HE TACs will be positioned throughout the state so that rural, suburban, and urban communities will have immediate access to training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement. Because California is so large with so many homeless children and youth, the CDE felt that four HE TACs would be sufficient to carry out the goals of the ARP HCY state-level funds.

As described in question one, the HE TACs will carry out activities to support all LEAs within the state. In addition, HE TACs will align and strengthen current resources developed by the CDE as it relates to mental behavioral health, attendance, and social-emotional learning, and other activities that support children and youth experiencing homelessness.

All HE TACs will carry out activities from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2024, to all LEAs within the state. The HE TACs will provide support and technical assistance to COEs, to ensure they have the capacity, resources, and the tools required to support all LEAs, regardless of funding, with the implementation of the EHCY Program authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 11431 et seq.), as well as the ARP-HCY. The intention is to have the COE homeless liaisons better support all LEAs within their counties with the implementation of the provisions under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as well as the ARP-HCY. The roles and responsibilities of the HE TAC, include, but are not limited to:

- Create, facilitate, and disseminate the implementation of training materials and resources that outline the needs, challenges and barriers of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Develop and disseminate:

- Strategies for identification, re-engagement to in-person instruction, participation in before and after school programs, and other enrichment activities
- Best practices for counties to support the educational progress and academic outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness cradle to college and career
- Sample templates, forms, and procedures as defined in state and federal legislation for consistent use within and across county programs to promote collaboration
- Approaches to increasing school stability for students experiencing homelessness through transportation agreements, policies, and procedures.
- Assist COEs to participate in the continuous improvement process by using support service and educational outcome data for students experiencing homelessness
- Deliver ongoing workshops and training, both in person and web-based, for COEs to assist in the application of uniform practices, including identification and wraparound services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Award a subgrant or contract to a CBO that is 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

In addition, the CDE will work with the HE TACs to provide targeted technical assistance and support to LEAs that may be under-identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness. The CDE and the HE TACs will be working together to ensure that all LEAs are using the *CDE Housing Questionnaire and Instructions* found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/housingquestionnaire.pdf> or something similar to guarantee all children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified and served. The ISSPO continues to provide technical assistance and professional development regarding identification and data analysis and asks LEAs to compare their number of homeless students enrolled to their number of students qualified for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. The *All About Data and Homeless Education* presentation is posted on the CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youth web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/ehcydataandhe.pptx>.

With the remaining ARP Homeless II state-level funds, the CDE will contract or subcontract with an entity that will conduct numerous services for the CDE such as consulting and technical assistance, evaluation, professional development, and research and development. In addition, these funds will be used to evaluate the overall use of the ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II state-level funds including the implementation of the HE TACs and allocations to LEAs with innovative practices.

5. 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.

The CDE will disseminate ARP Homeless II funds in accordance with the statute. The CDE will also monitor and track expenditures of ARP Homeless II funds. As part of receiving ARP Homeless II funds, LEAs will be required to sign assurances aligned to the requirements of not only ARP-HCY, but also the EHCY program authorized activities. The CDE anticipates that ARP Homeless II assurances will be available to all LEAs to be completed and signed by the fall, and distribution of funds will begin once assurances are received. The CDE is currently compiling the data to meet the formula requirements for allocations to LEAs based on the *ARP Homeless II Notice of Final Requirements*:

The formula is based equally on the proportional share of an LEA's allocation under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) 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. This formula ensures a balance in the distribution of funds to focus on the needs of the LEAs, considering both the LEA's number of low-income students and the number of homeless children and youth. In addition, allowing the use of either the 2018-19 school year or 2019–20 school year homeless counts takes into consideration the potential for undercounting in the 2019–20 school year due to COVID-19 by allowing LEAs to use the greater of the two numbers.

LEAs that do not meet the minimum formula amount of \$5,000 will be required to join a consortium with their COE or another LEA. If the COE does not meet the minimum formula amount, the COE and all LEAs within that county receiving less than the minimum formula amount may have to join a consortium with the LEA that receives the highest allocation of ARP-HCY in that county. It is important to restate the important role of COEs in California. Many of California's COEs—47 out of 58—receive EHCY funds and use them to provide training, technical assistance, and capacity-building to all LEAs, including charter schools, in their counties. This longtime practice has resulted in

coordination, collaboration, and relationship-building among LEAs and COE's homeless liaisons. It has also enhanced the relationship between the CDE's Homeless Education Program staff and the COE liaisons, especially for training purposes, technical assistance, and during natural disasters such as fires, earthquakes, and now COVID-19.

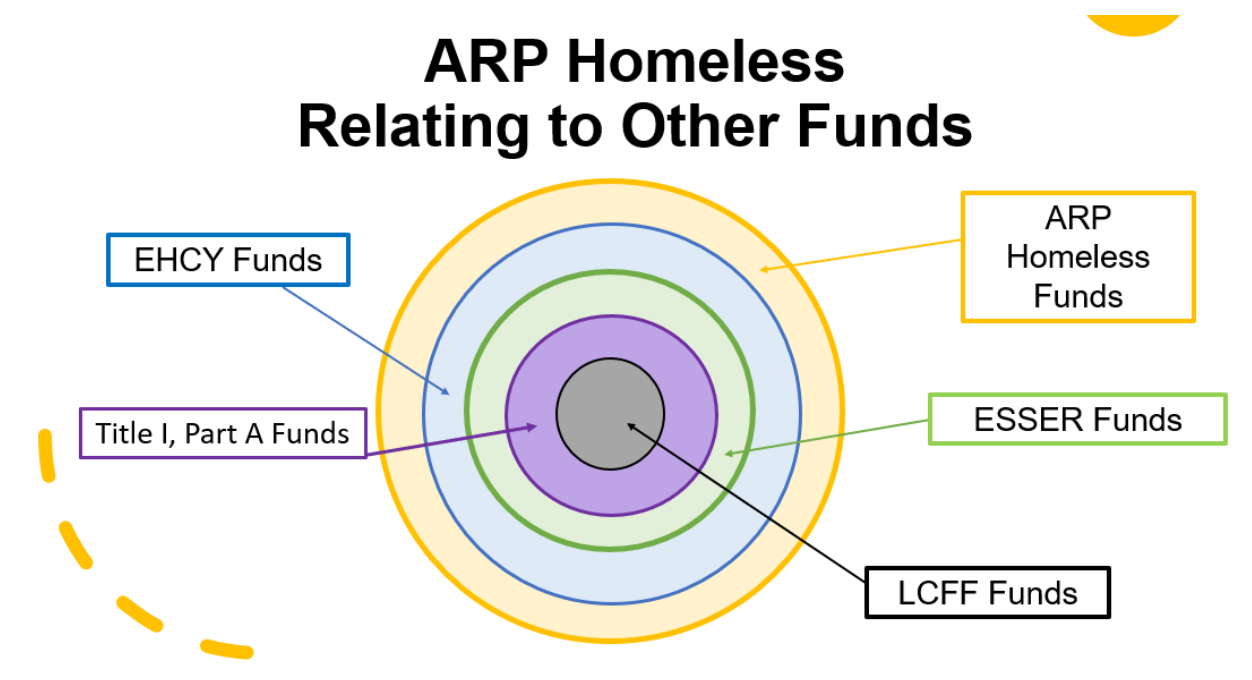
ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II:

6. 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;

The ARP Homeless I funds will be monitored and tracked similarly to how the EHCY supplemental funds are monitored and tracked. The ARP Homeless I GANs have already been disseminated and include assurances stating that LEAs are to use these funds in a supplemental manner using the 16 EHCY authorized activities and the ARP-HCY activities.

The ARP Homeless II funds will be calculated based on the statute's formula, disseminated to all LEAs and consortiums, and monitored. Before funding is allocated, the CDE will collect assurances regarding ARP Homeless II funds. LEAs receiving ARP Homeless II funds will be required to sign these assurances and comply to the requirements of ARP-HCY.

It is important to note that in meetings/webinars that the ISSPO has hosted regarding ARP-HCY, funding and allowable uses of funding have always been discussed. We provide the following infographic to remind LEAs about how these ARP Homeless funds should be used in relation to other federal, state, and local funds.



California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the system that funds California schools, creates funding targets based on student characteristics and provides greater flexibility to use these funds to improve student outcomes. For all LEAs, LCFF funds are considered base funding which then is supplemented by federal funds, then ESSER, etc.

Under LCFF, supplemental and concentration grant amounts are calculated based on the percentage of "unduplicated students" enrolled in the LEA on Census Day (the first Wednesday in October) as certified for Fall 1. The percentage equals unduplicated count of students who (1) are English learners, (2) meet income or categorical eligibility requirements for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program, or (3) are foster youth. Homeless students are automatically deemed to be categorically eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals and, therefore, generate LCFF funds for LEAs.

In addition, the CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youth web page provides an overview of homeless education and Title I legislation and strategies for implementing the allowable uses of Title I funds for students experiencing homelessness at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/allowableexpenses.docx>.

The California ARP ESSER State Plan is committed to providing ongoing efforts to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, particularly for students who have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The California ARP ESSER State Plan highlighted students experiencing homelessness in a variety of ways ensuring that ESSER funds will supplement LEAs existing program as well as meet the needs of our most vulnerable populations. In addition, the CDE used standing opportunities, such as the California Homeless Coordinating and Finance Council, to share information about the plan and encourage participation in the feedback process.

Based on stakeholder feedback, students experiencing homelessness need:

- Academic, social and emotional programs, and mental health supports
- Outreach to identify families experiencing homelessness and ensuring families self-identify as experiencing homelessness in order to connect them with additional resources
- Ensuring student attendance and academic learning engagement in an effort to support learning acceleration
- Access to stable housing and stable food sources for families

One way that the CDE is using these funds is to support students who are experiencing homelessness and foster youth through expanded learning opportunities. These opportunities include after-school programs that are currently prioritizing homeless and foster youth students who have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. In

addition, California's AB 86 provided funding for a learning recovery program for at least the students included in one or more of the following groups: low-income students, English learners, foster youth, homeless students, through the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant.

Lastly, the CDE created a web page that provides information on the federal stimulus funding. It provides detailed guidance related to reporting, allowability, allocations, frequently asked questions, audit information, capital expenditures, and updates on funding. The CDE Federal Stimulus Funding web page can be accessed at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/index.asp>.

7. 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 Homeless Education Program strongly believes that the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act focuses on relationships. Relationships are essential for a homeless liaison to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and their families. Liaisons need to have partnerships and relationships within the LEA as well as out in the community. Liaisons know that relationship building is critical when it comes to working with outside agencies, faith-based organizations, and various collaboratives. As stated earlier, the HE TAC application requires that the COE HE TAC award a subgrant or contract to a CBO that addresses the ARP-HCY requirements. The HE TAC is required to propose and demonstrate how it plans to collaborate and coordinate with a CBO that will identify and connect children and youth experiencing homelessness to educational related supports and wraparound services.

In addition, the HE TAC application requires the applicant to describe how the two entities, the HE TAC and the CBO, will bring together other organizations in the region/state with the same goal of improving the identification, enrollment, retention, and success of homeless children and youth. This collaboration should be an agreement, contract, or subgrant between the HE TAC and the CBO with common goals and outcomes as it relates to serving and supporting other COEs, LEAs, and homeless children, youth, and their families. A Memorandum of Understanding or agreement from the potential CBO will be required to demonstrate the collaboration among the COE and CBO.

The purpose of ARP-HCY funds is to identify homeless children and youth, provide wraparound services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities. Identification is essential, and with the additional staff, the ISSPO has and will continue to focus on providing technical assistance and professional development to all LEAs

with an emphasis on identification and training. ISSPO created a mechanism to identify LEAs under-identifying and possibly under-reporting the number of homeless children and youth enrolled in school. Analyzing data is essential at the local level and the ISSPO has provided webinars, listserv announcements, and presentations (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/ehcydataandhe.pptx>) outlining how LEAs should evaluate and analyze their data to ensure accurate counts. With these additional funds, LEAs will be able to concentrate on their identification practices and procedures as well as their data and data systems.

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

As part of our technical assistance, training, and dissemination of resources, the ISSPO will continue to encourage LEAs to build capacity with organizations and agencies within the LEA, as well as outside. The ISSPO developed a presentation and hosted a webinar on collaboration and coordination on May 12, 2021. The presentation entitled, *Collaboration with Community Partnerships and Service Providers to Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness*, is posted on the CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youth web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/ehcycommunitycollaborate.pptx>. The presentation offers support to LEAs with a step-by-step process to build relationships with local community agencies, organizations, and non-profits. It is important to note, to model working with other agencies, this webinar also included staff from SchoolHouse Connection who discussed best practices and strategies to work with other organizations.

Beginning in May 2021, the ISSPO conducted two interactive sessions with various LEAs to address data needs. This has resulted in homelessness being a part of the CDE Student Group Information web page which will showcase information and data about homelessness that are of public and legislative interest. The web page offers not only resources, definitions, but also data, outcomes, accountability, and quick facts. The Quick Facts tab showcases bar charts and tables displaying homeless student data by program subgroup and homeless enrollment by ethnicity.

The dissemination and posting of the ARP-HCY Resource Guide offers LEAs a variety of ways to identify and support underserved populations experiencing homelessness, including collaborating and coordinating with community agencies. The CDE is very aware of LEAs under-identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness and to mitigate this, the ISSPO presented two *Identification Strategies for Homeless Children and Youth* statewide webinars in August 2021. The presentation can be accessed on the CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youth web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/ehcyidstrategies.pptx>.

To support and inform all LEAs, regardless of funding, the ISSPO is planning its first annual, virtual statewide conference entitled, *Educating California's Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: From Identification to Implementation*. This conference will

be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The ISSPO will provide state and federal updates, as well as provide training opportunities. Homeless liaisons will present on a variety of topics such as Homeless Education 101, relationship/capacity building, data requirements, and collaboration with various housing agencies. During this conference, participants will hear from a youth panel as well as a motivational keynote speaker to build awareness around homeless education, and the importance of identification, enrollment, and support to these children and youth. The goal of the conference is to assist LEAs gain a better understanding of homeless education requirements along with learning best practices for implementation.

Since this statewide conference will be occurring as LEAs are learning about their ARP Homeless II allocations, it is the ISSPO's intent to host another statewide webinar focusing on ARP Homeless II requirements, uses of funds, connecting families to wraparound services, and addressing the impacts to homeless students due to COVID-19. The ISSPO also intends to utilize the HE TAC to:

- Create, facilitate, and disseminate the implementation of training materials and resources that outline the needs, challenges and barriers of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Develop and disseminate:
 - Strategies for identification, re-engagement to in-person instruction, participation in before and after school programs, and other enrichment activities
 - Best practices for counties to support the educational progress and academic outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness cradle to college and career
 - Sample templates, forms, and procedures as defined in state and federal legislation for consistent use within and across county programs to promote collaboration
 - Approaches to increasing school stability for students experiencing homelessness through transportation agreements, policies, and procedures
- Assist COEs to participate in the continuous improvement process by using support service and educational outcome data for students experiencing homelessness
- Deliver ongoing workshops and training, both in person and web-based, for COEs to assist in the application of uniform practices, including identification and wraparound services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Award a subgrant or contract to a CBO that is 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

Lastly, it is essential for pertinent resources, materials, and information to be posted to the CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youth web page. It is also important for LEAs to know that they have somewhere and someone that can assist, support, and inform them as they identify, enroll, serve, and support children and youth experiencing homelessness.