

**Hawaii State Department of Education (Department)  
American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth, State Plan**

**For American Rescue Plan (APR) Homeless I:**

**How the State Education Agency (SEA) has used or will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for State-level activities to provide trainings, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and Local Education 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 2021-2022. This should include the extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an 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.**

As a unitary state, Hawaii does not provide subgrants across the state. Instead, funds are used both at the state level to meet common needs, and via allocations to the 15 complex areas to address locally specific needs.

The ARP Homeless I will be used to build capacity at the state level by establishing Navigator positions in the areas of transportation, re-engagement of students, and early learning. Additional team members will support the efforts of Community Liaisons (CLs) across the state. At the state level, the EHCY team has secured technical support from SchoolHouse Connection, ensuring plans align with ARP-HCY objectives and maximizing the opportunity for stronger, sustainable programming moving forward. Programming and planning were initiated using regular McKinney Vento funds as well as state funds.

In summer 2021, CLs were in the community working with shelters and family-serving agencies to enroll students in school, connect them to early childhood supports, food, vision screening, COVID-19 testing and vaccines, and academic enrichment, as indicated. Summer programming provided in 2021 will expand to school breaks in the 2021-22 school year and will inform future summer opportunities, making use of the ARP-HCY funding. ARP Homeless I funds were not used for these initial activities.

The CLs across the state are establishing relationships with case managers to coordinate wrap-around services for identified students, including housing navigation. The initial work will inform a larger Request For Proposals to seek providers for longer term wrap-around service contracts, as needed.

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Partnership with other state agencies is being explored for this purpose. In addition to housing navigation, wrap-around services may include referral and connection to education and training opportunities for adults, childcare, healthcare and counseling, as needed.

**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 address the collaboration with state and local agencies and other community based organizations.**

At the state level, coordinated efforts include partnering on a whole program level where it makes sense to do so, such as the local Homeless Continuum of Care (COC), homeless youth providers, public libraries, Head Start, Hawaii Food Bank, and the Homeless Programs Office. Technical support is provided to schools to make use of the partnerships as they apply in individual communities. In partnership with a local transportation provider, the EHCY team conducts community outreach in converted school buses and vans. In summer 2021, the program grew from one bus to four, across the state. The mobile outreach program is building relationships with families and providers in the transition back to school. Outreach aims to remove barriers for students and families with regard to access, and makes connections between community-based resources and identified needs. During outreach, parents meet with school officials and complete paperwork for enrollment while children play sports, read books, and make art with partnering agencies and volunteers. ARP Homeless I was not used in summer 2021 activities.

**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 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.**

As a unitary state, Hawaii does not provide subgrants across the state. The plan is to address common areas of need for full school participation (including transportation, early education, and re-engagement) at both a centralized level, and within 15 individual complex areas. For example, an EHCY specialist within the Department's Student Transportation Services Branch will help CLs to

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navigate unique student needs as they arise, and will attend to the bigger picture needs at a systems level, increasing transportation options and improving access moving forward. While the state level will look at policy implications and possible partnerships to increase and sustain services long term, funds and technical support will be allocated to complex areas to meet locally specific student needs. For early education, options for contracting providers are being explored within the early learning community. Similarly, the state team is working within the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) to contribute to a stronger system of engagement based on data from youth and existing providers.

**For ARP Homeless II**

**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.**

A Request for Proposals is being presented to agencies across the state to secure contracts for wrap-around services for students lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Cross-over services will match the Department CLs with family navigators, building capacity of the CLs to help families attain stability. The state EHCY team is working with the COC to strengthen the communication protocols between shelter staff and Liaisons. The CLs are being increasingly integrated into a Multi-Tiered System of Support within schools, to ensure identified students are accessing existing school-based services and that supplemental services are provided as needed.

The ARP Homeless II will work together with ARP Homeless I to build capacity at state level by establishing Navigator positions in the areas of transportation, re-engagement of students, and early learning. Training and technical assistance will be received from National Center for Homeless Education, SchoolHouse Connection, and other national and local organizations, as needed.

**How the SEA will use up to 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**

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**SEA has encouraged or will encourage the creation of consortia for those LEAs that may not meet the required minimum formula amount.**

Since as a unitary system, Hawaii is not subject to the formula rule, funds are distributed to complex areas based on identified needs and complex area plans. The EHCY is connecting to community school efforts across the state, and funds will be allocated to support programming directed at students lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. The EHCY program is providing Bilingual Home/School Assistants in communities with high homeless populations and low English proficiency.

**For both ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II:**

**How the SEA will ensure that ARP-HCY supplements the support and services provided with ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds and does not replace the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.**

The ARP ESSER funds are being used to meet needs for all students across the state. The general focus is on social-emotional learning and mental health, addressing learning loss and chronic absenteeism. The ARP ESSER funds are being used to provide additional tutoring opportunities and trauma-informed services for all students. Appropriate ESSER funds are being reserved for populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and the Department is ensuring that McKinney-Vento students are receiving support to re-engage, attend, and succeed in school.

The ARP-HCY funds are being used to supplement the general support systems, addressing common barriers to attendance and full participation in school due to homelessness. The ARP-HCY funds will be used to ensure McKinney-Vento students have full access to the ESSER services. The ARP-HCY funds will enable substantive outreach in the community and development of hubs for students and families in the communities where they stay, including parks and shelters. There will be a concerted effort to identify young children experiencing homelessness, and to provide opportunities for early education and childcare in preparation for transition to public school.

**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,**

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**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.**

The Department's EHCY program will contract community-based organizations including those focused on the needs of Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians. The ARP-HCY provides an opportunity to contract service providers to assist in identifying students experiencing homelessness who have separated or are at risk of separation from school, with a goal of re-engagement. Partners include community schools, public libraries, adult education and local university and community colleges. In addition, community partners will enable the development of hubs at schools and community centers, providing laundry facilities, access to kitchens, food banks, tutoring, and targeted family engagement and support.

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

Where practicable, contracts will be awarded at the state level. For more community specific needs, complex areas may contract with small agencies specific to the needs of underserved populations in a geographic area. Contracts can expand the capacity of community-based organizations to connect students to school and provide wrap-around services. Some of the islands have low official McKinney Vento counts, despite high poverty and high counts of families staying together in makeshift shelters and overcrowded houses. Collaboration with community-based organizations will assist in identification of eligible families through culturally based relationships. The HIEHCY aims to increase identification in these rural communities.