



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

## MEMORANDUM

TO: US ED Homeless Program Officer

FROM: Cole Dietrich, Director of Title Grants and Support  
Gina Woodward, Homeless Education Specialist

DATE: August 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Indiana ARP ESSER Homeless I & II Plan

Below please find Indiana's state plan for the administration of ARP Homeless I and II funds.

### 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;**

As a result of timelines for funding availability and additional federal funds available to LEAs (ESSER), the SEA did not attempt to additionally fund spring 2021 or summer 2021 school-based supports and interventions using ARP-HCY I state set-aside funds. LEAs reported more significant needs for re-engagement for Fall 2021 and for capacity building to support identification and case management services for McKinney Vento eligible students.

In planning for ARP HCY I state set aside, the SEA used SY2018 and SY2019 homeless enrollment data to identify communities and schools with an existing demonstrated need to support homeless youth in schools. This process confirmed that by targeting supports in 48 school districts representing 23 counties, efforts can reach over 85% of our state-identified MV eligible student population. Using the ARP-HCY I 25% state set-aside, the SEA intends to contract with TransACT Communications / Cayan Systems to provide student-level data management and success planning resources for targeted LEAs through implementation of the Homeless Information Management System for Students (HIMSS). HIMSS will



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

ensure long-term, high impact strategic intervention planning that emphasizes seamless student support, improvement of student outcomes, stabilization of education for youth in transition, and a measurable return on investment. While HIMMS provides support to improve data collection and reporting, the greater benefit comes with the ability to establish info-sharing capacity for students experiencing high rates of transience, coordinate service planning and execution, and focus on success planning through real-time data and review of student outcome data.

Of the 48 identified school districts with highest demonstrated need, 23 have not previously received EHCY funding to support the identified needs of McKinney Vento eligible students enrolled in their schools. By targeting these resources in areas with demonstrated need, we will support previously un-funded districts through strategic collaboration and providing mentoring across districts with more experience as we develop regional communities of improved practice. For these districts, resources provided using ARP-HCY state set-aside will better equip the school community to improve identification, outreach, wrap-around, and case management support. By using data to assess statewide needs, Indiana is specifically implementing interventions that support districts previously unfunded through EHCY.

This intervention includes a long-term plan for sustainability over time using future MV sub-grant state admin funds. The implementation of this project will also provide ongoing TA and training 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**

As a result of timelines for funding availability and additional federal funds available to LEAs (ESSER), the SEA did not attempt to additionally fund summer school-based supports (including wraparound services at the local level) and interventions using ARP-HCY I state set-aside funds. The SEA prioritized making ARP-HCY LEA level funds available immediately for the use of summer school programming and summer wraparound supports. ARP-HCY I LEA applications did include the funding of wraparound services in communities with demonstrated need and for those with an infrastructure that allowed for an immediate increase in these types of supports.

Additional community-based services including health, mental health, basic needs, and case management support services were also funded at the local level through ARP-HCY I. The application process included assessment of the LEAs focus on use of funds to 1) improve / enhance identification / outreach services, 2) coordinate and provide wraparound services through partnerships with CBOs, and 3)



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

identification and elimination of barriers to full and equitable enrollment and participation in all school activities. LEAs communicated that their greater need at the state level was for continuous capacity-building, on-going case management, and navigation to assist families in gaining access to available community services.

State set aside funds for ARP-HCY I and II are helping to broaden the availability of wraparound services across the state as districts fund these services using LEA level ARP-HCY I and II funding. This element is evaluated in both the ARP-HCY I and II LEA applications. SEA level ARP-HCY I and II funds will be used to help schools coordinate access for families, provide case management capacity building and resources. This is done through systems navigation, and program / planning support to districts previously unfunded through EHCY.

By providing support through HIMMS, LEAs will be able to identify which students received intervention, what types of interventions were provided, measure the success of the interventions, track continuous gaps and barriers, and continue to plan for long-term interventions that will address student needs and improve overall student outcomes.

While we recognize that the impact the pandemic has had on our students and families experiencing homelessness is immediate, we want to ensure that our plan addresses the needs that will exist as a result of the pandemic over time. In anticipation of serious impact socially, emotionally and academically, we are establishing the requirement to keep these students in the spotlight and ensure that we continue to provide all available supports as long-term impact is realized.

- 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.**

Indiana prioritized the need for immediate access to ARP-HCY I funding for LEAs to assist with summer program engagement and access to wraparound services. This was accomplished by creating and executing a separate competitive grant application available to all LEAs for local level ARP-HCY I funds. It was important to offer LEAs support based on need rather than only increase support for communities already receiving funds through EHCY sub-grants.



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

The application process emphasized utilizing funds for summer programming (including enrollment, transportation, supplies and outreach) as well as enrolling students in need in community-based programming (wraparound services) during the summer months. LEAs showed a clear focus on getting information to eligible families and improving access to support through the application process.

## 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**

Indiana plans to address the critical need for improved identification and outreach through partnerships with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, regional Continuums of Care, and the Department of Child Services by activating contracted services for Community and School System Navigation (CSSN). This process emphasizes the importance of working across systems to engage families in need with all available supports to “wrap around” students experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

These funds will support systems mapping and coordination, simplifying the process for any youth in need to locate and access available community and school-based assistance. CSSNs will directly assist LEAs with the implementation and effective use of HIMMS. CSSNs will also assist with ensuring access to all available summer, acceleration, and remediation opportunities available to MV eligible youth in local communities. CSSN positions will be contracted and have the potential to be sustained over time through EHCY sub-grant funding at the local level.

- 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.**

Indiana plans to use the ARP-HCY II SEA set aside (25%) to deploy community and school systems navigators (CSSN) to support our districts with highest demonstrated need – CSSNs will provide systems mapping and systems navigation support to identified MV students and will be stationed within one of our partner agencies aligned with CoC work in the area. These services will be contracted in



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

collaboration with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD).

Remaining funds (the 75% balance of ARP-HCY II) will be divided into two parts. Half will go toward a base funding amount, determined by the LEA's Title I allocation formula. The other half will be divided by a MV enrollment per-pupil allocation so that remaining funds are available based on existing demonstration of need.

LEAs who, based on this formula, will receive less than \$5,000 will be offered the opportunity to participate as part of a consortium and have access to available funds with an emphasis on identification and outreach services – IDOE will provide resources and guidance to consortium through recommendations for improving identification and outreach in these communities. The consortium grantee will be one of our education centers (based on the regional location of the majority of consortium eligible LEAs) so that we can assist with coordination and necessary PD to ensure the maximum return on investment for these funds.

LEAs who were awarded funds through ARP-HCY I will have the opportunity to access ARP HCY II funds through the process outlined above as well as having the option to decline the round II funds if they feel as a result of ARP-HCY I their program and intervention needs are met.

## **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;**

As part of the distribution of funds process, IDOE will require all LEAs to submit an ARP-HCY II program plan and draft budget for approval in advance of fund availability. The ARP-HCY II plan documentation will include narrative responses that verify 1) how funds will be used to ensure allowability; 2) how funds will be used to prioritize efforts centered around identification and outreach, wraparound / contracted services and full and equitable participation for MV eligible students in all school events and activities; and 3) a description of how ARP-HCY OO funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, funding allocations previously distributed through federal pandemic relief supports.

Indiana will identify and contract with qualified peer reviewers who will assess qualification for funding based on rubric provided that emphasizes all points provided above. Peer review will be a prerequisite of any funding awarded at the local level.



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

The SEA will ensure that LEAs will use ARP-HCY funds to supplement, not replace, resources that are part of the ARP-ESSER program by 1) requiring applicants to demonstrate understanding and application of this guidance in their drafted plans, 2) score and award funds in accordance with this guidance and expectation, 3) provide on-going technical assistance to funded LEAs to confirm understanding and application of this guidance in practice, and 4) ensure that in all monitoring and end of cycle reporting, the confirmation direct description of how ARP ESSER programs were supplemented through ARP-HCY was measured at the local level.

- 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**

Both ARP-HCY I and II state set-aside funds are planned to provide contracted services. TransACT / HIMMS will provide training, TA, data tracking, evaluation, service planning, and record-sharing among LEAs to support their efforts and to ensure that support and intervention are seamless for MV eligible students in Indiana schools. ARP-HCY II funds will provide contracted services at the local level via regional Continuums of Care and LEAs collaborating to ensure that MV student needs are identified, addressed, and fully supported. Both projects will bridge the need to provide individualized supports while utilizing cross-systems and collaborative resources to ensure all available resources are available and outcomes are measurable.

Knowing and understanding the correlation between high risk of housing insecurity, homelessness, and inclusion in historically underserved student populations, such as rural children, children with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant and parenting youth, is a critical part of offering culturally sensitive and individualized assessment of need, service planning and service provision. Both statewide intervention plans will ensure a rich landscape of resources are both available and accessible based on the unique needs of each student. This plan also prioritizes assessment of impact of intervention and measurable outcomes.

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

IDOE will encourage and assist all LEAs in their planning and strategic implementation to contract with CBOs providing support for historically underserved populations. As part of the application / plan LEAs will be asked to submit for ARP-HCY



## Indiana Department of Education

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Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

II funds allocation, clear emphasis will be outlined regarding 1) identification and outreach, 2) wraparound / contracted services, and 3) full and equitable participation for all school events and activities. In the guidance for eligibility, IDOE will clearly address the need to use one-time pandemic response funding to address the unique and elevated needs of homeless youth in schools. LEAs will be required to include in their proposed plan how they intend to prioritize the unique needs of historically underserved populations.

The planning process will clearly outline the expectation to use funds accordingly - to address those needs that are above and beyond typical barriers to education for homeless youth, specifically the unique needs of historically underserved populations.

The SEA plan for state set-aside funding intends to directly make connections between community-based organizations and students, families, and LEAs demonstrating need through systems navigation (CSSNs). LEAs who do not make the intention to address needs of historically underserved populations clear through the application will receive guidance from the SEA directly, the CSSNs and possibly mentor LEAs who, based on experience, can provide examples of improved or best practices in this area of service. LEA plans will not be approved without this clear indicated in their proposal.

The plan submission document will identify the priority of addressing those additional barriers that exist as a result of the pandemic and focus on how to collaborate and connect with community partners in an effort to level the playing field for students also impacted by housing insecurity and homelessness. LEAs will be required to draft a plan according to identified priorities, sign assurances to maintain the drafted plan throughout execution, and peer reviewers will assure that in order to approve funding, these priorities must be clearly articulated in the LEA plan.