

- a. *Within 60 days from publication of this application, the SEA will submit a plan to [HomelessED@ed.gov](mailto:HomelessED@ed.gov) that contains the following information: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021*

## **Ohio State Plan for American Rescue Plan-Homeless I & II**

### **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.*
  - a. *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.*
  - b. *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;*

The Ohio Department of Education (Department) will reserve 25 percent (\$1,830,901) of American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth grant (ARP Homeless I) for state-level activities. The Department will use ARP Homeless I state-level activities funds to partner with the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio (COHHIO). COHHIO will support professional development for LEAs in a two-tiered approach.

The first tier of COHHIO-led professional development will target the need for building capacity among liaisons including ARP Homeless I subgrantees, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth, also known as McKinney-Vento, (EHCY) subgrantees, and all designated homeless liaisons. Based on targeted needs assessment sessions, the Department identified the need for supports and best practices training for liaisons in identification, retention, and wrap-around supports for students experiencing homelessness. Liaisons reported that a major barrier to identification is the stigma attached to experiencing loss of housing and housing instability. The training will provide strategies to eradicate stigma and remove barriers students and families face when accessing the supports and services available. Participating liaisons will receive training to coordinate with community-based organizations; and provide school-based wrap-around services linked to a whole-child approach to education. Ultimately, this training will develop a network of liaisons ready to support the holistic needs of students experiencing homelessness and a Community of Practice that will provide ongoing peer-to-peer support and collaboration. All participants will be equipped to ensure students are healthy, feel safe, are supported through strong systems and relationships, are

challenged and experience success, and are engaged in learning that is relevant and meaningful.

Ohio has 51 Family and Community Partnership Liaisons employed by educational service centers across the state to build LEAs' capacity to effectively engage with vulnerable students and their families, including students experiencing homelessness. Educational service centers are regional, large-scale service providers offering administrative, academic, fiscal and operational support services to Ohio's school districts, chartered nonpublic schools, community schools, and STEM schools. The liaisons from each center participate in monthly community of practices facilitated by the Ohio State University's Statewide Family Engagement Center. In partnership with the Ohio State University, each liaison completed a needs assessment to identify a focus population. Sixteen educational service centers identified students experiencing homelessness as the priority for LEAs in their service area. These liaisons will be invited to participate in the first tier of professional development hosted by COHHIO to build statewide capacity to support students experiencing homelessness.

The second tier of COHHIO-led professional development will provide quality online professional development for LEAs to use with teachers and school-based personnel in supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness. The training will increase capacity of school personnel to recognize and support students experiencing homelessness and provide more information about historically underserved populations. The suite of online professional development will be tailored to the differing regional experiences of families experiencing homelessness so that schools feel connected to the material and see their community reflected in the training.

The state homeless education coordinator supported LEAs in planning to provide wrap-around services in Spring 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year by providing technical assistance and information sessions. The state homeless education coordinator worked with the eligible pool of LEAs to apply for the ARP Homeless I funds and utilize ARP Homeless II funds. Office hours provided by the state homeless education coordinator allowed eligible and interested applicants to learn about the application process, allowable uses of funds, and ask pertinent questions. For the 2021-2022 school year, the state homeless education coordinator will join with the contracted service provider, COHHIO, to support the capacity-building efforts in all LEAs. These efforts will include regularly scheduled webinars, newsletters, and other supports and services to ensure all ARP Homeless I subgrantees are confidently serving the local homeless population. To expand the state-level capacity to provide technical assistance, the Department will also hire a part-time, three-year contractor to support homeless education coordination using ARP Homeless I state-level activities funds. In addition, in order to build the capacity of Ohio's LEAs (including those who have not received EHCY subgrant funding in the past, the Department will make COHHIO-led training widely available to all

EHCY liaisons that will cover best practices for serving homeless students and how newly awarded funds may be used to support best practices.

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 wrap-around services for summer 2021, in collaboration with State and local agencies and other community-based organizations;*

The Department is working with nine other SEAs as part of the National Summer Learning Association and Council of Chief State School Officers collaborative network. The goal of the work is to lead in the development of community, system-wide strategies for summer learning. Recent work includes the development of a stakeholder group to identify needs and priorities for summer enrichment and afterschool supports. These priorities will specifically include the needs of Ohio's homeless students. The network and Department representatives conducted a needs assessment and developed a long-term vision for this strategic work. In alignment with the Department's ARP-ESSER [plan](#), the Department will provide grants to community-based organizations to implement evidence-based intervention, grants to regional ESCs to support LEAs, and state-led evaluation and supports. This work is ongoing through summer and fall 2021.

ARP-Homeless I subgrantees submitted plans to focus on learning loss and social and emotional needs during summer 2021. Subgrantees planned to:

- offer tutoring services at local shelters;
- partner with neighboring LEAs for students needing credit recovery assistance;
- provide financial support for summer programming that is not already being offered by partner LEAs;
- designate locations in the community for summer learning opportunities, verification of continued eligibility for ECHY support services, and to distribute school supplies for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year;
- offer check-in times with the local liaison;
- distribute technology supports such as iPads and wireless hotspots;
- pay camp fees;
- utilize a data outreach assistant to facilitate needs assessments; and
- fund stipends for staff to offer trauma-informed summer wellness check-ins.

The Department offered support, guidance, and facilitated collaboration between LEAs and community-based organizations throughout summer 2021 in response to inquiries from LEAs and subgrantees. This commitment will continue throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

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.*

- a. *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,*
- b. *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),*
- c. *and how it has or will ensure that supports from ARP Homeless I can urgently reach them.*

Ohio will distribute 75 percent of ARP Homeless I funds to LEAs. Thirty-nine eligible applicants were invited to apply based on their current or past status as EHCY subgrantees or current competition year EHCY subgrant applicant. All past and current EHCY subgrantees were awarded based upon needs defined by the number of reported homeless children and youths enrolled in early childhood education and other preschool programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools within the area served by the LEA. Eligible applicants also have knowledge and infrastructure to best serve the higher concentrations of students experiencing homelessness as recipients of EHCY subgrants. Applicants were asked to use local data to plan for identification, enrollment, retention, educational success, and wrap-around supports using the additional funds. Thirty applicants were equally funded with an award of \$183,090.15. Eleven of the ARP-Homeless I grantees are also EHCY subgrantees. The EHCY subgrantees plan to use ARP-Homeless I funds to supplement and expand already existing EHCY budgets and plans.

The Department analyzed the pool of eligible applicants and determined that the distribution of grantees represent the diverse geography of the state and serve significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness. The thirty subgrantees represent rural, suburban, and urban communities. The ARP Homeless I subgrantees include five ESCs that serve multiple rural LEAs and include eight major urban LEAs. A request for applications was presented to applicants in late spring of 2021 and a modified competition was convened and applicants were notified of awards in late May. Funds were available to awardees on August 31, 2021. The Department is working diligently to provide supports and funds from ARP Homeless I to subgrantees. The Department will load funds in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), a unified grants application and verification system and subgrantees will have access to funds through the system. Many subgrantees are using their funds to support a housing navigator to help families find safe and adequate housing urgently. The housing navigators will also target individualized wrap-around support for families that may have otherwise gone undetected without this relationship.

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;*

The Ohio Department of Education will distribute 75 percent of the funds directly to LEAs by formula. After this distribution, the Department will focus efforts to use state-level activity ARP Homeless II funds to (1) help identify children and youth experiencing homelessness throughout Ohio; (2) provide subgrants to LEAs, early learning centers, and high school (secondary) career-technical centers that were not awarded funds as part of the formula allocation; and (3) provide subgrants to ESCs who have identified serving homeless children and youth as a focus through needs assessment as part of ESSER I-funded family and community programming.

State-level activities will increase awareness, provide supports in areas that historically under-report children and youth experiencing homelessness, and target additional resources to regional centers that are growing in their capacity to meet the local needs of schools. The Department will engage in a statewide media awareness campaign to increase awareness of the definition of homelessness and the availability of targeted supports in schools. This campaign will be targeted to students and families using marketing strategies to reduce stigma and raise awareness. Ohio will provide additional support to LEAs that experience increased identification because of these efforts by offering funds through subgrants to provide wrap-around services to newly identified children and youth. The Department will also offer this subgrant opportunity to partners in early learning and high school (secondary) career technical education. As identified in the ECHY reauthorization, these programs serve special populations that often experience homelessness that are outside the reach of the formula and the subgrants will allow schools to provide support to preschool children and unaccompanied youth in high school (secondary) career technical education programs.

Finally, through the Educational Service Center Family and Community Partnership Liaison project, Ohio will provide subgrants to ESCs that have identified students experiencing homelessness as a priority need. The liaisons participate in monthly communities of practice facilitated by the Ohio State University's Statewide Family Engagement Center. In partnership with the Ohio State University, each liaison completed a needs assessment to identify a focus population. Sixteen educational service centers identified students experiencing homelessness as the priority for LEAs in their service area. These additional funds will be awarded by a subgrant to be used to fill identified funding gaps in services provided at the regional level, with an emphasis on capacity-building for regional technical assistance.

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.*

The Department will use the required formula to ensure that all LEAs eligible for ARP-Homeless II funds receive them promptly. As with other formula grants managed by the state, allocations will be determined using the Title I formula and the homeless count. All of Ohio's LEAs will be notified of the amount of their allocation by formula by the Department. The Department's notification will include the encouragement to LEAs who fall below the \$5,000 threshold to join a consortium. The Department will respond to inquiries about how to form and join a consortium. All LEAs will need to respond to the notification of funds by a Fall 2021 deadline. LEAs receiving over \$5,000 will express their desire to accept or decline the funds. LEAs that do not meet the \$5,000 threshold will opt-in to receiving funds by naming their consortium fiscal agent or opt-out by a Fall 2021 deadline.

The Department will load funds in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), a unified grants application and verification system based upon LEA responses. The ARP Homeless II funding application in CCIP will require LEAs to submit the budget and budget details for their use of funds. Along with assurances listed for approval, two narrative responses will be required. One response will capture how the LEA is using ARP ESSER funds to support homeless students and one will ask the LEA how they are engaging with community-based organizations to support students and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the ARP Homeless II application will include a text box for the LEA to describe how they plan to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness first through ARP ESSER. The Department will review responses to ensure proposed budgets sufficiently supplement ARP ESSER spending before granting final approval. An assurance that ARP Homeless I and II does not replace but supplement funds used to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness will be a part of the application budget details page. LEA representatives will check that they agree to this requirement before funds are made available.

Allowable uses of funds will be listed on the budget details page. LEAs will be provided state-level guidance on the allowable uses of funds and all LEAs will be directed to the resources available to liaisons to identify the best uses of funds. Resources will be made available to LEAs on best practices for using funds to engage community-based organizations as partners in providing wrap-around services to children and youth experiencing homelessness.

**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.*

The Department will provide technical supports to LEAs on the requirement that ARP-Homeless funds are supplemental to ARP ESSER funds. Technical assistance will

include communication and guidance to the LEA that highlights the importance of mindful budget planning that does not supplant, but supplement existing programs.

The ARP Homeless I application included the following assurance: "The LEA or educational service center will ensure services provided with this subgrant will supplement, expand, improve upon or provide access to services provided as part of a school's academic or extracurricular program but not replace such services." All subgrantees signed to indicate this policy is in place in order to access funds.

Additionally, the ARP Homeless II application will include a text box for the LEA to describe how they plan to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness first through ARP ESSER. The Department will review responses to ensure proposed budgets sufficiently supplement ARP ESSER spending before granting final approval. An assurance that ARP Homeless I and II does not replace but supplement funds used to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness will be a part of the application budget details page. LEA representatives will check that they agree to this requirement before funds are made available.

Annual monitoring of the ARP-Homeless I and ARP-Homeless II grantees will include a question and review of how the LEA is using ARP-HCY funds to supplement 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.

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 wrap-around services; and*

The Department will contract with the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio (COHHIO) to support the creation of a Community of Practice-Statewide Supports that will engage all local homeless liaisons and produce on-demand and live training for school-based personnel. COHHIO will lead webinars to increase awareness, identification, and support for historically underserved populations of students, in partnership with experts representing these populations. The Department has identified the need for resources tailored to identification in differing communities throughout Ohio. Training will be designed to offer spotlights on historically underserved populations including rural children and youth, students of color, children, and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness. Training will be combined with facilitated live discussion opportunities to allow liaisons and school personnel to share best practices for providing relevant educationally-related support and wrap-around

services that address the differing needs of these populations. All developed resources will be shared with the Ohio State University Family and Community Engagement Center and in turn, will be distributed in a targeted manner to the 51 Educational Service Center Family and Community Partnership Liaisons to support family engagement in the state. Subgrants will also be provided to 16 of the ESC Family and Community Engagement Liaisons, funded through ARP Homeless II state activities, to support the identified need to establish coalitions between LEAs and community partners to provide wrap-around services to students experiencing homelessness. Subgrants will be used to support the ESC Family and Community Partnership liaisons' coalition activities to increase identification of homeless students and wrap-around services for students experiencing homelessness.

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

The Department will use state activity funds to partner and contract services with COHHIO. One of the contract deliverables is to create a state-level Community of Practice. Through the state-level Community of Practice initiative, LEAs will be encouraged to collaborate with local community-based organizations including those that help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. The LEA will be introduced to many community partners through the Community of Practice webinars and best practices for working with community partners to provide wrap-around services. In addition to the Community of Practice webinar series, the state coordinator will also conduct several webinars to expand awareness, identification, and support to historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.

COHHIO will conduct webinars for the cohort of ARP Homeless I subgrantees that will combine technical support and facilitated conversation to problem-solve issues around increasing awareness, identification, and support for students experiencing homelessness. Four additional webinars will be scheduled throughout the year to engage the wider audience of all EHCY local liaisons. Facilitated discussions will support best practices for not only identification but also retention and wrap-around services needed for students and families experiencing homelessness.

External stakeholders (many from community-based organizations) will be invited and featured to assist local liaisons in understanding how external stakeholders assist families and students experiencing homelessness in meaningful ways. Webinars will help LEAs bridge the gap between community efforts and LEA needs. The COHHIO-led training will help LEAs identify areas of need and connect them with organizations that work to meet those needs. With COHHIO's collaborative training, the Department will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations.

In addition to representatives from LEAs, Ohio's 51 Family and Community Partnership Liaisons will be provided the COHHIO training and will understand the services

available in their community to support students experiencing homelessness and can award contracts to community-based organizations as needed. The Family and Community Partnership Liaisons are employed by educational service centers across the state to build LEAs' capacity to effectively engage with vulnerable students and their families, including students experiencing homelessness. Family and Community Partnership Liaisons will serve as a facilitator to build LEA capacity to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness and connect identified needs with community resources.