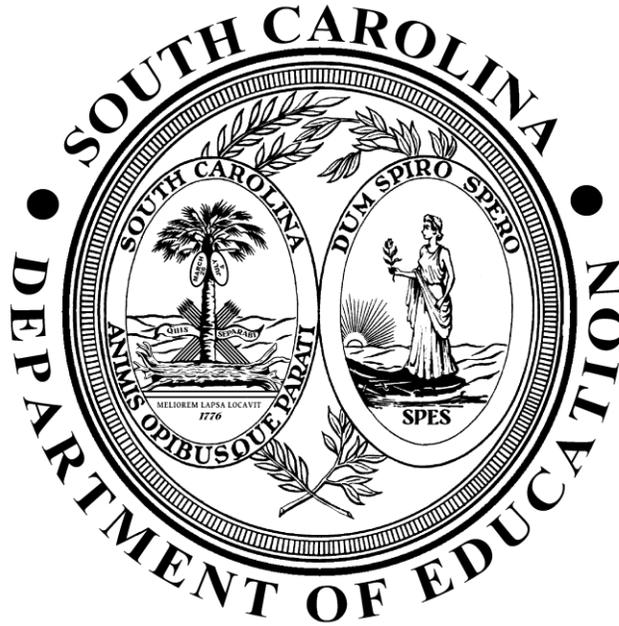


STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



**American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief
Fund—Homeless Children and Youth (HCY)**

South Carolina Department of Education ARP-HCY Plan

Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, section 2001(b)(1), and administered by the
South Carolina Department of Education.

September 7, 2021

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American Rescue Plan – Education of Homeless Children and Youth - Part B: Programmatic, Fiscal, and Reporting Assurances

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PART B: PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES

The Chief State School Officer or his/her authorized representative assures the following:

- a. Funds awarded under this application (ARP Homeless II) will adhere to the final requirements at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/07/EO-12866-OESE-FY-21-NFR-ARP-HCY-with-disclaimer.docx>.
- b. The SEA will award at least 75% of its total allocation to LEAs, based on the formula set out in the final requirements. The funds remaining after subgrants are made to LEAs may be used by the Office of the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth for State-level activities as reflected in sections 722(f) and (g) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- c. The SEA will comply with, and ensure that LEAs comply with, all reporting requirements at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including but not limited to the requirements under the McKinney-Vento Act, and including but not limited to numbers of students experiencing homelessness identified and supported through ARP-HCY funding, and specific details about supports and services received by students.
- d. Within 60 days from publication of this application, the SEA will submit a plan to HomelessED@ed.gov that contains the following information:
 - i. For ARP Homeless I:
 1. How the SEA has used or will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for State-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming in 2021. This must include how the SEA has supported LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies for immediate needs this spring 2021, and how it will support LEAs for school year 2021-2022. This should include the extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past in order to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II;
 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
 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

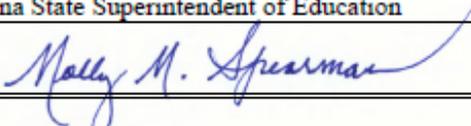
EHCY subgrantees), and how it has or will ensure that supports from ARP Homeless I can urgently reach them.

ii. For ARP Homeless II:

1. How the SEA will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for State-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies, for school year 2021-2022; and
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.

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

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):	
Molly M. Spearman South Carolina State Superintendent of Education	
Signature: 	Date: 15 July 2021

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund—Homeless Children and Youth (HCY)

South Carolina Department of Education ARP-HCY Plan

***Prompt 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.*

After seeing a steady increase in the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness identified in South Carolina public schools over the past decade, in the 2019–20 school year, the first year of the pandemic, the number identified decreased by 6.09 percent. As a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, homeless children and youth have been under-identified since the pandemic began and, as a result, may not have received all the services and supports needed due to school closures and the abrupt shift to a virtual model of school instruction. Therefore, it is imperative that the SEA and LEAs collaborate to grow McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Programs (MVP), using evidence-informed and evidence-based knowledge and practice to expand and strengthen programs. The unprecedented amount of funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP Homeless I) will allow additional state-level activities to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, interagency collaboration, and engagement at the SEA and LEA levels so that wrap-around services may be provided to address immediate needs, as well as to provide proactive and differentiated support for LEAs that have not received an Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) subgrant in the past.

Intentional and strategic planning is essential at all levels to prepare for the expansion of MVP throughout the state with the ARP-HCY funds. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) will utilize ARP-HCY funds to provide the McKinney-Vento Program office with technical assistance (TA) and guidance through principles of implementation science to build readiness and capacity for the expansion of state and local level activities. Provisions of TA and guidance will strengthen MVP to address the critical need of improved identification and outreach for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Outcomes for the SCDE:

- Build sustainable systems and methods to improve outreach and identification of homeless children and youth.
- Implement a service delivery model that will best meet the needs of serving homeless children and youth.

- Develop “readiness” for capacity building at through TA and professional development as needed.

The SCDE will strategically utilize and leverage the ARP Homeless I reservation to invest in capacity building by hiring temporary grant staff, contractors, procuring MOUs, or offering subgrants to develop and implement systems and procedures using best practices to improve wrap-around services provided to homeless children and youth.

- The core of the planning process is effective use of data. To create the most relevant statewide plan, the SCDE MVP will conduct a statewide comprehensive needs assessment for students experiencing homelessness to identify areas of greatest need.
 - Gather and analyze longitudinal data. A review of the data will help identify areas for needed improvement as well as lead to establishing measurable goals to assess progress. The SCDE MVP will request approval to contract for a baseline statewide needs assessment.
- Establish a McKinney-Vento Advisory Council, to consist of internal and external stakeholders. Internal members will include partners, such as a representatives from South Carolina Migrant Education Programs (SCMEP); Title III; Title I, Part A (including foster care); Title I, Part D; early learning and literacy; food and nutrition; school safety/discipline; the Office of Special Education Services; transportation; and Career and Technical Education (CTE). External members may include partners from non-profit and government sectors, such as McKinney-Vento liaisons, Head Start and early Head Start, the Department of Social Services, Continuum of Cares (CoCs), shelters, higher education agencies, law enforcement, and agencies serving homeless children and youth.
 - When feasible, the SCDE will include parents and/or youths who currently or recently experienced homelessness and create paid position(s), so the council can include McKinney-Vento youth and parent voices to ensure our efforts are inclusive, equitable, and relevant.
- Results of the comprehensive needs assessment will be shared with the Advisory Council for the SCDE MVP Statewide program planning and to guide continued program growth and improvement.
- The SCDE MVP will hire SEA Temporary Grant Employee (TGE) MVP Community Navigator to identify federal, state, and community level services, supports, and programs and understand how to successfully access these systems. The MVP Community Navigator will develop and implement professional development (PD) for MVP staff and LEA liaisons.
- The SCDE MVP will hire SEA level MVP Contractor to develop and implement PD for LEAs on using the MVP self-assessment to improve LEA program development.
- The SCDE MVP will hire SEA level TGE MVP Regional Coordinators to provide support through training, technical assistance, and capacity building to MVP district liaisons to improve outreach and identification.
- Develop MOUs with SCMEP to provide supplemental funding to SCMEP state-level activities to assist with the identification of migratory children and youth experiencing homelessness.

- Partner with community-based organizations to coordinate the identification of youth experiencing homelessness, with a focus on historically underserved populations.
- Partner with national organizations to provide technical assistance and capacity building for SEA and LEA leaders on identifying and supporting youth and families experiencing homelessness.
- The SCDE MVP worked to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past by inviting those LEAs to apply for a simple noncompetitive subgrant to assist districts with implementing spring, summer, and early fall 2021 activities for McKinney-Vento students to address identification and outreach to meet the immediate needs of the students, to connect with summer learning and enrichment programs, and to provide readiness for the 2021–22 school year. A secondary goal was to help prepare LEAs without previous EHCY subgrants to utilize the ARP Homeless II funds. Seven LEAs applied, and all were awarded funds. These subgrants were provided out of SEA EHCY administrative funds.

Prompt 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.*

Due to the effects of the pandemic, not all planned activities and initiatives provided through MVP funding were carried out at the SEA and LEAs levels. The initial ARP Homeless I SEA level activities were provided with MVP administrative funds.

- All EHCY subgrantees and non-subgrantees were offered supplemental funding to increase their capacity to identify and provide wrap around services, for students experiencing homelessness in the spring, summer, and early fall of the 2021–22 school year.
- Beginning April 2020, the SCDE MVP periodically surveyed MV liaisons on their needs and the current needs of their student's experiencing homelessness. The surveys guided virtual discussions, sharing of best practices with peers, and professional development.
- The SCDE MVP provided professional development to inform and connect LEA liaisons to local and statewide resources for McKinney-Vento families: SC Housing and Local CoCs for accessing local supports and resources for housing and other immediate basic needs.
- The SCDE MVP provided additional professional development/resources the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) and SchoolHouse Connection (SHC) to LEAs on identification and outreach during the pandemic, housing resources, technical assistance for best practices, and understanding the McKinney-Vento law.
- The SCDE MVP is part of a team at the SCDE that is implementing the use of a new Enrollment Survey (ES) for LEAs. The ES will allow for improved identification for special populations such as McKinney-Vento, multilingual learners, immigrant, and migratory students.
- During the spring of 2021, the SCDE MVP regularly collaborated with the SCMEP. This included outreach work for improving identification by visiting families to assist with determining eligibility for SCMEP and McKinney-Vento status. Such collaborative

outreach also facilitated referrals for SCMEP liaisons. Referrals were made to local programs and specific contacts for McKinney-Vento resources to enhance services for migratory children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Prompt 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.*

To expedite the distributions of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I funds, the SCDE MVP is distributing 75 percent to the 21 existing EHCY subgrantees to address the current needs of students experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

The purpose of the subgrant is to:

- improve identification of students experiencing homelessness by increasing program capacity (i.e., by hiring staff),
- provide wrap-around services given the challenges of COVID-19, and
- provide assistance for homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

During the 2018–19 school year, South Carolina had 86 LEAs eligible for EHCY subgrant funds. The 21 existing EHCY subgrants represent 72 percent of the enrolled public-school students identified as experiencing homelessness. Awarding ARP Homeless I funds to existing EHCY subgrantees will allow for more rapid fund distribution to and will ensure that areas with significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness in South Carolina have access to these funds in a manner consistent with EHCY requirements, to address urgent needs of children and youth.

Prompt 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.*

The SCDE MVP will use ARP Homeless II funds for the following state level activities that will support SEA and LEA activities:

- The SCDE MVP Conference 2022 will be held to provide professional development to liaisons and other LEA staff who work with children and youth who are experiencing homelessness. Breakout sessions will include PD provided by other offices within the SEA, external state agencies, and community agencies to encourage collaboration.

- The SCDE MVP will provide targeted professional development to new MV liaisons.
- The SCDE MVP will continue to host monthly meetings to provide current resources for LEAs and support collaboration with community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide robust wraparound services for children and families experiencing homelessness.
- The SCDE MVP will provide a monthly office hour specifically for ARP-HCY discussions to encourage peer-to-peer collaboration and the sharing of best practices.
- Build capacity at the state level to support LEAs so they can expand and improve their MVP program.
 - Hire SEA level TGE MVP Community Navigator to identify federal, state, and community level services, supports, and programs and understand how to successfully access these systems. The MVP Community Navigator will develop and implement PD for appropriate staff at the State and local level.
 - Hire SEA level MVP Contractor to develop MVP self-assessment tool and implement PD on using the assessment to improve LEA program protocol.
 - Hire SEA level TGE MVP Regional Coordinators to provide support through training, technical assistance, and capacity building to MVP district liaisons to improve outreach and identification.
 - Hire additional TGE or contract with CBOs or Educational Consultants if needed to meet ARP goals.
- Utilize knowledge of best practices for wraparound services for children, youth and families experiencing homelessness.
- The SCDE MVP will engage the McKinney-Vento Advisory Council for updated needs assessments, programmatic development, implementation, and evaluation.

Prompt 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 SCDE will use 75 percent of its ARP Homeless II funds and distribute accordingly as a noncompetitive award. The formula used is the required formula from the United States Department of Education (USED). Out of the 82 eligible South Carolina school districts, only three do not meet the minimum formula requirements and must follow the consortia mandate. The SCDE MVP will ensure that any districts that do not meet the minimum formula requirement will create consortiums. SCDE MVP will provide support and guidance for all consortiums created to maintain accountability, using standards of best practice.

Prompt 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 SCDE MVP will share information with LEAs regarding the state level ARP ESSER activities. Additionally, LEAs will be required to review their individual ARP ESSER plans and activities to ensure that ARP Homeless I and II funds remain supplemental.

At the LEA level, a *supplement, not supplant* provision was included in the ARP Homeless I and II RFP:

“Supplement, Not Supplant

ARP Homeless I subgrant funds must supplement, not supplant, existing services provided by the McKinney-Vento EHCY subgrant program or ESSER program funding. ARP Homeless I subgrant funds may not be used to supplant other federal, state, local, or non-federal funds. Subgrant funds may supplement the support and services provided with ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds; however, these subgrant funds cannot be used to replace (i.e., supplant) the use of ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Note that ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER; i.e., ESSER III) funds require an LEA to reserve a minimum of 20 percent of their ESSER III funds for activities to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions; these interventions can serve students experiencing homelessness. While the ARP Homeless I subgrant can supplement the support and services an LEA provides with ESSER III funds, the ARP Homeless I subgrant must not replace the use of ESSER III funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.”

Due to the supplemental requirement of the ARP Homeless I and II funds, the RFP requests that applicants indicate any matching and/or in-kind funding, such as ESSER III, McKinney-Vento, and Title I, Part A Homeless set-aside funds, although matching funds are not required.

Finally, the SCDE will monitor LEAs and provide technical assistance for the *supplement not supplant* provisions of ARP Homeless I and II.

Prompt 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.*

The SCDE will

- Explore new and improved avenues to enhance wraparound services for children and youth experiencing homelessness, particularly the historically underserved populations listed in the prompt above.
- Collaborate with statewide programs/initiatives to enhance access to services for children and youth experiencing homelessness. If advantageous, award contracts, subgrants, MOUs or other appropriate agreements with CBOs to identify and improve services for children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.
- Network with key organizations and statewide initiatives that will aid in supporting historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.

- Provide LEAs with information on opportunities for contracting with local CBOs that provide wrap-around services for children and families within their district.
- Develop MOUs with SCMEP and provide supplemental funding to SCMEP state-level activities to assist with the identification of migratory children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Develop protocols and resources to increase LEAs' capacity for timely and accurate identification of migratory students experiencing homelessness.

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

During the application process for ARP Homeless I and II, LEAs were encouraged to collaborate and, when feasible, contract with CBOs to identify and serve historically underserved populations who are experiencing homelessness. The SCDE MVP will facilitate monthly virtual meetings during the 2021–22 school year for all LEAs and introduce local and statewide resources available to increase opportunities for students and families experiencing homelessness. The SCDE MVP will facilitate collaboration and encourage LEAs to award contracts, subgrants, MOUs, or other appropriate agreements with CBOs to help identify and improve services for historically underserved children and youth experiencing homelessness.