

# THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN— HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH, I AND II

*Washington State Plan*

**2021**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARP-HCY I STATE PLAN: PROMPT #1: ARP HOMELESS I.....	3
ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #2: ARP HOMELESS I.....	5
ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #3: ARP HOMELESS I.....	6
ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #4: ARP HOMELESS II.....	7
ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #5: ARP HOMELESS II.....	8
ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #6: ARP HOMELESS I and ARP HOMELESS II.....	9
COORDINATING ARP-HCY STATE PLANS WITH ARP ESSER STATE PLANS.....	9
ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #7: ARP HOMELESS I and ARP HOMELESS II.....	13
ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #8: ARP HOMELESS II.....	14
APPENDIX: .....	14

## ARP-HCY I STATE PLAN: PROMPT #1: ARP HOMELESS I

*How the SEA has used or will use up to 25 percent of funds awarded under ARP Homeless I for Statelevel 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.*

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has set aside the full 25% allowable amount from ARP-Homeless I funds to provide training, technical assistance, capacitybuilding and engagement at the state and local levels, including support to increase access to summer programming in 2021. The SEA has supported LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services to address immediate needs in spring 2021 and into the coming 2021–22 school year. To ensure timely implementation of these supports, OSPI is entering into a contract with a prominent community-based organization whose mission is to “advance equitable responses to homelessness in Washington state, with a focus on children, youth, and families and the systems that serve them.” As the contractor is well-known by LEA liaisons across the state and has worked with state and local agencies in the past, the contractor is positioned to support LEAs in planning for and providing wrap around services through training, technical assistance, outreach and resource development. The contractor plans to coordinate efforts to reach out to community partners and bring LEAs together with community-based organizations (CBOs) that offer community wraparound services such as housing, food, medical support, re-location services, childcare, and other services. The combined efforts of OSPI and the contractor under this plan will provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the state and LEA levels through the following specific activities:

- **Analyzing and sharing data and research on student homelessness in Washington state.** Currently, homeless student data is collected and analyzed at OSPI and made publicly available on our website. The contractor will utilize the skills of their staff to enhance OSPI data by applying additional analysis, writing reports, creating info-graphics and developing materials for the state, LEAs, and the broader field to ensure the data is being used to not only inform, but also improve LEA programs and accelerate learning.
- **Provide specific technical assistance and capacity-building support to LEAs for addressing the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness.** OSPI and contractor(s) will identify strategies and best practices and develop tools through listening sessions, question and answer opportunities following training, gathering feedback provided through OSPI office hours, and combined meetings with partners such as state agencies, schools and community organizations. Tools may include print materials for school staff and parents, homeless data reports, directories of services available in

communities, information on how to connect with assistance available throughout regions or communities, how to work with local housing providers, and other tools.

- **Providing ongoing training on a variety of topics to supplement the current OSPI training.** Training will include, but will not be limited to, navigating the housing system, navigating the school system, school/housing community partnerships, diversion training, and serving underserved student populations. Local liaison training is scheduled for October 2021 in partnership with SchoolHouse Connection to further support LEAs. An emphasis on mitigating the effects of learning loss due to COVID and improving student educational outcomes is a priority for all training.
- **Connecting community-based organizations (CBOs) with school districts in an effort to better coordinate wrap-around services, housing access, and referrals for service.** These connections may be made through coordinated meetings and webinars, listening sessions, training to better understand the roles of various entities, and outreach to existing partners that have already shown success in coordinating with LEAs such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, local Educational Service Districts, the faith community, and other CBOs.
- **Increasing outreach and coordination related to underserved populations; including students of color, English language learners, immigrants, and other underserved groups.** OSPI is dedicated to provide supports to and in schools and communities impacted by the influx of refugees from Afghanistan, students attending tribal schools, immigrants, and students of color. Outreach activities may include webinar training, online materials, community resource development, and direct outreach to CBOs that are poised to work with LEAs.
- **OSPI will also build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past to ensure they are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II. OSPI will provide targeted technical assistance to selected LEAs that have not received homeless education grant funding previously.** The emphasis of this targeted technical assistance will be to support the needs of LEAs that have not received homeless education funding in the past and may not have strong homeless education programs, do not fully understand the requirements and best practices around implementation of their homeless education program, lack capacity, and/or have never received funding beyond basic education or Title I dollars to serve children and youth experiencing homelessness. This targeted technical assistance will include office hours, trainings, individual and group meetings, enhanced training for specific communities/regions, coordinated gatherings between LEAs and community resources, and increased support and training related to basic EHCY compliance and program implementation.

In partnership with OSPI, the contractor will work statewide to bolster supports for students and families experiencing homelessness with the intention of improving coordination and initiating systemic change and program improvements that will be sustained beyond the ARP-Homeless I and ARP-Homeless II grant period. Because the ARP-Homeless I LEA grant funds were not made available to districts until July 1, 2021, and most LEAs did not submit proposed subgrant budgets

until mid-to late-summer, the bulk of the state level activities will occur during the 2021–22 school year and beyond. Spring and summer 2021 activities focused on planning and contracting; however, OSPI was proactive in communicating with LEAs regarding the availability of funds by offering office hours two times per month to answer questions to clarify the purpose and intent of the ARP-Homeless I funding, and by presenting subgrantee information at a remote meeting with all ARP-Homeless I subgrant recipients (see Appendix A) in spring 2021 to discuss funding details and the application process. Additional information was disseminated through a live webinar for subgrant recipients in the spring of 2021 and OSPI disseminated ongoing Gov Delivery notices (a targeted email listserv for LEAs) to all LEAs regarding important additional flexibility allowed for McKinney-Vento and ARP-Homeless I funds through spring and summer 2021. This flexibility applied to expenditures that may not have been allowable with past EHCY funds, such as the purchase of technology to ensure access to remote learning, the purchase of pre-paid store cards, and additional school district transportation to and from summer classes, programs and activities.

Moving forward, subgrantee meetings (webinars) are planned for fall 2021 to ensure subgrant recipients know and understand the intention of the funds, the allowable uses of funds, the priority activities for fund use, and ongoing monitoring and technical assistance related to the subgrants. One-on-one remote meetings will be scheduled with each LEA subgrant recipient through fall and winter 2021 to discuss challenges, successes, expectations, and ongoing monitoring protocols throughout the funding period.

## **ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #2: ARP HOMELESS I**

*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.*

The ARP-Homeless I set-aside for state level activities will be expended through a contract for services (outlined above in #1). The proposed activities to be provided by the proposed contractor will span from fall 2021 through fall 2023 and will consume all of the ARP-Homeless I state setaside.

Due to schools being out of session over the summer and the funds not becoming available for LEAs (to claim) until July 1 under Washington state law, there was little opportunity for OSPI to directly improve or access 2021 summer programming or wraparound services other than to send information to LEAs about summer programs, summer meal programs, state guidance pertaining to COVID, and the availability of ARPHCY I and II grant funding. OSPI continued providing information related to the McKinney-Vento subgrants in addition to the new ARP-HCY I and II funding by sending out links and resources to LEAs through email and GovDelivery.

Despite this limitation that was beyond our control, OSPI provided technical support and information over the summer to LEAs to share information regarding the allowable uses of the

ARP-HCY I funds, as well as the priority uses for the funds. LEAs were informed of the flexibility of their ARP-Homeless funds, links to resources provided by our national partners, and access to state and national COVID-related webinars through GovDelivery. LEAs were supported in their efforts to be as flexible as possible when using funds to support students experiencing homelessness and they were encouraged to hire and/or sustain staff over the summer to support identification and enrollment, purchase technology to support remote learning during COVID, increase outreach and coordination with community partners, distribute school meals while students were learning remotely, and pay staff to engage in meaningful parent inclusion through one-on-one visits when appropriate, as well as other activities.

While OSPI had limited opportunity to specifically increase 2021 access to summer programming or provide related wraparound services, we were heartened to see that several LEA ARP-HCY I budgets included activities such as: increased summer staffing to bolster identification and enrollment, re-engagement activities, summer instruction, and the purchase of technology for access to remote learning including Chromebooks, hot spots, phones, and other technology. Additionally, some budgets included activities to improve efficiencies in transportation including recruiting more drivers, purchasing dedicated district vans to support students experiencing homelessness, and providing increased coordination with childcare and other services. In this way, access to summer programming and wraparound services will be core parts of ARP-HCY work at the state and LEA levels going forward.

Access to wraparound services will be provided through collaboration with a community-based organization. The contractor, in partnership with the ongoing work of OSPI, will provide necessary supports to LEAs to improve connections to community organizations that provide comprehensive wraparound services such as housing support, after school care, off-campus tutoring, early childhood programming such as Head Start, and other similar services. To date, the contract has not been fully executed but is expected to be in place in early fall, 2021. OSPI, along with the contractor, plans to work with LEAs on building relationships with community organizations to increase referrals, and provide third-party contracts for wrap around services as we move into the 2021–22 school year. These efforts will occur through a continuation of routine office hours, soliciting feedback from the McKinney-Vento Advisory Team, through GovDelivery notices that link LEAs to resources, and ongoing coordination and support from our national partners at the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) and SchoolHouse Connection. Local liaison training is scheduled for October 2021 in partnership with SchoolHouse Connection to further support the knowledge and program development of LEAs.

## **ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #3: ARP HOMELESS I**

*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.*

Washington has used 75% of the funds awarded under ARP Homeless I by distributing those funds to the existing McKinney-Vento subgrant funded districts and consortium subgrant programs. To allow for rapid fund distribution and address the immediate needs of students experiencing homelessness, OSPI disseminated funds to districts that already competed for EHCY funds in the most recent subgrant competition to ensure the ARP Homeless I support would reach those districts with the greatest concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness. In Washington, our data analysis confirmed that existing grantees held significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness. In addition to disseminating the ARP-Homeless I subgrant awards to existing McKinney-Vento subgrant recipients, Washington also distributed ARP-Homeless I funds to those districts that applied for and competed for McKinney-Vento subgrant funds in the most recent competition but were not selected for funding. By using this approach, we were able to comply with all EHCY requirements, while also expanding the subgrant pool to include districts that demonstrated high need but may not have had a subgrant in the past due to some weaknesses in their application, or simply because of limitations in the availability of EHCY funding to support all applicants. By including these additional LEAs, OSPI is able to provide ARP-Homeless I funding to 45 programs, representing 53 individual LEAs across the state. These LEAs represent both urban and rural communities as well as districts of varying enrollment size and demographics. Because eight of these ARP-Homeless I subgrant recipients were not previously funded, OSPI, along with their contractors, plans to provide intensive technical assistance through webinars, meetings, and distribution of resources to those new LEAs to assist them with guidance, grant requirements, program improvement, and best practices over the course of the ARPHomeless I and II grant period.

## **ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #4: 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.*

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has reserved 25% of the funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for a variety of state-level activities in collaboration with state and local agencies for the 2021–22 school year. These activities include the provision of live webinar training, online and telephone technical assistance, local capacity-building through ongoing needs assessments, and improved engagement in state and local activities. One key focus area is training that will be available to all LEAs across the state in the form of webinars, self-directed online training modules of various topics, and materials and resources available to all LEAs on the OSPI website and through direct email and GovDelivery. Enhancements to the OSPI Homeless Education website to bolster online content and resources is also planned. Contracted work will provide information related to the requirements of all EHCY programs as well as guidance and support

specifically pertaining to ARP-Homeless funding. Webinars, online training modules, and other resources will be developed in partnership between OSPI and our contracted partners at the state and national levels. Proposed contract partners are considered experts in the field of Homeless Education and have worked with OSPI in the past, therefore they are familiar with Washington's unique needs and have established relationships with OSPI through other contracted work. Training topics will address the needs of newly funded districts as well as the needs of districts with long-established programs. Topics such as EHCY best practices, program implementation, unaccompanied youth, human trafficking, access to higher education, HeadStart/preschool programs, Native Education, Diversity, Social Emotional well-being, and other topics are proposed. In addition to the development and implementation of webinars and online training modules, OSPI will partner with national, state, and local contractors to improve technical assistance and capacity building through coordinated online training, panel presentations, incorporating youth voice in training, offering forums and providing office hours along with other opportunities for networking and information sharing. Contractors within the state of Washington will work with OSPI to establish relationships with CBOs to assist in connecting LEAs with community partners to ensure students and families will have the necessary information to access housing, food, medical care, childcare, and other wrap-around services found within their communities.

## **ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #5: ARP HOMELESS II**

*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.*

Washington will use 75% of the funds awarded under ARP Homeless II for distribution to LEAs via the formula provided by US Department of Education which is based on Title I and homeless student enrollment data. The OSPI Office of Financial Resources reviewed Title I allocations as well as homeless student data for the 2018–19 and 2019–20 school years to calculate the funding available for all LEAs in the state. The final calculation indicated that 174 Washington LEAs met the \$5,000 threshold necessary to receive ARP-Homeless II funding and 124 LEAs did not meet the \$5,000 threshold.

In an effort to distribute subgrants to as many LEAs as possible, OSPI will work to encourage the creation of consortia programs for those LEAs that did not meet the minimum formula amount. Technical assistance will be provided to all LEAs that did not meet the minimum threshold. Technical assistance may consist of distributing information via the Homeless Education Office Hours, through email, and by GovDelivery notifications, as well as through a live webinar planned for early fall 2021. Information regarding the development of consortia programs will also be provided to all nine regional Educational Service Districts (ESDs) to ensure information is readily available in all areas of the state. Along with the initial notice related to the LEA allocations, OSPI will send an electronic survey (see Appendix B) to every LEA in the state to gather responses regarding the LEA's intent to apply for funding. LEAs will be asked to indicate whether they plan to



apply for, or decline, the ARP-Homeless II funding. The survey also seeks information regarding the development of consortium programs for those districts that have not met the \$5,000 funding threshold, including the names of the LEAs that will work together to meet the minimum funding requirement through the development of consortiums. Once all surveys are collected in the fall of 2021, OSPI will refine and re-calculate the allocation table (see Appendix C) as necessary and send the funding out to LEAs via the OSPI electronic iGrants system.

## **ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #6: ARP HOMELESS I and ARP HOMELESS II**

*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 Washington SEA will ensure that ARP-Homeless I and II funding is used to supplement ARP ESSER funding and does not replace ARP ESSER funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness through the sharing of informational resources, the provision of phone and online technical assistance, and the inclusion of information regarding the supplement vs. supplant rules during our annual Homeless Liaison Training in October 2021. All LEAs will be provided information through GovDelivery as well as ongoing opportunities for information sharing regarding the appropriate use of funds, the priorities for targeted populations of students, and the overall intention of the ARP-Homeless grant funding. Information may be shared through the dissemination of print materials, email, website postings, and live webinars offered in conjunction with OSPI's Federal Programs Office and the OSPI Financial Office. Additionally, LEAs will be provided information pulled from the Washington State Plan for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (SEA ESSER plan) regarding the appropriate management and allowable uses of the funding made available to Washington. All EHCY programs will be monitored for compliance through existing monitoring protocols (Consolidated Program Review) including fiscal oversight of grant expenditures (see Appendix D) and local EHCY program implementation.

## **COORDINATING ARP-HCY STATE PLANS WITH ARP ESSER STATE PLANS**

*ARP ESSER State Plans were submitted to the Department starting on June 7, 2021. The Department has posted them at <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-planelementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/stateplans/>. ARP-HCY State plans should reference any ARP ESSER State plan narratives concerning children and youth experiencing homelessness.*

The Washington ESSER State Plan (see Appendix E) includes references to students experiencing homelessness throughout the entire document as a priority population of students in need of

services. While there are many references to students experiencing homelessness, the most applicable sections of the State Plan are referenced below, with page numbers.

**General Information:** (p. 9–10) Students Experiencing Homelessness Students experiencing homelessness were disproportionately impacted by the health, safety, economic, and educational consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Objective and anecdotal data show disproportionate decreases in enrollment, identification, attendance, and academic achievement for this student group. Likely due to housing instability and low income, students experiencing homelessness struggled more with remote learning than their peers, due in part to poor access to broadband connectivity and lack of access to electronic devices. Remote learning and physical distancing requirements also created significant challenges for school districts to meet the identification and service requirements of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Based on a review of student-level data available to OSPI, information from LEAs, and feedback from community-based partners serving students and families experiencing homelessness, the top needs for students experiencing homelessness focus on stable enrollment and identification by LEAs, and ongoing support for consistent attendance and academic engagement. Specific examples include increased human capacity at most schools (e.g. homeless liaisons), increased availability of trauma-informed educators to provide academic engagement, learning acceleration, and wraparound services in partnership with the community-based support organizations (housing, employment services, behavioral health supports), and timely access to transportation to and from school.

**LEA Planning:** (p. 18) For the 2021–22 school year, LEAs will provide updates to their plans in three phases. All three phases are iterations of one singular plan in which the LEA builds an initial plan, collects data, monitors progress, makes adjustments, and implements deep, sustained improvements over time.

- Phase 1—June 2021: Initial LEA plan for academic and student well-being recovery and acceleration strategies to be implemented for the summer and early fall of 2021.
- Phase 2—November 2021: Review and analyze student data from the implemented Phase 1 strategies/interventions for each student group identified. Reflect and build on learning. Adjust and begin longer-term planning of recovery and acceleration strategies/interventions for implementation over the winter and throughout the school year 2021–22. Continue to collect data.
- Phase 3—April 2022: Continue improvement cycle for strategies/interventions implemented in Phases 1 and 2 by reviewing and analyzing the collected data to inform next steps and engage in long-term sustained strategies for the next school year and beyond (2022–23+) (e.g. moving to a balanced calendar, implementing standards-based grading, or project based learning)

**Stakeholder Involvement:** (p. 20–21) OSPI regularly consults with a variety of education stakeholder groups and individuals. Since January 2021, as the agency became aware of additional federal stimulus funds for education, OSPI has continued consulting with stakeholders and partners focused on learning recovery and acceleration. Following are some of the stakeholder groups and partners OSPI has met with over the past 6 months regarding this topic:

- Student Learning Workgroup
- Teacher and Principal Evaluation Project steering committee
- Special Education Advisory Council
- Educational Service Districts
- Regional and district Special Education Directors
- Open Doors for Multicultural Families
- Partnership for Action Voices for Empowerment (PAVE)
- Roots for Inclusion • Inclusion for All
- Office of the Education Ombuds
- The ARC of WA • Investing in Student Potential Coalition
- WA Autism Alliance
- Disability Rights WA
- Black Joy Consortium for Reimagining Education
- Challenge Seattle • Washington Federation of Independent Schools
- Washington State Native American Education Advisory Committee (WSNAEAC)
- Migrant State Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Bilingual Education Advisory Committee (BEAC)
- Graduation: A Team Effort (GATE) Partnership Advisory Committee
- Association of Washington School Principals
- Washington Association of School Administrators
- Washington State School Directors' Association
- Washington Education Association
- Committee of Practitioners

**Support from Contractors:** (p. 26–27) OSPI will contract with two organizations for summer learning and enrichment programs. Both contractors have statewide reach and can pivot efficiently to provide direct services to students in the summer of 2021 and 2022.

The first contractor is School's Out Washington. They have experience partnering with a state agency to administer youth development grant programs, and will serve as an intermediary to the state to develop and administer grants to community-based organizations who provide direct services to school-aged youth, prioritizing programs that promote students connecting socially, engaging in physical activity, and also supporting families who have struggled with childcare needs. The contractor will utilize a community-based review process and conduct extensive outreach and application assistance. The Contractor is required to report to OSPI how programs respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs; are geographically diverse; and address the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on different student groups, including:

- Each major racial and ethnic group
- Students experiencing poverty
- Students with disabilities

- English proficiency status
- Gender
- Students who are migratory
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Children and youth in foster care

The second contract is with the Association of Washington Cities in partnership with the Recreation and Parks Association. This contractor has experience coordinating statewide efforts around city and county summer youth development programs, will administer a grant program across city and county parks and recreation programs to provide direct services to school-aged youth, and will prioritize programs that promote students connecting socially, engaging in physical activity, and also supporting families who have struggled with childcare needs. Grants will be used to support the expansion of current programs, as well as the creation of new programs—especially in areas that do not have access to programming, and additional recruitment and communication efforts to communities without programs, or geared toward youth who have historically not participated in programming.

The Contractor is required to report to OSPI how programs respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs; are geographically diverse; and address the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on different student groups, including:

- Each major racial and ethnic group
- Students experiencing poverty
- Students with disabilities
- English proficiency status
- Gender
- Students who are migratory
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Children and youth in foster care

**Program Reporting:** (p. 27–28) Programs that receive funding shall report to OSPI how programs respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs; are geographically diverse; and address the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on different student groups, including:

- Each major racial and ethnic group
- Students experiencing poverty
- Students with disabilities
- English proficiency status
- Gender
- Students who are migratory
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Children and youth in foster care

OSPI will target evidence-based programs to address the disproportionate impacts on particular student groups. Determination of services for students who have missed in-person services will be dependent on an analysis of the LEA Academic and Well-being Recovery Plans as well as the COVID-19 Student Survey. Over the summer, OSPI will be working with the University of Washington to review the data collected via the COVID-19 Student Survey, disaggregated by student group. In addition, OSPI will use the district-level data from the Academic and Wellbeing Recovery Plans, combined with state-level transcription and attendance data, to better understand the needs of individual student groups for comprehensive afterschool programming.

**McKinney-Vento Funds:** (p. 24) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds have been awarded to LEAs with high need for additional support for students experiencing homelessness. OSPI uses state set-aside funds under this Act to provide training and technical assistance to all LEAs, and has added specific focus during the course of the pandemic on identification of students experiencing homelessness and providing supports intended to improve enrollment and attendance. The agency intends to use the funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness provided by section 2001(b)(1) of the ARP Act to augment direct supports in these high-need LEAs, to increase community-based supports through funded partnerships with community-based organizations, and to increase capacity for all LEAs to successfully serve students experiencing homelessness.

## **ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #7: ARP HOMELESS I and ARP HOMELESS II**

*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.*

Washington will use ARP-Homeless I and II state-level funds to award contracts to communitybased organizations (CBOs) that are well-positioned to identify historically underserved populations of students experiencing homelessness and connect them to educational supports and community wraparound services. Currently, OSPI is working with selected CBOs and will offer contracts to those with a proven history of connecting schools to community supports in meaningful ways. These contracted services will prioritize the bridge between schools and community resources including access to housing, before- and after-school care, childcare, medical and mental health services and the very important work of providing outreach to communities of color, English language learners, immigrant and refugee populations and other student populations. Targeted activities of contractors will include one-on-one technical support to LEAs to connect schools with community partners, improve data analysis and program evaluation, provide statewide training, facilitate outreach and resource development to assist schools in reaching historically underserved populations, coordinate with other CBOs to provide housing supports and

other interagency connections, and direct coordination and partnership with OSPI to support systemic change at the state and local levels.

In addition to contracting with CBOs, OSPI intends to offer contracts to other state and national partners to create and provide targeted online training modules, live webinars, information and training materials for LEAs, and other resources to improve outreach and services to students of color, children with disabilities, pregnant and parenting students, LGBTQ+ youth, and other underserved populations. A key partner in this work will be the Office of Native Education housed within OSPI. Washington is home to 29 federally recognized tribes with approximately 15,000 school-aged students identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native. Targeted outreach and coordination to identify and serve our indigenous students who are experiencing homelessness is a priority for OSPI as we seek to leverage ARP-Homeless II funds to serve one of our state's most vulnerable and underserved student populations.

Plans are also in place to use a portion of the ARP-Homeless II funds to increase staffing at the SEA level to assist with the oversight and implementation of the ARP-Homeless subgrants, develop and provide ongoing live and online LEA training, and support and assist with coordination between EHCY and other ESSER funded programs. Through the thoughtful development of job descriptions and intentional recruitment of a diverse candidate pool, OSPI intends to hire qualified staff to assist OSPI's existing EHCY team members in the planning and implementation of ARP-Homeless supports throughout the grant period.

## **ARP-HCY STATE PLAN: PROMPT #8: ARP HOMELESS II**

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

While the ARP-Homeless II grant funds have not yet been disseminated in Washington, our SEA plans to encourage LEAs to award contracts to their community-based partner organizations to help identify and support underserved populations experiencing homelessness. This effort will include the work of OSPI contractors that are directly linked with community networks and are in a position to engage directly with LEAs and their community partners in combined training that includes both schools and CBOs through listening sessions, outreach to underserved populations and their local support networks, and the development of informational resources that can be disseminated throughout various communities. Additionally, OSPI and their contractors will continue to disseminate information and resources regarding historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness through posting of materials on the OSPI website, dissemination of materials and resources through GovDelivery and through ongoing targeted training to LEAs. Training opportunities and information sharing regarding the process and benefits of third-party contracting, along with ongoing coordination with local CBO's will be provided by contractors tasked specifically with community outreach and coordination between LEAs and CBOs. Additional coordination between OSPI, contractors, and CBOs will help to strengthen relationships and expand opportunities to LEAs as they reach out and provide contracts to community-based partners such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, regional ESDs, community non-profits, and other partners. Continuing information regarding the opportunities and advantages of using ARP-

Homeless II funds for LEA third-party contracting with CBOs will be emphasized in OSPI's ongoing training, technical assistance, and distribution of materials.

## **APPENDICES:**

Appendix A: ARP-HCY I Grant recipients (attached to email)

Appendix B: [ARP HCY II Intent to Apply Application](#)

Appendix C: ARP-HCY II Draft Allocation Table (attached to email)

Appendix D: Capital Expenditure Form (attached to email)

Appendix E: [ESSER State Plan](#)