

# Iowa State Plan for the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth

## 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.**

The SEA did not use funds for state-level activities during spring or summer 2021 but will use ARP Homeless I funds to purchase McKinney-Vento Essential Staff Training Courses, through McKinney-Vento.org, for staff in all of Iowa's 327 LEAs to address the immediate needs and ongoing impact of COVID-19 on students experiencing homelessness. The funds will allow the SEA to quickly reach all LEAs in preparation for ARP Homeless II. Expanding the audience of staff in each LEA will build the capacity of new sectors of staff to identify student signs of homelessness and to more effectively respond to specific needs that arise in the education of these students. The course content is tailored to specific groups of staff that have the most contact with students and their families. Specifically, course titles include:

- General Overview
- Administration
- Extracurricular Staff
- Counselors
- Early Childhood
- Food Service
- Enrollment/Registrar
- Media center/Librarians
- Special Education
- Title I Administrators
- Transportation
- Teachers

Additionally, the SEA will provide technical assistance to both McKinney-Vento subgrantees and all LEAs, including a "boot camp" for new LEAs, technical assistance to homeless liaisons in all LEAs that will be designed to support the identification of homeless students, understanding allowable uses of homeless funds, and allowable programming for homeless children and youth. Finally, the SEA will create a residency form for all LEAs to include in enrollment packets to assist in identification.

- 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.**

The SEA did not use funds for state-level activities during summer 2021 but will use funds to plan for and provide professional learning around wraparound services during the 2021-22 school year. The professional learning will occur through the SEA's Future Ready Iowa Implementation and Innovation Network (FRI Network), which is designed as the SEA's statewide implementation and support arm. The SEA will help staff the FRI Network and will seek other partners (intermediary education agencies, institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, independent contractors, etc.), through a request for proposals (RFPs), to join and engage as members of the network. The focus of the FRI Network is to provide regional professional learning for LEAs, direct LEA coaching, and subject-specific training on evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes. The network will provide support to LEAs in leadership, accelerating learning, and social-emotional-behavior health (SEBH). Specifically, ARP Homeless I funds will be used to support network members with expertise related to identification of homeless students and serving their unique learning and SEBH needs.

- 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.**

The SEA is awarding 75 percent of ARP Homeless I funds to existing McKinney-Vento subgrantees. In spring 2021, the SEA identified new McKinney-Vento subgrantees through a competitive grant process that was available to all LEAs in the state. Prior to opening the 2021-2024 McKinney-Vento Subgrant Application the SEA homeless coordinator, along with other SEA consultants, administrative consultants, and a bureau chief, analyzed LEA homeless data from three previous school years including the homeless student count as compared to total enrollment, the percent of homeless students, and LEAs reporting zero homeless students across all three years. This analysis was completed to assure appropriate districts were applying for the new competitive subgrant. The process was revised to allow for both small and large districts with higher ratios of students in poverty to apply for grant funds. The SEA provided all LEAs with research pertaining to the connection between high poverty rates and expected homelessness. In order to submit an application, LEAs were required to identify their district poverty percentage and compare it to their identified homeless rate. ARP Homeless I funds will be allocated to McKinney-Vento subgrantees in the SEA's Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA), which is also used to allocate McKinney-Vento funds.

## **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.**

ARP Homeless II state-level activities will include providing training to FRI Network members specifically related to identifying and serving homeless children and youth. In turn, the network members will be able to provide this professional learning and coaching to LEAs. Homeless liaisons will be provided professional learning on evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes, and RFPs will be solicited for applicants to create modules for homeless liaisons regarding how to educate homeless students in the context of the SEA's multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). The funds will be used to ensure the infrastructure is in place for implementation and scaling of evidence-based practices in accelerating learning and SEBH for preschool to 12th grade. Support will also be provided for this work in assessment and data use. The SEA is also exploring the implementation of one or more full-service community schools, which would provide wrap-around services to students.

In addition, quarterly email messages to each LEA homeless liaison will be sent through Iowa's Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA) to remind liaisons of the federal requirement to train their faculty, administration, and staff regarding identification and services provided to homeless students. The use of the ARP-HCY funds to purchase these courses takes some of the heavy lifting off the LEA liaisons and brings a common awareness of McKinney-Vento across the state. The anticipated increase in districts (from 15 LEAs to 327 LEAs) receiving ARP-HCY funding necessitates an increased state capacity. ARP-HCY II funds will be used to increase SEA homeless staff to 1.0 FTE.

- 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 SEA will distribute 75 percent of the ARP Homeless II funds to LEAs via a formula that uses the LEA's allocation under Part A of Title I of the ESEA and the number of identified homeless children and youth in either school year 2018-19 or 2019-20, whichever number is greater. The distribution will occur in the CASA, similar to other ARP funds. The SEA will encourage creation of consortia for LEAs that do not meet the \$5,000 minimum formula amount through outreach and technical assistance. The SEA will encourage its intermediary area education agencies (AEAs) to apply for ARP-HCY II consortia lead positions, through the FRI Network, to assist in LEAs forming consortia.

### **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 SEA will ensure that LEAs use ARP-HCY funds to supplement ARP ESSER funds in several ways. LEAs will assure in the CASA that they will only use the funds to supplement, and not supplant, ARP ESSER funds. The LEA must also submit a proposed budget to the SEA for review. Once approved, the LEA must submit quarterly

claims to the SEA for review to ensure that the funds are being used for allowable purposes.

- 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.**

The funds will specifically be used to include members of the FRI Network well-positioned to identify students experiencing homelessness across the state and across student populations and connect those students with educational and other related supports and wraparound services. The SEA will open the request for proposal for the FRI Network to community-based organizations that serve underrepresented populations.

- 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 SEA will seek proposals from community-based organizations to assist in identifying and supporting historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness for the FRI Network. The SEA will explore encouraging LEAs to create more evidence-based full-service community schools within their respective LEA. A full-service community school is a public elementary or secondary school that works with their community to coordinate and integrate comprehensive services (i.e., educational, developmental, family, health, other comprehensive services) through community-based organizations and public and private partnerships to provide access to such services in school to students, families, and the community (ESEA § 4622(2)). The SEA will also explore the potential for utilizing state ARP-HCY II funding to support the creation or expansion of evidence-based full-service community schools that integrate identification and supports to students and populations experiencing homelessness.