

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

PART B: PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING *NEBRASKA* PLAN

The Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education 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-withdisclaimer.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.

The Nebraska Department of Education plans to award seventy-five percent (75)% of its total allocation to LEAs, based on the formula set forth in the final requirements. The funds remaining after subgrants shall be twenty-five percent (25 %), and the state’s plan calls for the State Homeless Liaison to use those funds for the following and similar activities as reflected in sections 722(f) and (g) of M-V act.

Activity A: Professional Development for new District LEA M-V Liaison(s) and district staff needing renewed learning and training opportunities. .

Activity B: Professional Development/technical assistance for District LEAs who, following data analysis, appear to be under-identifying McKinney-Vento students approximately twenty-two (22) districts report McKinney-Vento student counts below five (5) over a two-year period. Thus we plan to specifically assist them with professional development and technical assistance regarding:

- a. the definition of homelessness
- b. expected prevalence of homelessness in their area based on research
- c. identification strategies
- d. provide support/technical assistance from Nebraska Continuum of Care Network for “outstate” Nebraska
- e. the definition of homelessness
- f. expected prevalence of homelessness in their area based on research
- g. identification strategies
- h. provide support/technical assistance from Nebraska Continuum of Care Network for “outstate” Nebraska

Activity C: Professional Development/technical assistance for District LEAs with first time ARP-HCY I & II grant awards. A survey of Nebraska LEAs shows approximately thirty-two (32)

districts with an HCY II allocation below \$5,000. In particular, ten (10) LEAs identifying significant numbers of McKinney-Vento students over 2 school years do not reach the \$5,000 threshold. Thus the SEA's plan calls for specifically to assist this process and strongly encourage them to create consortiums:

- a. outreach to encourage these districts to create consortia in geographic or demographic patterns and with regional Educational Service Units (this may require geographic-reach across the state of Nebraska).
- b. review of allowable uses for M-V and now updated with the dispersal of HCY funds
- c. provide support in partnership with the Nebraska Continuum of Care Network to better service outstate Nebraska

Activity D: Offer packaged professional development resources to be used for effective, comprehensive training, and to establish communities of learning and practice:

- a. district-wide staff development, as requested
- b. targeted technical assistance about how to strategically assess area needs and use of funds
- c. support/engagement to ensure the districts complete the ARP-HCY application to fruition.
- d. review of allowable uses for M-V and now new HCY funds uses
- e. review/networking with Nebraska Continuum of Care Network

Activity E: Provide periodic, general consultation (State Homeless Liaison office hours) for ARP-HCY fund recipients:

- a. Up to five (5) districts will see six figure HCY funds, thus weekly zoom calls
- b. support for/with Community Based Organizations statewide, regionally

Activity F: Braiding of Nebraska ARP-HCY funds with our Nebraska ESSER state plan

- a. Nebraska ESSER State Plan Link > [\(Here\)](#)

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.

Nebraska will comply with and ensure that LEAs comply with all financial, programs, and demographic reporting requirements in a manner that includes any-and-all data and information that is requisite by the U.S. Department of Education. LEAs receiving APR-HCY II funding will be required to submit a program report and the Nebraska Federal Program's ESSER Funds Checklist for Fiscal Monitoring the end of the performance period, including, but not limited to, the 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:

Nebraska will meet the sixty (60) day reporting requirement for submission of state ARP-HCY state plan, as of Thursday, September 3, 2021.

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 the 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;

Spring 2021

As a result of timelines for funding availability and additional federal funds available to LEAs (ESSER), the SEA did not attempt to additionally fund spring 2021 or summer 2021 school-based supports and interventions using ARP-HCY I state set aside funds. LEAs reported more significant needs for re-engagement for Fall 2021 and for capacity building to support identification and case management services for McKinney-Vento eligible students. The SEA has now contracted and is working with SchoolHouse Connection in an effort to provide state-level activities using a portion of the set-aside funds. These activities and tasks include but not limited to:

- A. Expand the systems in Nebraska to identify and support the needs of homeless children and youth
 - a. Build capacity in small, rural districts, by providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to consortia grant recipients
- B. Provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels. These funds should specifically be used to help LEAs identify and support students experiencing homelessness
 - a. Build capacity in five current McKinney-Vento grantees whose McKinney-Vento funding will increase between three and nine times their current grants due to ARP-HCY I and II funds, by providing needs assessment and strategic planning assistance,
- C. Provide technical assistance and training to LEAs that do not have an EHCY subgrant, to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize ARP Homeless I and II funds; ,
 - a. Ensure that 18 LEAs that will be first-time McKinney-Vento grantees are well-prepared to utilize ARP Homeless I and II funds, by providing training and technical assistance,

- D. Help LEAs plan for and provide wraparound services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with state and local agencies and other community-based organizations.
 - a. SchoolHouse will be subcontracting with the Nebraska Balance of State Continuum of Care to provide information at training about available community resources and housing supports (including Emergency Rental Assistance), as well as to provide consultation regarding school administrators or staff to speak at training, and rural and tribal needs.

The SEA's intention is to partner with the various community networks and organizations to build both state and local capacity to provide the necessary services; professional development, training, identification, data collection and sharing. Each entity that has been or will be contacted has a vast network of community, state, and country-wide partners already established and have offered to share their connections and expertise. Periodic meetings, webinars, and learning sessions have been or will be scheduled with both SchoolHouse, Nebraska Balance of State Continuum of Care, Nebraska Children and Families, The Youth Action Board, and other representatives as needed.

Summer 2021 Programming

The Nebraska SEA offices were unable to develop an appropriate plan for, nor provide specific summer 2021 activities with ARP-HCY I funds. The State Homeless Liaison retired on 7.30.21. The Federal Programs team has contacted and will be contracting with SchoolHouse Connection, Patricia Julianelle, (Director of Program Advancement and Legal Affairs) (info@schoolhouseconnection.org) to receive technical assistance to effectively support LEAs for the school year 2021-2022.

- A. The SEA, in collaboration with SchoolHouse Connection, will be develop a strategic plan to build the SEA's capacity to provide access to quality state-level summer programming activities for students experiencing homelessness

Training, technical assistance, capacity building, and engagement

The Nebraska Department of Education distributed a survey to all district Superintendents and LEA Homeless Liaisons to garner contact information and to determine how participants would answer the following:

- A. District McKinney-Vento Contacts
- B. Does the district leadership believe their district will/may qualify for funding through McKinney-Vento, APR-HCY ESSER I or ESSER.
- C. General insight into how districts have or plan to spend APR/HCY ESSER I and/or APR/HCY ESSER II funds if qualified.
- D. If the district is granted ARP-HCY Funds, how might they be used?
- E. Potential services the LEAs might use if provided by the SEA, for example:
 - a. Assistance with developing and implementing a plan to increase the number of young children (birth to age five) experiencing homelessness receiving early childhood services.
 - b. Assistance with identifying, contracting, and collaborating with community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing

homelessness, especially ‘historically underserved populations’ subjected to homelessness.

The findings from this state-wide survey, discussions with HCY application development cohorts from surrounding states, area service providers including Nebraska’s Continuum of Care, and extensive input provided by SchoolHouse Connection (info@schoolhouseconnection.org) representatives during weekly meetings, have/will lay foundation for the SEA’s planning, establishment of systems and process requirements, on-going communications with outside entities and LEAs, the delivery of state level services, and the distribution of APR/HCY funding.

Our 2021-2022 activities planned/scheduled to meet the requirement now include the following: 1) email blasts to statewide homeless liaisons, 2) early September Info Zooms for LEA liaisons, 3) postings of resources and ARP-HCY links on our State Federal Programs web-page, and 4) backdating information supplied to our LEA liaisons that can be an option with their HCY I funds.

Wrap-around services

The SEA will offer technical assistant and professional development opportunities to Nebraska LEAs to support local plans as the districts strive to provide wrap-around services for those experiencing Homelessness.

Building capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past

Currently, TA/Informational plans are scheduled for early September and late October for ARP-HCY “capacity building” sessions for ALL state homeless liaisons. The SEA plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past, to ensure these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II. The SEA intention is to provide targeted technical assistance and professional development, afforded by the Nebraska Department and/or outside entities, as LEAs that are first-time EHCY subgrant recipients prepare to utilize these funds. The learning and support services may include periodic question and answer sessions with given cohorts, directed services provided by SchoolHouse Connection or similar partners, the distribution of targeted learning resources, and training materials.

Nebraska is currently planning to disperse its twenty-five (25) % of funds awarded under ARP-HCY I for the following State-level activities:

Activity 1: Communication outreach to the Districts to create an application for the competitive HCY I funds (scheduled early September and late October)

Activity 2: The state will provide targeted technical assistance to build LEA capacity:

- a. by providing M-V and HCY I and II training resources for LEA staff; as needed.
- b. This training may be in-person, through internally-developed learning materials, and/or vendor-provided training products.

Activity 3: Technical assistance/professional Development through contracted services from School House Connection (Patricia Julianelle) to grant recipients.

- a. quarterly HCY I & HCY II recipient office hours

- b. support for District LEAs to network
- c. support for use of Community Based Organizations
- d. build/continual updating partners for metropolitan areas and outstate rural Nebraska

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-

The Nebraska SEA offices were unable to appropriately plan for or provide specific summer 2021 activities with ARP-HCY I funds. The State Homeless Liaison retired on 7.30.21. The Federal Programs team has contacted and will be contracting with SchoolHouse, Patricia Julianelle, (Director of Program Advancement and Legal Affairs) (info@schoolhouseconnection.org) to receive technical assistance and collect resources that may be used to build the SEA's capacity to provide access to quality summer programming activities for students experiencing homelessness from now onwards. These activities will include examining barriers that prevent students experiencing homelessness from accessing existing summer programming (such as lack of transportation, mobility, lack of awareness about available services, etc.) and the development of strategies to remove those barriers. NDE continues to plan for its State-level actions to support the state's LEAs; as school districts, local agencies, and community-based organizations collaboratively plan and provide wraparound services, for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

Regarding wrap-around services, we have established a partnership with the Nebraska Continuum of Care to help identify community-based organizations across the state that can partner with the SEA and LEAs to provide needed wrap-around services? We also plan to work with SchoolHouse Connection to provide support to urban and rural LEAs on building partnerships with community-based organizations for wrap-around services, particularly to underserved populations. Other activities planned include email blasts to statewide homeless liaisons, early September Info Zooms for LEA liaisons, postings of resources and ARP-HCY links on our State Federal Programs web-page. Backdating information supplied to our LEA liaisons that can be an option with their HCY I funds.

3. How the SEA has used or will use at least 75 percent of funds awarded under ARPHomeless 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.

Nebraska's EHCY subgrants are used for outreach, awareness of homeless education rights, access to services, and how to effectively identify students experiencing homelessness. In addition, enrollment assistance, transportation, school records transfer, immunization referrals, tutoring,

counseling, school supplies, professional development for educators and community organizations, and referrals for community services.

The state currently has only 13 existing M-V subgrants, and upon reviewing the MV data it was found that there were other LEAs with significant concentrations of student and family homelessness. In addition, it was determined that existing grantees would receive a sizable increase in additional funds through ARP-HCY II, and that at this time, the identified do not need supplementary funding through ARP-HCY to meet the local student and family needs. Therefore, the SEA determined that the best way to meet student needs statewide was to offer the opportunity for all LEAs to apply for ARP-HCY I funds. By creating an abbreviated subgrant process that complies with all requirements of EHCY, the SEA will ensure funds are distributed as quickly as possible, while still meeting identified needs. The SEA was not able to complete a subgrant process over the past summer, but plan to launch it by October 1st, 2021, with funds distributed by November 30th, 2021.

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-

Nebraska Department of Education Office of Homeless and Youth shall plan to use twenty-five (25) % of funds awarded under ARP-HCY II for the following State-level activities:

Activity 1: Training/Technical assistance

Activity 2: Capacity building/engagement at State/LEA levels-

Activity 3: Plan/support of wrap-around services for school year 2021-22 and beyond

Nebraska plans to address the critical need for improved identification and outreach through partnerships with Nebraska Children and Families, the Youth Action Board, and The SchoolHouse Connection. To help support LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, the SEA met with representatives from the Youth Action Board and Nebraska Children and Families located in Lincoln Nebraska. The YAB and NCF both focus on learning about expanding the transitional housing programs, adjustments to the rapid rehousing programs, and developing systems to place homeless youth in their own long-term homes throughout much of Nebraska.

The intention is to partner with the YAB, NCF, and the previously referenced SchoolHouse Connection to build both state and local capacity to provide the necessary services; professional development, training, identification, data collection and sharing. Each entity has a vast network of community, state, and country-wide partners already established and have offered to share their connections and expertise. Periodic meetings, webinars, and learning sessions have been or will be scheduled with representatives from all three entities as needed. The SEA has now contracted and is working with SchoolHouse Connection in an effort to provide state-level activities using a portion of the set-aside funds. These activities and tasks include but not limited to:

- A. Build capacity in small, rural districts, by providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to consortia grant recipients
- B. Support identification of homeless children and youth, by providing outreach and training to 22 LEAs that identified fewer than five McKinney-Vento students over the past two school years from 2018 to 2020.
- C. There are 18 LEAs that exceed the \$5,000 ARP-HCY II threshold and are not current McKinney-Vento grantees. The SEA will create communities of practice or other groupings and provide those 18 LEAs with targeted technical assistance about how to assess needs and use their funds strategically.
- D. The SEA is continuing to search for additional partners to provide needed services to LEAs. The SEA will provide subgrants from the 25% set-aside funds as necessary to support the activities, technical assistance, professional development, and potential marketing endeavours determined to be needed by periodic survey findings, data collection, and tabletop discussions These opportunities may be achieved by awarding the aforementioned subgrants and/or contracting with one or more entities.

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 engaged or will engage the creation of consortia for those LEAs that may not meet the required minimum formula amount.-

The Nebraska Department of Education Office of Homeless and Youth is developing a plan to use the seventy-five (75) % of funds awarded under ARP-HCY II for distribution to LEAs in accordance with the final requirements.

Nebraska’s distribution of funds as per required formula included:

- A. 50% of allocations based on the student homeless counts whichever is highest for 2018-19 school year or 2019-20 school year of Homeless child count 50% of allocations based on the 2021-22 Title IA formulaThe

Please see/find the attached LEA allocations link @: [\(Here\)](#)

(DOWNLOAD TO YOUR DEVICE BEFORE OPENING)

A survey of Nebraska LEAs shows approximately thirty-two (32) districts with an HCY II allocation below \$5,000. In particular, ten (10) LEAs identifying significant numbers of McKinney-Vento students over 2 school years do not reach the \$5,000 threshold. Thus the SEA’s plan calls for specifically to assist this process and strongly encourage them to create consortiums:

- d. outreach to encourage these districts to create consortia in geographic or demographic patterns and with regional Educational Service Units (this may require geographic-reach across the state of Nebraska).
- e. review of allowable uses for M-V and now updated with the dispersal of HCY funds
- f. provide support in partnership with the Nebraska Continuum of Care Network to better service outstate Nebraska

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

The SEA will provide training and professional development to the LEAs and subgrantees pertaining to ARP-HCY use of funds, purposes, expectations for required documentation and reporting. LEAs will be instructed and receive SEA support as to how to serve homeless students with regular ESSER funds before resorting to ARP-HCY funds? The SEA will monitor fund usage through the state's grant management system, and technical assistance offered by the NDE's Federal Programs, as needed.

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-

The Nebraska Department of Education will work to arrange for meetings between the LEA's program coordinators, local service providers, and existing networks that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations. The districts and providers are to collaborate in the implementation of grant activities, with the purpose of discussing the focus of grant activities, identifying means of future communication and collaboration, and ensuring commitment by all participants to the program outlined in the grant proposal. Documentation is required and may include minutes of the meeting with a listing of attendees and their affiliations. These activities will be supported by the SEA with technical assistance and the use of State-level activities funds to award subgrants and/or contracts to community-based organizations. At this time, the NDE plans to contract with the regional Youth Action Boards (YAB) or the Nebr. Continuum of Care (CoC), or another organization that might be well-positioned to help identify and connect underserved communities? There will be efforts made to reach out to existing tribal organizations and organizations that work in rural areas of the state, like the Community Action Partnership of Nebraska [CAN \(canhelp.org\)](http://canhelp.org) to build the partnerships needed to provide comprehensive wraparound services throughout the state. .

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

The Nebraska Department of Education is developing a plan, aligned processes, and resources to ensure the ARP-HCY II funds are distributed without delay and utilized by LEAs to improve their local approaches to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness. The SEA will provide technical assistance and professional development, as needed, to assist and ensure LEAs use the

funds to focus on identifying students, connect students experiencing homelessness and their families to summer learning and enrichment programs this summer, and to engage students and their families in preparation for the coming school year. LEAs will be strongly encouraged to award contracts to community-based organizations, as well as to provide wraparound services to help identify 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. Through our partnership with the Nebraska Continuum of Care and the Youth Action Board, we will help LEAs identify community-based organizations across the state that can partner with the LEAs to identify and support underserved populations. We also plan to work with SchoolHouse Connection to provide support to urban and rural LEAs on building partnerships with community-based organizations for wrap-around services, particularly to underserved populations.

Subgrantees receiving ARP-HCY II funding will be required to submit a program report by the end of the performance period, including, but not limited to, addressing how the funding was spent in alignment with the priority areas under the “Use of Funds” section as presented in the plan, as well as the services and activities submitted as a part of the ARP-HCY II application