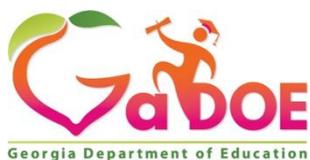


GaDOE ARP-HCY State Plan

**American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School
Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth
(ARP-HCY)**



December 6, 2021



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- a. 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;

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) did not use ARP Homeless I funds during spring 2021 to support LEAs to plan for and provide wrap around services in spring 2021. In the 2021-2022 school year, GaDOE will utilize ARP Homeless I State-level funds to expand quality professional learning for all LEA level personnel, educators and other frontline support staff who work directly with children and youth experiencing homelessness. Not only will GaDOE continue building capacity through professional learning for all McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) liaisons, but also, expand learning opportunities for other LEA and school-based personnel through webinars and regional meetings as in-person opportunities increase. Efforts will be made to include topics germane to service delivery during summer months, including effective wrap-around services. EHCY grantees and non-grantees will benefit from efforts GaDOE will establish with state agencies, non-profit organizations, and community organizations to raise awareness and remove non-academic barriers to learning for students experiencing homelessness. GaDOE will encourage and model coordination efforts as well as keep track of partnerships to determine opportunities for further growth and expansion of services.

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

Although GaDOE did not use state-level ARP-HCY I funds for summer programming or wrap around services during the summer of 2021, GaDOE will use state-level ARP-HCY

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I funds to continue to address these areas in the 2021-2022 school year. ARP Homeless I funds were disseminated in October 2021, following State Board of Education (SBOE) approval. During the summer of 2021, GaDOE thoroughly assessed and engaged with LEAs. In collaboration with the statewide EHCY advisory council, GaDOE discussed ways to increase access to summer programming through the councils' partnerships with community-based organizations. Upon completion of the FY21 statewide McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) survey, it was reported that 18% of LEAs identified zero homeless students in their local educational agency (LEA) during the 2020-2021 school year, and there was a decrease identification of students experiencing homelessness statewide. Moreover, the survey identified that 33% of Georgia EHCY Liaisons have 1 year or less of experience in their role.

In preparation for summer 2022, GaDOE plans to coordinate with the GA Afterschool network to implement summer programs for youth experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, GaDOE will partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide summer programs with a focus on reading and student wellbeing components. GaDOE will increase the capacity of the GaDOE EHCY staff by contracting with individuals with EHCY program experience that will serve as state-level system navigators. Moreover, GaDOE EHCY staff will coordinate with the Office of Whole Child Supports to assist LEAs, schools, and communities in identifying and addressing student non-academic barriers to success while expanding learning opportunities. The state-level system navigators will:

- Gather information from local and state-level resources that can provide services to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. The system mapping efforts will be publicly available.
- Assist LEA EHCY Liaisons with connecting to resources.
- Help children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness connect with resources.

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.

GaDOE will award at least 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP-HCY I to LEAs through the EHCY program. As a grant award requirement, LEAs must have an approved application to receive funding; therefore, LEAs seeking ARP-HCY I support will submit an ARP-HCY I application to the GaDOE EHCY program office. To assist

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LEAs with the grant process, GaDOE will provide online technical assistance to all potential applicants. The GaDOE EHCY program office will review and approve the ARP-HCY I application prior to budget approval. The review of submitted applications ensure LEAs fulfill the EHCY requirements and adhere to the uses of funds allowable in the EHCY program.

GaDOE did not begin this process in the spring of 2021 for the following reasons:

- Active EHCY competition during the spring of 2021, which changes the cohort of EHCY subgrants for a 3-year period starting in July 2021.
- Desire to receive further guidance from ED, which came in July 2021.

During the summer of 2021, GaDOE thoroughly assessed the EHCY program, engaged the LEAs, and collaborated with the statewide EHCY advisory council. Based on the (a) funding level of the EHCY grant, (b) the funding history of the Title I, Part A homeless set-aside, and (c) the size ARP-HCY II, which provided a tenfold increase for many EHCY subgrantees, GaDOE concluded that the best approach to use of ARP-HCY I funds to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness was to allow LEAs that did not receive the EHCY grant to apply for ARP-HCY I. This grant process will benefit all LEAs and ensure that the urgent needs of students experiencing homelessness could be addressed across that state. Furthermore, based on recent data, statewide identification of children and youth experiencing homelessness is an area that can be improved for non-grantees; therefore, GaDOE will encourage LEAs to increase identification and awareness efforts including developing and deploying an awareness campaign. Moreover, GaDOE will provide identification strategies and encourage LEAs to identify and implement other strategies to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness, as allowable by section 2001(b)(1) of the ARP Act.

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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

GaDOE will implement efforts to increase the reach and scope of current training efforts. Through an external provider and/or the creation of an in-house GaDOE-owned training module, GaDOE will provide online training to LEA staff at all levels. The trainings will be customized for all roles including leadership, administration, teachers, registrars, counselors, social workers, cafeteria staff, transportation, custodians, etc. Furthermore, ARP-HCY II state-level funds will allow GaDOE to modernize data systems and communication protocols to identify and track the academic progress, participation, and engagement of students experiencing homelessness. In addition, GaDOE will hire two contractors to implement statewide ARP activities, including the establishment of system navigators. The ARP-HCY system navigators will coordinate with the Office of Whole Child Supports to assist LEAs, schools, and communities in identifying and addressing student non-academic barriers to success while expanding learning opportunities. The ARP-HCY system navigators will implement collaboration efforts internally and externally to assist with whole child support for students and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, Furthermore, the ARP-HCY system navigators will establish community agency partnerships that are critical for services that cannot be delivered by GaDOE (e.g., Housing, Labor, Child Welfare, etc.).

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.

GaDOE will award at least 75 percent of funds awarded under ARP-HCY II to LEAs through the EHCY program in accordance with the required formula outlined by the United States Department of Education (ED). LEAs will fulfill the ARP-HCY requirements and adhere to the uses of funds allowable in the EHCY program. The ARP Homeless II formula was calculated in accordance with ED in the following manner:

- 50% of available funding was based on LEAs' Title I, Part A proportionate share.

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- 50% was based on a per pupil amount derived from the 2018-2019 HCY count and the 2019-2020 HCY count; using which ever number is higher for a particular LEA.

GANs were disseminated to all eligible LEAs. GaDOE encouraged LEAs to identify and implement strategies to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness, as allowable by section 2001(b)(1) of the ARP Act. LEAs submitted an ARP-HCY II application to the GaDOE EHCY program office. The GaDOE EHCY program office reviewed and approved the ARP-HCY II application prior to budget approval. In addition to other LEA-identified strategies to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness, as allowable by section 2001(b)(1) of the ARP Act, GaDOE will encourage ARP-HCY II grantees to use a portion of their award to address three GaDOE priorities:

- Expanding counseling services to address whole child support for students and families experiencing homelessness.
- Appointing local system navigators to establish community agency partnerships that are critical for services that cannot be delivered by the LEA.
- Increasing transportation services, options, and/or capacity to remove barriers for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

LEAs that did not meet the required formula amount were encouraged by GaDOE to form a consortium. In effort to engage these LEAs, GaDOE contacted each LEA individually to provide consortium information, and GaDOE hosted a webinar to assist districts in forming a consortium.

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.

GaDOE requires LEAs to attest that ARP ESSER funds supplement other ARP funds. To ensure ARP-HCY supplements and does not supplant ARP ESSER funded efforts to support children and youth experiencing homelessness, GaDOE will require LEAs to verify the non-duplication of efforts. The ARP-HCY will include an assurance that the efforts funded by ARP ESSER and ARP-HCY are not duplicative. In addition, GaDOE will examine LEA ARP ESSER plans prior to ARP-HCY I and II budget approval to ensure activities and efforts are not duplicated. Moreover, as part of the cross-functional monitoring protocol, GaDOE will monitor LEA expenditure reports to ensure ARP-HCY supplements and does not supplant ARP ESSER expenditures.

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

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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

GaDOE has established on-going meetings with a state EHCY Advisory Board to analyze state data and identify student need. Based on recommendations, GaDOE will provide contract opportunities for CBOs to apply to offer year-round programs for children and youth experiencing homelessness with priority for children and youth that may be included in other historically underserved populations. GaDOE will contact potential program collaborators, such as Afterschool Network, Boys and Girls Club, Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Mental Health Organizations, Housing Networks, Continuums of Care, and Food Banks, to provide needed educationally related support and wraparound services.

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

GaDOE will develop an ARP-HCY application that will include assurances that LEAs will award contracts to community-based organizations (CBOs) to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness. In addition, GaDOE will review budgets to ensure implementation of assurances. Furthermore, GaDOE will monitor program implementation as part of GaDOE's cross-functional monitoring efforts.