ARP-HCY: ARP HOMELESS I FAQS & TA OPPORTUNITIES

TEACHERS, LEADERS AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS GROUP, OFFICE OF SCHOOL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

JUNE 10, 2021

OBJECTIVES

During this session, meeting attendees will be able to:

- Hear responses to common ARP-HCY implementation questions submitted to the Department; and
- Identify forthcoming technical assistance from the Department and NCHE to support the implementation of the ARP-HCY program.

AGENDA

1. ARP-HCY: A Refresher
   10 minutes

2. Answers to Common ARP Homeless I Implementation Questions
   30 minutes

3. Forthcoming Technical Assistance
   10 minutes

ARP-HCY documents and FAQs are available at https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-homeless-children-youth-arp-hcy/.

PRESENTERS

John McLaughlin
U.S. Department of Education

Bryan Thurmond
U.S. Department of Education

Christina Dukes
National Center for Homeless Education

REFLECTIONS FROM OESE LEADERSHIP

Patrick Rooney
Director, Office of School Support & Accountability

ARP-HCY: A Refresher

ARP-HCY AT A GLANCE

Through the **ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) fund** Congress appropriated **$800 million** to address the specific and unique impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and youth experiencing homelessness.

TITLE II—COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Subtitle A—Education Matters

PART 1—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 2001. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available through the Education Stabilization Fund, there is appropriated to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $122,774,800,000, to remain available through September 30, 2023, to carry out this section.

(b) GRANTS.—From funds provided under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) use $800,000,000 for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with—

(A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID–19; and

(B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities; and

(2) from the remaining amounts, make grants to each State educational agency in accordance with this section.

(c) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—The amount of each grant under

Section 2001(b)(1) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

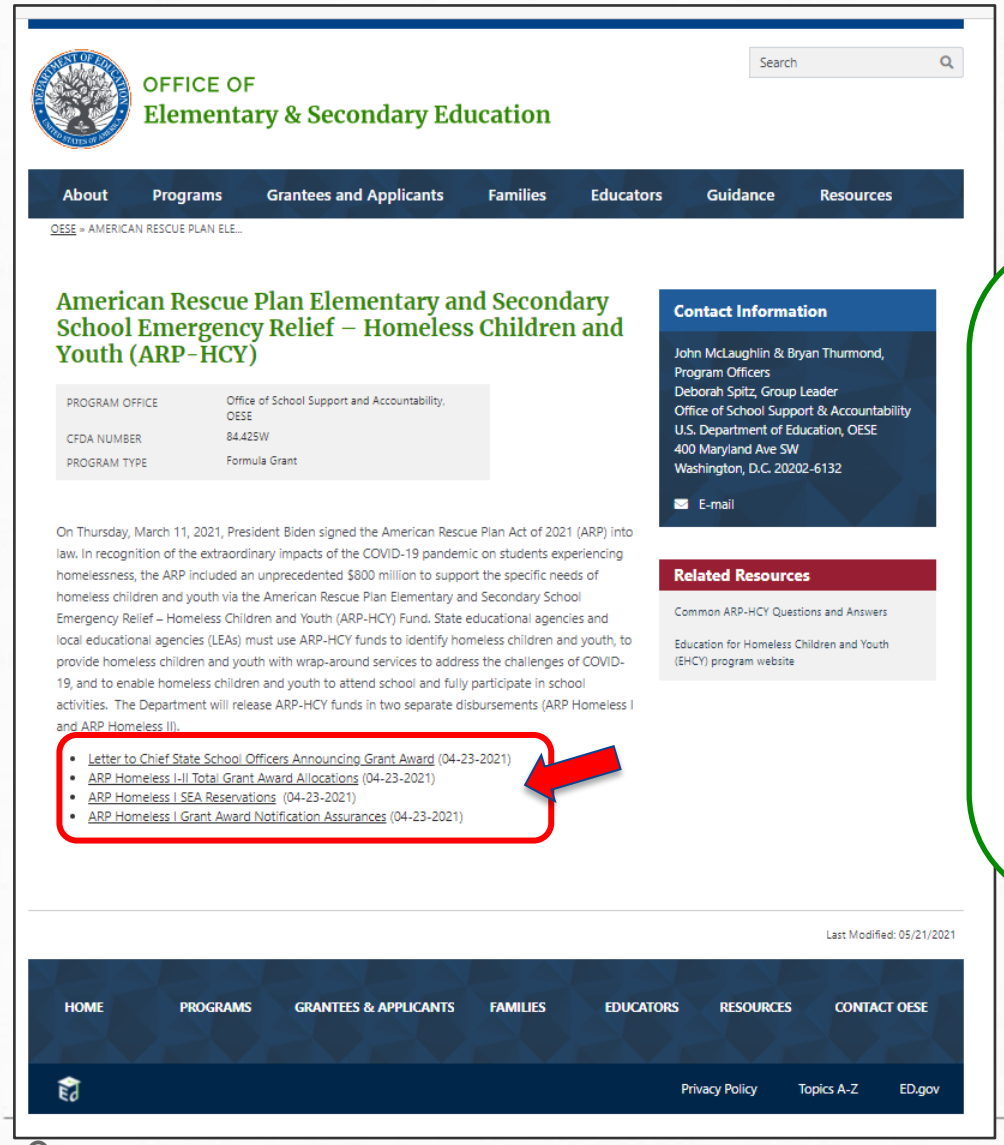
ARP HOMELESS I & ARP HOMELESS II

TWO DISBURSEMENTS OF ARP-HCY FUNDS

ARP Homeless I	ARP Homeless II
$199,750,000 (25% of ARP-HCY)	$599,250,000 (75% of ARP-HCY)
Available to States NOW	Available as soon as June 2021
Designed to supplement McKinney-Vento EHCY funds	ED is undertaking emergency rulemaking
Must be administered by the Office of the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth	ED will develop a formula for the distribution of funds.
SEAs may reserve up to 25% of allocation for State-level activities	ED anticipates requiring States to distribute funds to LEAs via formula based upon:
At least 75% of allocation must be distributed to LEAs (following EHCY requirements)	1. Each LEA's Title I, Part A allocation, and 2. The number of identified homeless children and youth in school year 2018-19.

ARP-HCY RESOURCES

PROGRAM WEBSITE



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

PROGRAM OFFICE	Office of School Support and Accountability, OESE
CFDA NUMBER	84.425W
PROGRAM TYPE	Formula Grant

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) into law. In recognition of the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students experiencing homelessness, the ARP included an unprecedented $800 million to support the specific needs of homeless children and youth via the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund. State educational agencies and local educational agencies (LEAs) must use ARP-HCY funds to identify homeless children and youth, to provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities. The Department will release ARP-HCY funds in two separate disbursements (ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II).

- Letter to Chief State School Officers Announcing Grant Award (04-23-2021)
- ARP Homeless I-II Total Grant Award Allocations (04-23-2021)
- ARP Homeless I SEA Reservations (04-23-2021)
- ARP Homeless I Grant Award Notification Assurances (04-23-2021)

Contact Information

John McLaughlin & Bryan Thurmond, Program Officers
Deborah Spitz, Group Leader
Office of School Support & Accountability
U.S. Department of Education, OESE
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-6132

E-mail

Related Resources

Common ARP-HCY Questions and Answers

Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program website

Last Modified: 05/21/2021

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Webpage features essential ARP-HCY resources, including:

1. Letter from Secretary Cardona,
2. ARP Homeless I GAN Assurances, and
3. ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II SEA allocations

ARP-HCY RESOURCES: FAQS

PROGRAM WEBSITE

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Frequently Asked ARP-HCY Questions and Answers

This page contains responses to common ARP-HCY questions. This page will be updated periodically as the Department fields additional questions about the implementation of the ARP-HCY program. (The dates in parenthesis after each question indicates the date that the question and corresponding response were added to this webpage.) If you have a question about the ARP-HCY program, please contact the Department's program team at HomelessED@ed.gov.

Questions About ARP Homeless I funds awarded to State educational agencies on April 26, 2021

Which provisions of the Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) program apply to the ARP Homeless I funds disbursed on April 26, 2021?

(Date published: May 2021)

The ARP Homeless I funds were released as a supplement to States' EHCY grants. Accordingly, all of the provisions of the EHCY statute (Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act) apply to the ARP Homeless I funds.

Does the ARP's maintenance of effort requirement in section 2004(a) apply to the ARP Homeless I funds?

(Date published: May 2021)

Yes. A Maintenance of Effort update is available at https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/04/MOE-Chart_with-waiver-FAQs_FINAL_4.21.21Update.pdf.

What provisions of the ARP do not apply to ARP-HCY?

(Date published: May 2021)

The requirements in section 2001(c)-(i) do not apply to ARP-HCY funds. For example, while section 2001(d)(2) of the ARP requires SEAs receiving grants under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) fund to award funds to LEAs within 60 days, this requirement does not apply to ARP-HCY funding.

In addition, ARP ESSER grantees are required to submit a State plan by June 7, 2021. While the SEA is required to include in its plan a description of how students experiencing homelessness will be served through the ARP ESSER program, it is focused on the ARP ESSER funds, not the ARP-HCY program. More information will be forthcoming about the State plan process for ARP-HCY.

Webpage features answers to frequently asked questions about the ARP-HCY program and will be updated to address additional questions

Answers to Common ARP Homeless I Implementation Questions – SEA Administration

SEA ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS

- ARP Homeless I administrative timeline
- SEA contracting and granting of funds for State activities
- Stakeholder engagement and compensation
- Reporting requirements

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR OBLIGATING AND DRAWING DOWN ARP HOMELESS I FUNDS?

March 11, 2021
ARP signed into law

TBD, Summer 2021
ARP Homeless II disbursed

September 30, 2024
Obligation period ends

April 26, 2021
ARP Homeless I disbursed

TBD, Summer 2021
State Plan submission/review

January 31, 2025
Drawdown deadline

This timeline is explained in more detail on our ARP-HCY FAQ webpage!

IS IT POSSIBLE TO SUBGRANT ARP HOMELESS I TO AN LEA NEARING THE END OF ITS EHCY SUBGRANT?

Yes. The Department encourages SEAs to award ARP Homeless I subgrants to LEAs as soon as possible. SEAs may:

1. Award these funds to current EHCY subgrantees,
2. Hold a new competition, or
3. Supplement new EHCY awards made on or after July 1, 2021.

HOW CAN STATE SET-ASIDE FUNDS BE USED FOR GRANTS OR CONTRACTS?

- SEAs may carry out the functions of the Office of Coordinator as listed in Section 722(f) either directly or through grants or contracts, including with community-based organizations (CBOs) or other entities.
- An SEA may award a contract or grant to an LEA to carry out State-level activities

WHAT RULES GOVERN SEA CONTRACTING OF FEDERAL FUNDS?

- The Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR 200.317-328 has several regulations for State procurement with Federal grant funds.
- All Federal contracting requirements apply to ARP funds.
- There are several ways to award contracts outlined in 2 CFR 200.320 "methods of procurement to be followed" which include micro-purchase thresholds and non-competitive or sole-source contracts.
- Contracting methods must comply with all State laws and SEA procurement requirements.

CAN ARP HOMELESS I FUNDS BE USED FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT?

- Yes. States and LEAs can use ARP Homeless I funds to engage stakeholders (including youth, parents, and caregivers) with lived experience of homelessness.
- Engagement with these stakeholders may take many forms, including allowing stakeholders to serve as:
  - Advisory committee members
  - Youth advisory board members (e.g., as for YHDP grants).

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARP-HCY FUNDS?

- Almost all EHCY reporting requirements apply to ARP HCY-served students.
  - Most EHCY data collections are based on identification and enrollment in LEAs, rather than subgrant status, and this reporting process will continue for ARP-HCY subrecipient LEAs.
  - ACGR, chronic absenteeism, and reading, math and science assessment data are submitted for all LEAs.
  - Young homeless children served and LEA subgrant status in EDFacts are for EHCY subgrantees only.

Answers to Common ARP Homeless I Implementation Questions – LEA Uses of Funds

LEA USE OF FUNDS TOPICS

- Pre-award costs
- Summer learning and enrichment opportunities
- Internet service access and IT-related equipment
- Store cards, gas cards or prepaid debit cards
- Other ARP emergency housing and rental assistance

CAN ARP HOMELESS I FUNDS BE USED TO COVER PRE-AWARD COSTS?

- Yes. Given the purpose of ARP-HCY funds, they may be used for pre-award costs (as defined in the Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR §200.458) dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared.
- Reminder about comparable services: Any activity or service that is provided to all or any non-homeless students by an LEA cannot be reimbursed only for homeless students from ARP-HCY funds.

CAN LEAS USE ARP HOMELESS I FUNDS TO CONNECT STUDENTS TO SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

- Yes. The Department encourages States and LEAs to use ARP Homeless I funds to connect homeless students to summer learning opportunities, including summer school, tutoring, camps, and other enrichment opportunities.
- GEER and ESSER (ESSER I, ESSER II, and ARP ESSER) funds can also be used to connect homeless students to summer learning opportunities.
- Please remember that if an LEA provides summer learning opportunities to all students, the cost of providing these summer learning experiences to homeless students cannot be charged to ARP Homeless I or to an EHCY subgrant.

CAN LEAS USE ARP HOMELESS I FUNDS FOR INTERNET ACCESS OR DEVICES FOR USE BY HOMELESS STUDENTS?

Yes. The Department has responded to several questions since March 2020 about using stimulus and regular EHCY funds for internet access and IT-related devices and other equipment. Allowable uses include:

- Internet service provider start-up and monthly fees for a doubled-up household, shelter study room, etc.
- Purchase of wifi extenders, MyFi or hotspot devices, etc.
- Additional devices or equipment such as headphones or earbuds if LEAs do not provide them to all students
- On-site support by a tutor for online classwork or homework

CAN ARP HOMELESS I FUNDS BE USED TO PURCHASE STORE CARDS?

- The use of gift cards, store cards, or prepaid debit cards for a parent/guardian or youth experiencing homelessness to purchase school, clothing, or hygiene supplies is allowable.
  - These are not considered to be gifts, which are not allowed to be purchased through Federal grants.
- SEAs and LEAs and Title I, Part A programs can opt not to allow these methods due to elevated concerns about fraud, waste, or abuse.
- LEAs that allow the use of prepaid debit cards should have procedures to reduce the likelihood of fraud, waste, or abuse, for example, by asking for receipts of items purchased with the gift card.
- The Department does not recommend that prepaid debit cards be the primary method for LEAs to distribute needed supplies to all of its students experiencing homelessness.

CAN ARP HOMELESS I FUNDS BE USED TO PURCHASE GAS CARDS?

- The excess cost of school of origin transportation may be defrayed by providing gas cards or mileage reimbursement to a parent/guardian or youth experiencing homelessness.
- Gas cards are allowable with the same caveats for gift cards, store cards, or prepaid debit cards mentioned in the previous slide.

ARE THERE OTHER ARP FUNDS THAT CAN BE USED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY HOUSING TO HOMELESS STUDENTS?

- In April, HUD announced allocations and details about its HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) program at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/home-arp
- In May, HUD announced allocations and details about its Emergency Home Voucher (EHV) program through ARP at https://www.hud.gov/ehv (including recorded webinars)

HOW CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT ARP EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE?

- On May 7, 2021, the Treasury Department issued guidance for ARP's Emergency Rental Assistance program (ERA 2).
- The website is at https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/emergency-rental-assistance-program.
- There is a Fact Sheet at https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/FACT_SHEET-Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program_May2021.pdf.
- There is a longer FAQ document at https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/ERA2FAQs 5-6-21.pdf.

Forthcoming Technical Assistance

FORTHCOMING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

1. Program Websites
   - ARP-HCY Program Webpage (https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-homeless-children-youth-arp-hcy/)
   - ARP-HCY FAQ Webpage (https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-homeless-children-youth-arp-hcy/frequently-asked-arp-hcy-questions-and-answers/)

2. Webinar on ARP Homeless II disbursement

Contact the ARP-HCY team with questions or for thought partnership via HomelessEd@ed.gov!

NCHE SUPPORTS

ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- NCHE will respond to ARP-HCY questions through its phone and email helpline (800.308.2145, homeless@serve.org)

- NCHE will respond to questions with known answers and refer questions without a clear response to the EHCY program office for vetting and response

- NCHE's new ARP-HCY webpage: https://nche.ed.gov/legislation/arp/

NCHE SUPPORTS

PEER-TO-PEER TOPICAL WEBINARS

- NCHE, in collaboration with the EHCY program office, will host Peer-to-Peer State Coordinator webinars focused on ARP-HCY implementation
- NCHE will work with State Coordinators to drive discussions and content
- Timeline: Late June 2021 – Late September 2021
- Potential topics
  - Wraparound services
    - Providing social-emotional, mental health, and trauma-informed supports
    - Partnering with the community, including through contracts with CBOs
    - Connecting families to needed housing supports

NCHE SUPPORTS

TOPICAL IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFS

- NCHE, in collaboration with the EHCY program office, will develop briefs building upon ED ARP-HCY guidance and spotlighting best practices for implementation
- Timeline: October 2021 – Spring 2022
- Topics will be based upon stakeholder needs and questions gathered through ongoing technical assistance
- Potential topics
  - ARP Homeless II implementation
  - Wraparound services
  - Community partnerships

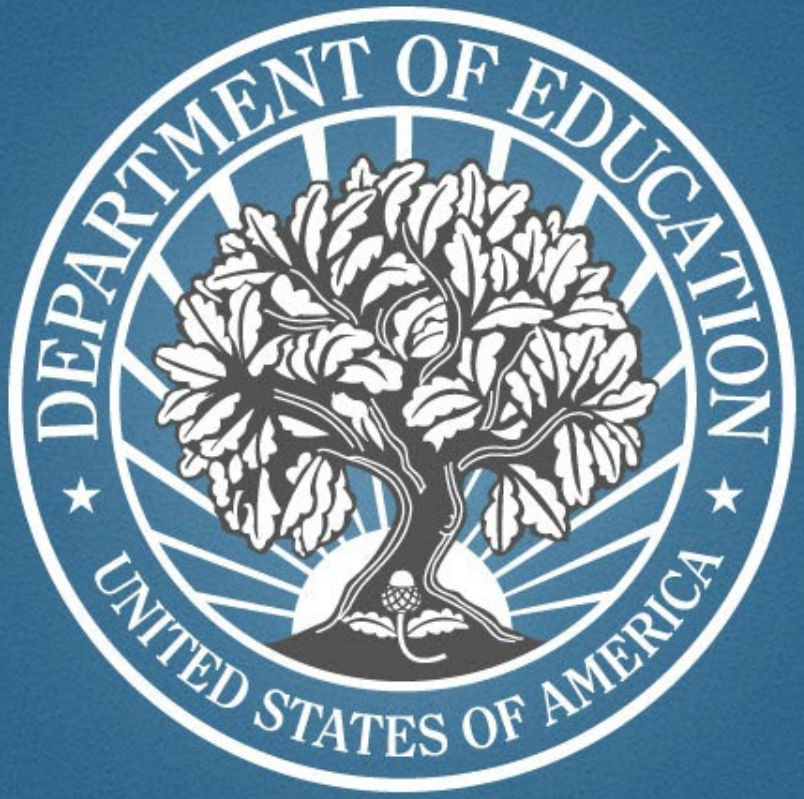
NCHE SUPPORTS

NATIONAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- NCHE is available to present on ARP-HCY guidance and implementation at national and/or state conferences
  - NAEHCY Annual Conference
  - State/regional presentations by request
- Timeline: Fall 2021 and Winter 2022

LOOKING AHEAD

- Mark your calendars for NCHE's peer-to-peer webinars
- 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 3-4 PM ET
- Beginning June 24, 2021
- Occurring through the end of September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