American Rescue Plan Act – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Funds: Early Implementation

December 14, 2021
NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education’s technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

- Website: [http://nche.ed.gov](http://nche.ed.gov)
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)
- Products: [https://nche.ed.gov/resources/](https://nche.ed.gov/resources/)
- Webinars: [https://nche.ed.gov/group-training/](https://nche.ed.gov/group-training/)
- Listserv: [https://nche.ed.gov/resources/](https://nche.ed.gov/resources/) (click Listserv tab)
- Twitter: [@NCHEducation](https://twitter.com/NCHEducation) | Facebook: [facebook.com/NCHEducation](https://facebook.com/NCHEducation)
Your NCHE Team

George Hancock
Director
The SERVE Center
ghancock@serve.org

Jan Moore
Director, Technical Assistance
jmoore@serve.org

Christina Dukes
Director, Partnerships and Policy
cdukes@serve.org

Christina Endres
Program Specialist
cendres@serve.org

Jacinda Goodwin
Program Specialist
jgoodwin@serve.org

Kenya Haynes
Program Specialist
khaynes@serve.org

Megan Johnson
Program Specialist
mjohnson@serve.org

Yatisha Blythe
Program Specialist
yqblythe@serve.org

Erin Goodman
Administrative Assistant
egoodman@serve.org

Keau Brown
Consultant
kbrown@serve.org
Welcoming Remarks

Levi Bohanan, Special Assistant
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education (ED)
B.Levi.Bohanan@ed.gov
Where We’re Headed

• About the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)
  • ARP 101
  • ARP ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds)
    • ARP-HCY (Homeless Children and Youth funds)
  • ARP-HCY usage scenarios

• Q&A and discussion

• Resources for more information
The American Rescue Plan
About the American Rescue Plan Act

• **The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)**

• Signed into law on Mar 11, 2021

• Appropriated $1.9 trillion in federal funding to support the U.S. recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

• Included funds to provide direct relief to Americans, reopen in-person learning in schools safely, and support a national response to COVID-19

• [Learn more about ARP](#) from the White House
Please be advised…

...of the “I don’t know” disclaimer 😊

...but NCHE is happy to follow up or recommend next steps for clarity
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ARP ESSER)

- $122.8 billion
- $122 billion allocated to State educational agencies (SEAs) in proportion to their Title I, Part A allocation for the most recent fiscal year
- $800 million “set aside” for homeless children and youth (ARP-HCY)

Allowable usages of ARP ESSER funds include activities to address the unique needs of particular student subgroups, including homeless

See pages 16-20 of [ARP](#) for ARP ESSER statutory text (allowable usages of funds are found on pages 17-19)

Learn more: [ED ARP ESSER webpage](#)
ARP-HCY Funds

• $800 million in ESSER funds “set-aside” for homeless children and youth under ARP section 2001(b)(1)

• ARP Homeless I: $199,750,000 disbursed to SEAs in late April
  • Being distributed to local educational agencies (LEAs) already receiving McKinney-Vento subgrant funds or through a new competition

• ARP Homeless II: $599,250,000 disbursed to SEAs in late July
  • Being distributed to LEAs via a formula established via emergency rulemaking

• Learn more from ED (ARP-HCY landing page)
Receiving ARP Homeless II Funds in Consortium

• In order to receive a subgrant on its own, an LEA must have an ARP Homeless II formula-based allocation of at least $5,000

• If an LEA’s allocation is less than $5,000, it must apply in consortium with one or more LEAs that raise the combined allocation to $5,000 or more
  • An LEA could form or join a consortium with other LEAs with an allocation less than $5,000
  • An LEA with an allocation less than $5,000 may also form a consortium with an LEA whose allocation is already over $5,000

• LEAs do not have to be contiguous to form a consortium

• SEAs are encouraged to help LEAs form consortia
ARP ESSER and ARP-HCY State Plans

- ED required States to submit ARP ESSER and ARP-HCY State plans

- State plans detail how funds will be used to safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools, and address student needs

- ED is reviewing and approving State plans on a rolling basis

- Access your State’s ARP ESSER State plan

- Access your State’s ARP-HCY State plan
Have LEAs in your State received ARP Homeless I funds?
Received ARP Homeless II funds?
ARP-HCY Focus

- Areas of focus include supporting the
  - **Identification** of children and youth experiencing homelessness
  - **School engagement** of children and youth experiencing homelessness
  - Provision of **wrap-around services** to children and youth experiencing homelessness
ARP-HCY General Purposes

• Addressing the urgent needs of homeless children and youth (HCY), including academic, social, emotional, and mental health

• Increasing capacity at the State Educational Agency (SEA) and Local Educational Agency (LEA) levels by hiring staff, dedicating resources, providing technical assistance, and planning partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs)

• Connecting students and their families to extended day and extended year learning and enrichment programming, and preparing them for back-to-school in the Fall of 2021
ARP-HCY Focus on Underserved Students

- ED encourages an intentional focus on historically underserved student populations under ARP-HCY

- LEAs can support these students in school and in partnership with CBOs that are well-positioned to identify these students and connect them to educationally related supports and wraparound services

- Historically underserved students include
  - Rural children and youth
  - Tribal children and youth
  - Students of color
  - Children and youth with disabilities
  - English learners
  - LGBTQ+ youth
  - Pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students
Allowable Usages of ARP-HCY Funds

• Reminder: ARP-HCY funding is supplemental to ARP ESSER funding

• Allowable ARP-HCY funds usages
  
  • Existing **16 authorized activities** for McKinney-Vento (M-V) subgrant funding
  
  • Wraparound services (academic, trauma-informed, social-emotional, mental health)
  
  • Needed supplies (PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items)
  
  • Transportation to support school engagement
  
  • Communication devices and technology needed for school engagement
  
  • Short-term housing as a last resort when needed for school engagement (a few days in a motel)
  
  • Prepaid store or debit cards needed to purchase materials for school engagement
  
  • Awarding contracts to CBOs
Digging Deeper: Prepaid Store or Debit Cards

- **Dear Colleague Letter** language (p 4): “providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate in school activities”

- Prior to purchasing prepaid store or debit cards, LEAs should consider the availability of all other district and community resources for the needed item

- If your SEA and LEA allow for the purchasing of prepaid cards
  - The cards must be used to carry out McKinney-Vento Act and ARP-HCY allowable activities
  - The LEA must have procedures in place to reduce the likelihood of fraud, waste, or abuse so that the cards are used only for authorized items or activities
  - It is recommended that the cards not be used as the primary method of distributing supplies
Digging Deeper: Short-term Housing

- **Dear Colleague Letter** language (p 4): “paying for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable the homeless child or youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school)"

- Prior to using ARP-HCY funds to pay for short-term, temporary housing, LEAs should consider the availability of all other community housing assistance, including emergency rental assistance

- If an LEA opts to use ARP-HCY funds to pay for short-term temporary housing, it is recommended that LEAs establish clear parameters to ensure the funds are used in keeping with the guidelines set forth in the Dear Colleague Letter
Meeting the Moment with Partnerships

• Federal stimulus bills appropriated billions of dollars to human services systems, including:
  • Housing (e.g., rental assistance)
  • Homeless response
  • Early care and education (e.g., child care, Head Start)
  • K12 education
  • Higher education
  • Other partner systems?
• How can your community partner across systems to wrap comprehensive services around children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness?
ARP-HCY:
Usage Scenarios
ARP-HCY Scenario

You are the liaison in a large urban district. You recently attended a homeless coalition meeting and learned about local emergency rental assistance. You’re referring McKinney-Vento families but are hearing that they’re having a hard time completing the application and getting connected to other needed community supports. You’d like to use ARP-HCY funds to contract with a community partner to provide school-based “systems navigation” to help families understand what help is available, whether they’re eligible, and how to apply.

Would this be an allowable usage of ARP-HCY funds? Why or why not?
You are the liaison in a small rural district. Your LEA didn’t identify any McKinney-Vento students last year, but you believe there are eligible students who haven’t been identified. Your LEA, in partnership with four other small rural LEAs, receives funding as a consortium under ARP Homeless II. Consortium liaisons agree that strengthening identification should be a priority. You agree to use ARP-HCY funds to increase the % of your time dedicated to the liaison position so you can provide school and community training on identifying McKinney-Vento students and referring them to school-based supports.

Would this be an allowable usage of ARP-HCY funds? Why or why not?
ARP-HCY Scenario

You are the liaison in a mid-sized suburban district. You hear from a school social worker that the family of one of your McKinney-Vento students, who has been staying temporarily at a neighbor’s house, has been asked to leave the house tomorrow and may not have a place to stay starting this weekend. The school social worker asks if you can use ARP-HCY funds to pay for a hotel for the family.

Would this be an allowable usage of ARP-HCY funds? Why or why not?
What ARP-HCY emerging practices or usages of funds are you considering or implementing?
For More Information

- ED ARP ESSER webpage
- ED ARP-HCY webpage
- NCHE ARP-HCY webpage
- NCHE: State Coordinator contact information (click on your State in the U.S. map)
- NCHE homeless education helpline
  - 800.308.2145
  - homeless@serve.org
Thanks for Joining Us!

George Hancock
Director
The SERVE Center
ghancock@serve.org

Jan Moore
Director, Technical Assistance
jmoore@serve.org

Christina Dukes
Director, Partnerships and Policy
cdukes@serve.org

Christina Endres
Program Specialist
cendres@serve.org

Jacinda Goodwin
Program Specialist
jgoodwin@serve.org

Kenya Haynes
Program Specialist
khaynes@serve.org

Megan Johnson
Program Specialist
mjohnson@serve.org

Yatisha Blythe
Program Specialist
yqblythe@serve.org

Erin Goodman
Administrative Assistant
egoodman@serve.org

Keaun Brown
Consultant
kbrown@serve.org