

American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Funds: Updates and Strategies



Wisconsin Homeless Education Conference
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Meet Your Presenter



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Today's Roadmap

- Refresher: ARP-HCY funding basics
- New federal ARP-HCY guidance
- Wisconsin district homeless liaison panel
- Peer-to-peer interaction and learning using Google Jamboards
- Q&A and discussion throughout





ARP-HCY Funding Basics and Updated Federal Guidance

ARP-HCY Basics



- **\$800 million in new homeless education funds at the federal level, approximately \$10.1 million of which was allocated to Wisconsin**
- 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
- **Timeline:** Funds should be obligated by **Sept 30, 2024**; in other words, spend, spend, spend! 😊

ARP-HCY Purposes

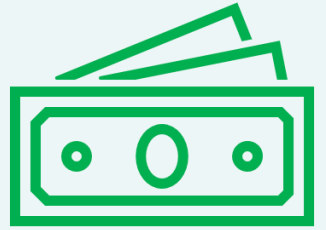


- **Addressing the urgent needs** of homeless children and youth, including academic, social, emotional, and mental health
- **Increasing capacity** at the State Educational Agency (SEA) and Local Educational Agency (LEA) levels by hiring staff, dedicating resources, providing technical assistance, and planning partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Connecting students and their families to **extended day and extended year learning and enrichment programming**
- Supporting **historically underserved student groups**

Guiding Principles for Using ARP-HCY Funds

- ARP-HCY funding is **supplemental** in nature
 - If a support is already being provided to all or a broad group of (non-homeless) students, or if a need can be met easily through other sources, ARP-HCY funds should not be used
 - Other sources to support McKinney-Vento students include general district; Title I, Part A homeless set-side; and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds
- ARP-HCY funding usages must **align with the purposes and requirements** of the McKinney-Vento and American Rescue Plan Acts
- ARP-HCY funding usages must be **reasonable and necessary**; this may need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

Allowable Usages of ARP-HCY Funds



- ✓ [Flexible funds usage](#) (“any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youth”)
- ✓ Any of the existing 16 authorized activities for McKinney-Vento subgrant funding
 - **Wraparound services** (academic, trauma-informed, social-emotional, mental health)
 - **Needed supplies** (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 (e.g., a few days in a motel)
 - **Prepaid store or debit cards** needed to purchase materials for school engagement
 - Awarding **contracts to community-based organizations (CBOs)**

See the [U.S. Department of Education’s April 2021 ARP-HCY Dear Colleague Letter](#) for more information

Updated Federal ARP-HCY Guidance Highlights

Updated ARP-HCY Dear Colleague Letter released by the U.S. Department of Education in September 2024

- Underscores the **timeliness of spending ARP-HCY funds** given the funding deadline
- Encourages state education departments and school districts to **modify administrative processes** (e.g., budget amendment and procurement) to expedite the deployment of ARP-HCY funds
- Addresses **common allowable uses of funds questions** that arose during the first two years of ARP-HCY implementation



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Examples of **allowable use clarifications** include

- Providing flexibility regarding length of stay in short-term temporary housing (e.g. a motel)
- Re-emphasizing the allowability of [purchasing prepaid store or gas cards](#) to support school engagement
- Giving specific examples of allowable “non-traditional” transportation services in support of school engagement (purchase of vehicles, gas cards for transportation reimbursement, paying for limited car repairs if reasonable and necessary; see the DCL for details)
- Connecting young children to early care and education supports
- Connecting families and students to college preparation supports and providing transportation to enable their attendance to related activities





**Questions?
Comments?**



Wisconsin District Homeless Liaison Panel

Meet Your Panelists



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Panelist Questions

1. Please introduce yourself and share a little bit about your district's homeless education program.
2. What are the main ways your district has been using its ARP-HCY funds?
3. What successes have you seen in how your district has used its ARP-HCY funds? What are your "ARP-HCY bright spots"?
4. What, if any challenges, did you encounter in using your district's ARP-HCY funds. Were you able to overcome them? If so, how?





**Questions?
Comments?**



Peer-to-Peer Interaction and Learning Using Google Jamboards

Using Google Jamboards

- Share your thoughts in response to the question at the top of the screen using the virtual sticky note tool
- Click and drag your sticky note to a blank area of the screen
- **Please don't click the Clear Results button!**

A quick demonstration...



**Questions?
Comments?**

For More Information

- [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction ARP-HCY webpage](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection website](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education website](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education EHCY Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education ARP-HCY webpage](#)

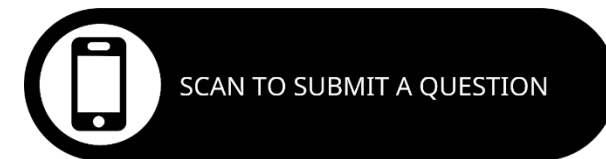


Thanks for Joining!



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Have a remaining question?



Your question may be shared
anonymously and answered in
tomorrow's live Q&A session.