

**2023-26 Education for Homeless
Children and Youth (EHCY)
Innovation Grant Application
Informational Webinar**

Clara Pfeiffer, Grants Specialist
Kristine Nadolski, EHCY Coordinator


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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The intent of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is to ensure all children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence receive access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth.

The WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI) receives funds from the U.S. Department of Education and distributes those funds through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grants.

Grant Overview

- Grant type: Competitive and discretionary
 - Eligibility: Public school districts and independent charter schools
 - DPI Contacts: Clara Pfeiffer and Kristine Nadolski
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EHCY Innovation Grant

The purpose of the 3-yr Innovation grant is to:

- Fund innovative strategies to support students experiencing homelessness above and beyond compliance with McKinney-Vento
- Improve the academic and school success of students experiencing homelessness
- Fund goals and action steps based on needs assessment and data analysis
- Build sustainable new strategies that continue after the 3-year grant cycle


What do we mean by “Innovation”?

- We expect all districts applying for the 3-year grant to be in full compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Compliance topics include policies/procedures, transportation, staff training on McKinney-Vento, enrollment or identification practices.
 - Can be in action steps, but NOT the goal.
- Does **not** need to be something that hasn't ever been done before - It should be above and beyond what is currently done for students experiencing homelessness in the district.

Considerations for Applying

- The EHCY Innovation and EHCY Compliance grant competitions are both currently happening now.
- Districts cannot apply for both grants. **Districts must select ONE to apply for.**
- For more information, please visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info>.

Considerations for Innovation Grant

- Does the district have the time or capacity to conduct a needs assessment using various data sources to inform grant goals specific to your district?
 - Does the district have the ability to write 3 goals that will have measurable outcomes for the next 3 years?
 - Does the district have capacity to focus on academic outcomes for students experiencing homelessness?
 - Is the district ready to focus on equitable outcomes for students experiencing homelessness as a specific subpopulation?
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Eligibility and Funding

Eligibility: Public school districts and independent charter schools

2021-22 Identified Students Experiencing Homelessness	Maximum Annual Award
0 - 50	\$25,000
51 - 100	\$30,000
101 - 200	\$40,000
201 - 500	\$55,000
501 - 1000	\$75,000
1000+	\$100,000

Before you Begin

Read the grant guidelines and the scoring rubric!

Use the scoring rubric and tips in the guidelines when drafting answers

<https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info>

Use of Funds

- Grant funds should **not** be used to fulfill the basic requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Grant funds **must** be used to expand upon or improve services for students experiencing homelessness.
- Grant recipients will be allowed to budget no more than 20% of their total grant funds each year to cover excess school of origin transportation costs.

Other Grant Requirements

- Partnerships with other grant-funded districts
- **Annual meeting (virtual or in-person)**
 - Fall 2023, 2024, 2025
- **Reports**
 - Mid-Year Report (January)
 - End-of-Year Report (June)
- **Site Visit - once during the grant cycle**
- **Compliance Review**
 - Unless the district has had an acceptable compliance review after 2015

Grant Application Details

- Grant application opened February 27, 2023
- Complete grants online by April 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
- Application is in Qualtrics, online survey software
- Cannot save in Qualtrics. Please use the Collaboration Google Doc found on the <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info> webpage.
- When applications are submitted, grant contact will receive a copy of responses. Ensure the assurances form is signed and uploaded. Incomplete grants will NOT be accepted.

Readiness (Stakeholders)

Who are the stakeholders identified for this grant project and what are the roles of these stakeholder groups in the implementation of the grant project?

- The stakeholders and corresponding roles were described in-depth.
- Stakeholders/stakeholder roles are diverse and are able to represent students experiencing homelessness.
- Each stakeholder was chosen specifically for their expertise in working with/representing students experiencing homelessness.
- Stakeholders include groups directly related to schools/districts (families, students) and groups that support schools/districts (community agencies, businesses)

Section IX - Plan

1a. Demonstration of Need: Identify the overall need(s) to be addressed by the grant project. Identify the supporting data being used to determine need.

- There was a strong description of the overall need, the supporting data, and the organized and systematic approach to use the data for meaningful analysis.
- This data analysis approach also included an assessment of the gaps over multiple years being experienced by students experiencing homelessness.

Data for Needs Assessment

When determining the overall needs to address in the grant project, applicants must use data!

Data can be retrieved from WISEgrants and WISEdash
Secure

- Ask for the Economic Indicator Analyst role in WISEdash or work with a data specialist in the district for access
- [EHCY Application Data Guide](#) gives step by step instructions

Section IX - Plan

1b. What is the likely root cause(s) (i.e., factors, resource inequities, opportunity gaps, etc.) contributing to the need(s) to be addressed by this grant project?

- The likely root cause(s) was clearly identified, focuses on areas of strength in relation to the area(s) of need, and fits naturally with the outlined need(s).

IX - Priority Statements/Areas

A priority area or statement explains the relationship between the highest likely root cause and the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

1c. What is your approach to address one or more of the root causes for this grant project and how does this grant project fit into this approach?

Example: We believe we can increase the literacy proficiency rate of students experiencing homelessness if we implement a literacy tutoring program.

- TWO Priority Statements/Areas are required. Each Priority Area MUST be used in at least one SMART goal.

Section X. Do/Action Plans

- **3 SMART Goals** - (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely)
 - 1 must be Academic
 - Other 2 can be Academic or Non-academic
 - Includes measurable baseline data
- **Each Priority Area/Statement must be used for at least 1 goal**


Section X. Action Steps

Minimum of 4 Action Steps per Goal

- Personnel Responsible
- Evidence of Completion
- Anticipated Date of Completion (within the 3 year grant cycle)


Encouraged to think about family engagement and community collaboration when determining action steps.

Action Plan Notes

- 3 goals are required, but applicants may write up to 5. If extra goals are written, they will not be scored/worth extra points.
 - The Action Plan Section is worth twice as many points as other sections. Goals and Action Steps are the most important pieces moving forward in the grant cycle.
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Section XI - Study/Check

What is the process used to collect and analyze grant-specific data?

- There was a description of both what and how data will be collected, as well as how a protocol will be used to analyze these data.
 - It is clear these data will be used in order to refine, improve, and strengthen the project.
 - The data gathered relates to student outcomes and adult practices.
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Section XII - Act (Coordination and Sustainability)

- 1a. How will the grant project supplement and align with existing or available initiatives or programs (e.g., curriculum, evidence-based programs, Equitable Multi-level Systems of Support, comprehensive school-based mental health, etc.) to address the priorities defined in the Action Plan?
- 1b. What are the protocols for ongoing communication about the grant project with internal and external stakeholders? Describe the procedures for communicating the grant project within and across the system.
2. What procedures and policies are in place to sustain the grant project after the grant period?

Section XIII - Budget Narrative

- Budgets are not required as part of the initial application.
- How will the grant funds be used to address the identified SMART goals during the grant cycle?
- Budget narrative must be completed with specific detail on how the district will connect the budget items to grant goals.
- Budgets will be completed in WISEgrants after districts receive notification from DPI that the district is funded for the grant cycle.

Grant Budgets

- Grant funds may be used for the 16 activities authorized under Section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
 - Please note this does **NOT** include flexibilities under ARP-HCY (e.g., hotel stays, repairs for non-district vehicles, purchasing vehicles, gift cards for food, etc.)
 - Majority of budget must be related to grant goals.
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Grant Review Process

- The EHCY grant is competitive and follows the DPI competitive, discretionary grant process.
- Applications will be read by at least two DPI EHCY staff as well as a panel of external reviewers chosen by DPI.
- All internal and external reviewers will use the scoring rubric found in Appendix B of the grant guidelines to evaluate applications.

EHCY Grant Timeline

- Grant application opened February 27, 2023
- Complete grants in Qualtrics online software by April 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
- **No extensions will be granted.**
- All applicants are anticipated to know the status of their grant application by June, 2023.

Contact Us

Kristine Nadolski, State EHCY Coordinator
kristine.nadolski@dpi.wi.gov

Clara Pfeiffer, EHCY Grants Specialist
clara.pfeiffer@dpi.wi.gov

Questions?

