

# Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness with Federal Funds

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# Learning Outcomes

- For today's webinar a baseline understanding of McKinney-Vento is presumed.
- Understand the different federal funds available to support students experiencing homelessness.
- Understand allowable uses of federal funds pertaining to students experiencing homelessness, including ARP-HCY, EHCY, Title I and ESSER stimulus funds.

# Federal Funds to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness


- Title I, Part A Homeless Reservation
  - Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant (competitive)
  - ARP-HCY Part I and Part II
  - ESSER
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# Title I Eligibility


Children and youth experiencing homelessness are:

- automatically eligible for Title I services, including services provided through schoolwide or targeted assistance programs
- eligible to receive Title I services, even if not attending a Title I school, through the Title I reservation
- eligible to receive Title I services for the remainder of any school year in which they become permanently housed

# Title I-A Reservation

- Title I funds must be used to support students to succeed in school and meet academic achievement standards.
  - When taking into consideration barriers that students experiencing homelessness often encounter, districts may provide students experiencing homelessness with services that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I permanently housed students, and are not available from other sources.
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# Title I-A Reservation

- Services must be reasonable and necessary to assist students experiencing homelessness to take advantage of educational opportunities.
  - Title I, Part A funds must be used only when funds or services are not available from other public or private sources that provide similar services for economically disadvantaged students in general.
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# Determining the Title I-A Reservation

There is not a specific amount of Title I, Part A funds an LEA must reserve. However, it is required that the amount be sufficient to provide services to students experiencing homelessness. Options include:


- an LEA may use a districtwide, per pupil amount for students experiencing homelessness.
- an LEA may reserve a percentage of their total Title I, Part A allocation.
- an LEA may determine its own amount that is reasonable and necessary to provide comparable Title I services to students experiencing homelessness.

[DPI Title I, Part A Homeless Reservation FAQ](#)

# Determining the Title I-A Reservation


**What if my district does not currently identify any students experiencing homelessness?**

If an LEA currently does not have students identified as experiencing homelessness, a Title I, Part A reservation is still required. A student may enroll at any time in the LEA, or a student currently enrolled in the district may have a change in housing status at any time.

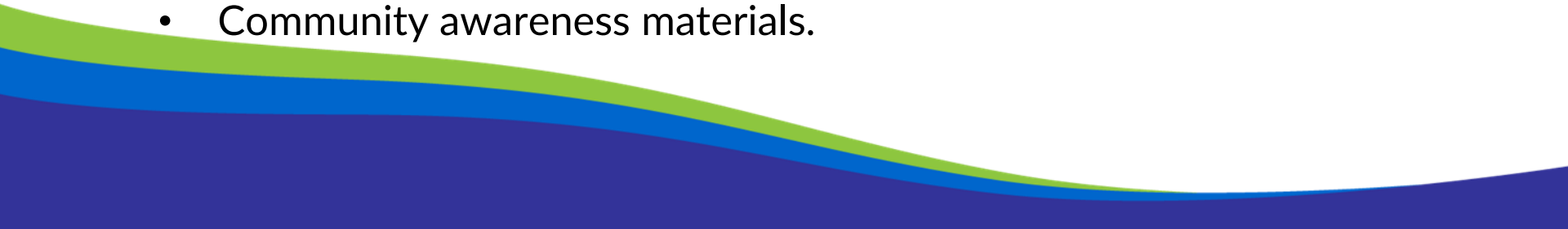





# Title I-A Reservation

- If a student is in need of academic support then they should be prioritized for academic services in a TI building.
  - If the student is not in academic need, then Title I funds can support the student if they need support services, like: transportation, counseling services, supplies, gym shoes, or anything else to be able to participate in their education.
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# Title I-A Reservation-Examples

- Title I teacher in high schools that do not receive Title I funds to support students experiencing homelessness and their academic success.
  - Homeless liaison salary or other social work staff working with students experiencing homelessness.
  - Professional development specific to homelessness for staff that support students experiencing homelessness.
  - Community awareness materials.
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# Coordinating with Title I, Part A

- LEAs are still required to take a Title I, Part A homeless reservation despite receiving ARP-HCY funds. ARP-HCY funds should not be taken into account when determining a reasonable and necessary reservation amount.
  - LEAs should coordinate the use of ESSER funds with EHCY and Title I, Part A funds to ensure a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness.
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# Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Grants

- Under the McKinney-Vento Act, SEAs must distribute federal EHCY grant funds to LEAs in a competitive manner.
- Typically around \$1,000,000 distributed each year.
- Grant funds may be used for the 16 activities authorized under Section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Majority of budget must be related to grant goals.

# 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 strategies that are based on data analysis
- Build sustainable new strategies that continue after the 3-year grant cycle

Districts applying for this grant must already be in compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

# EHCY Compliance Grant

The purpose of the 2-year Compliance grant is to:

- Strive for equitable distribution of EHCY funds throughout the state.
  - Provide increased technical support to districts to ensure compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
  - Encourage recipients to go beyond compliance in a select area.
  - Provide the opportunity for districts to feel prepared to apply for the EHCY 3-year innovation grant.
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# EHCY Grant Timelines


- Now accepting applications for the EHCY Innovation Grant and EHCY Compliance Grant!
- Complete grants in Qualtrics by April 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
- Find applications and guidelines on <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info>

# Most common activities allowable under McKinney-Vento


- Supplemental instruction to students experiencing homelessness
- Professional development specific to homelessness for staff that support students experiencing homelessness.
- Homeless awareness and McKinney-Vento training for all staff
- Excess cost of transportation
- Early childhood programs not otherwise provided
- Attract, engage, retain students experiencing homelessness, particularly those not enrolled in school



# Most common activities allowable under McKinney-Vento

- Out of school time mentoring or summer tutoring/academic activities
  - Fees for obtaining records- immunization, birth certificates
  - Meaningful family engagement
  - Coordination with other agencies
  - Extraordinary or emergency assistance in order to participate fully in school activities
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# American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY)

- ARP-HCY funds are specifically dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including through wrap-around services.
  - Funds should address the specific and urgent needs due to the extraordinary impact of the pandemic on students experiencing homelessness, include academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.
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# Purpose and Focus of ARP-HCY

- Added flexibilities to activities typically allowed with EHCY funds.
- Overall, costs must be “reasonable and necessary” and align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the EHCY statute.
- Grant funds may be used for the 16 activities authorized under Section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- ARP-HCY total amount allocated to LEAs: \$7,569,722
- ARP-HCY grant funds can be used until September 30, 2024

# Coordinating with Other Stimulus Funds

- LEAs should strategically use and leverage **both** ESSER funds and dedicated homeless funding (Title I, Part A reservation, EHCY) to locate, engage, maintain connection, and support children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- **ARP-HCY, and ESSER funds can all be used to support the 16 allowable activities under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.**
- Even if an LEA received a small amount of ARP-HCY funds or joined a consortium, ESSER funds can and should be used to support the extraordinary needs of students experiencing homelessness.

# Use of Funds - Basics

- Homeless liaison's salary
- Excess cost of transportation to and from the school of origin
- Clothing/shoes (school uniform/dress code/gym uniform)
- Cap and gown
- Fees to participate in the general education program
- School supplies
- Birth certificates
- Medical/dental services (glasses, hearing aids, immunizations)

# Use of Funds - Identification/Outreach

## Increase outreach and identification by:

- Increasing staff hours for the homeless liaison or McKinney-Vento related personnel. Hiring additional staff, or adding hours to staff specifically tasked with finding and re-engaging students.
- Launching an outreach campaign which may include increasing posters, flyers, and other outreach throughout the community.
- Screen for homelessness by embedding questions and information about homelessness in all school or district outreach efforts and registration materials.
- Provide training to all teachers and staff to assist with identification.
- Upgrade online enrollment systems to ensure full and easy accessibility to families and students experiencing homelessness.

# Use of Funds - Communication/Wrap-Around

**Enhance communication with students and families.**

- Provide wireless hotspots for highly mobile students, purchase software for communicating with families, outreach campaigns.

**Partner with Community-Based Organizations or hire “systems navigators” to help families and youth access wrap-around services.**

- To help students and families meet basic needs like food, health care, hygiene items, laundry, shelter, housing and rental assistance, Head Start, etc.

# Use of Funds - Wrap-Around

## **Help meet rising mental health needs.**

- Invite mental health providers to support students virtually and/or on-site at schools.
- Implement trauma-informed training and practices.

## **Increase counseling and social work services.**

- Ensure counselors can assist students experiencing homelessness with credit accrual and recovery, FAFSA completion, and college/career transition.
- Hire or assign building-level “success/graduation coaches” for students experiencing homelessness.



# Use of Funds - Academic Support/ Early Childhood

**Provide academic coaching, enrichment opportunities, and access to summer learning.**

- Offer transportation to all available in-person enrichment opportunities.

**Offer early childhood education services for young children experiencing homelessness.**

- Provide transportation to existing in-person options.
- Increase capacity in preschool, Head Start, child care, and early intervention programs.
- Hire early childhood homelessness specialists at LEA, Head Start programs, and child care programs who assist in the identification and support of young children experiencing homelessness and their families.

# Use of Funds - Transportation

## Provide more transportation options.

- Using ARP-HCY funds, purchase a vehicle for students experiencing homelessness' school of origin transportation and for community outreach to motels, campgrounds, food banks, etc.
- Increase capacity of existing transportation services by hiring drivers for district vehicles or a transportation coordinator.
- Partner with public transportation providers to offer no-cost or reduced-cost bus options.
- Reimburse youth and parents for gasoline/mileage to/from school of origin.

# ARP-HCY Specific Use of Funds

These are expenses that are allowable with the increased flexibilities of ARP-HCY that are **NOT allowable** with EHCY or TI-A funds.

- **Providing emergency housing for families experiencing homelessness**

Hotel/motel stays, vouchers

- **Providing a gift card for school and hygiene supplies, clothing, or items necessary to attend and fully participate in school.**

Purchasing these items outright is easiest for LEAs but gift cards may be acceptable as long as they are following obligations rules under EDGAR. [ARP-HCY Procedures for Gift Cards](#)

- **Car repairs for student or family experiencing homelessness**

Situation specific. Is it the only way to ensure the student(s) can attend school? Is there any other transportation option?

More details and guiding questions are available in the [DPI ARP-HCY FAQ](#)

# DPI Resources

- **DPI ARP-HCY Grant Information**
  - <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy>
  - [DPI ARP-HCY Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- **DPI EHCY Grant Information**
  - <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info>
- **DPI EHCY Guidance Topics (including Title I-A reservation)**
  - <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/guidance>

# Related Resources

- SchoolHouse Connection:
  - <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/arp-hcy/>
  - <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/how-to-use-arp-funds/>
- [USDE Frequently Asked Questions: ESSER and GEER](#)
- [DPI Guidance on allowable costs under ESSER](#)
- [US Department of Education Frequently Asked Questions: Transportation](#)

# Contact Us

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# Questions?

