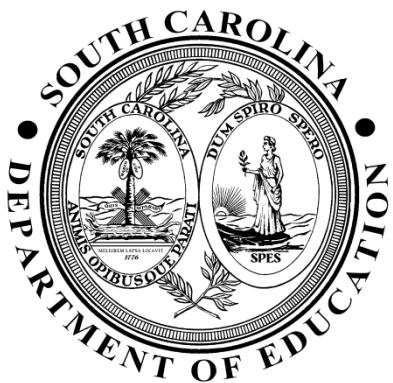




Is this Allowable?
Understanding the American Rescue Plan
Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Funds

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Molly M. Spearman – State Superintendent of Education

Objectives

- Review purpose of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Homeless Children and Youth (HCY) funds
- Discuss/review ARP I and ARP II provisions and requirements
- Explore ways to build capacity of the LEA
- Explore what expenses are allowable with this emergency funding



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ARP-HCY Authorization

- §2001(b)(1) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- \$800 million to states to meet specific and urgent needs of homeless children and youth
- South Carolina's total [ARP-HCY Allocation](#) is \$13,841,864
- Allocated to states via ARP Homeless I & ARP Homeless II
- Performance period through September 30, 2024

ARP-HCY Purpose

- Providing for the URGENT needs of students experiencing homelessness;
- Increasing the identification of homeless children and youth;
- Providing wraparound services considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*
- Providing assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

ARP-HCY Homeless I

What do we know?

- 20 subgrants awarded to current McKinney-Vento subgrantees
- Increase identification of students experiencing homelessness
- Support the work of McKinney-Vento Liaison/build program capacity
- Connect students and families to summer learning and enrichment programs to address learning loss



ARP-HCY Homeless II

What do we know?

- Formula [subgrant opportunity](#) available to *all* LEAs in South Carolina
- \$8,787,324 in total
- Focus on underserved populations experiencing homelessness
- Provide wrap-around services
- Contract with Community Based Organization
- Build program capacity



Think Strategic, Think Big!

- Consider long-term, sustainable changes for your MV Program:
 - What are the needs of McKinney-Vento students in my district?
 - What are the barriers?
 - McKinney-Vento Liaison assessment [tool](#)

TRUE
or
FALSE?

True or False?

(type your answer in the chat)

The ARP-HCY subgrant funds are available to help students experiencing homelessness participate fully in *all* school activities and address learning loss?

Build/Expand Community Partnerships

Consider collaborating with Community Based Organizations (CBO) to help identify historically underserved homeless children and youth and connect them to wrap-around services.

Per ED, fund CBOs “well positioned” to identify and serve:

- rural children and youth,
- tribal children and youth,
- students of color,
- children and youth with disabilities,
- multilingual learners,
- LGBTQ+ youth, and
- pregnant, parenting, or care-giving students.



Allowability

- Costs must be “reasonable and necessary” and “align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the EHCY statute.” ([Dear Colleague, April 2021](#)).
- LEAs may use their Unrestricted Indirect Cost Rate.
 - No “Supplement, not Supplant” provision for ARP-HCY (34 C.F.R. § 75.563)
- ARP-HCY funds should be used to meet *urgent* needs of students experiencing homelessness, but not replace funds that are otherwise available.

Allowability (*cont.*)

- Build staff capacity to increase identification and outreach services
- Enhance communication options with families and students
- Hire Systems Navigators to connect children and families to resources
- Provide academic coaching and in-person enrichment
- Ensure young children have access to early childhood education.
- Make systems and processes more McKinney-Vento friendly
- Address mental health needs and concerns
- Enhance transportation services/options

Allowability (*cont.*)

- Providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with CBOs, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services)
- Purchasing needed supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items)
- Providing transportation to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities
- Purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied, homeless children and youth to enable such children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities

Allowability (*cont.*)

- Providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities
- 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 homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school)
- Providing store cards/pre-paid store cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities

Pre-Paid Store Cards

The use of store cards, gift 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 or incentives*, which are not allowed to be purchased through federal grants.
- LEAs must document sound fiscal management procedures to reduce the likelihood of fraud, waste, or abuse (i.e., asking for receipts of items purchased with pre-paid card).
- All LEAs that use pre-paid cards for McKinney-Vento students will need to provide policies and procedures for use to the SCDE Program Office.
- Examples of best practices in use of cards will be shared with all LEAs.
- USED does not recommend that pre-paid cards be the primary method for LEAs to distribute needed supplies to students experiencing homelessness.

Pre-Paid Gas/Fuel 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/fuel cards are allowable with the same caveats for gift cards, store cards, or prepaid debit cards mentioned on the previous slide.
- See RFP for required supplementation and allowable percentages for some expenditures on page 7.

Unique Opportunities

- Applicants are encouraged to use this simple [tool](#) to assess the capacity of their McKinney-Vento (MV) liaison to meet the duties listed in the law, prior to selecting activities for increasing capacity of the District Liaison.
- LEAs must use a minimum of 40 percent of the ARP Homeless II funds to increase identification, awareness, and outreach efforts.
- In addition, not more than 20 percent of the funds may be used for the excess cost of transportation to and from the school of origin, or for short-term emergency lodging.
- Activities must be based on identified needs of the district's identified homeless children/youth (LEA Needs Assessment).

TRUE

or

FALSE

?

True or False?

(type your answer in the chat)

LEAs can spend *all* the ARP-HCY funds awarded on transportation and emergency housing for students experiencing homelessness.

True or False?

(type your answer in the chat)

The US Department of Education strongly encourages LEAs to hire additional staff to build and expand their McKinney-Vento Program in their community.

True or False?

(type your answer in the chat)

Pre-paid store cards can be given as incentives to students experiencing homelessness who participate in afterschool activities.

Next Steps



- Consider long-term sustainable changes for HCY Program
 - What are the needs?
- Enhance identification strategies
- Capacity building
- Community collaboration

Additional Resources

- [SCDE-Grants Opportunity Page](#)
- [OESE ARP-HCY](#)
- [Notice of ARP-HCY Final Requirements](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [School House Connection: How to use ARP Funds](#)

Contact Us

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