

American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth II

Maine Department of Education

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is ARP HCY II?

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) into law. In recognition of the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students experiencing homelessness, the ARP included an unprecedented \$800 million to support the specific needs of homeless children and youth via the ARP – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund. State educational agencies and local educational agencies (LEAs) must use ARP-HCY funds to identify homeless children and youth, to provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities. The Maine Department of Education released the ARP-HCY funds in two separate disbursements (ARP HCY I and ARP HCY II).

Where did ARP HCY II come from?

The ARP HCY II funds were automatically disbursed to any School Administrative Unit (SAU) that met the required \$5,000 allocation threshold based on the US Department of Education formula. The formula is based equally on the proportional share of a SAU's allocation under Title I, Part A for the most recent fiscal year, and the SAU's proportional share of the number of homeless children and youth identified by each SAU relative to all SAUs in the State, using the greater of the number of homeless children and youth in either the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year in each SAU.

For SAUs who were under the \$5,000 threshold, they had the opportunity to submit a form as a consortium with other SAUs via Microsoft Forms. The deadline for this form was October 15, 2021.

What can SAUs use these funds for?

ARP HCY funding must be used for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with (A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19; and (B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

Funding provided under ARP Homeless II must follow the final requirements at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/07/EO-12866-OESE-FY-21-NFR-ARP-HCY-with-disclaimer.docx>.

Furthermore, funding under the ARP HCY I and II programs must adhere to the allowable uses of funds described in Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act). Under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act, LEAs may use subgrant funds for activities that support the purposes of the program, including:

- The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths.
- The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs

for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).

- Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this part, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
- The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A) of the McKinney-Vento Act, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 732(g)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.
- The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.
- The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
- If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
- The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or youths.
- The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Act.

- The provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
- The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under section 723(a)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act to provide services under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
- The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

Activities under both ARP HCY I and II may include any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of homeless children and youth in order to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, such as:

1. providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services);
2. purchasing needed supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items);
3. providing transportation to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities;
4. 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;
5. 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;
6. 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); and
7. providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.

LEAs must ensure that all costs are reasonable and necessary and that these uses of funds align with the purpose of, and other requirements in, the McKinney-Vento Act. In addition, when considering funding

decisions, we want to emphasize that section 723(d)(16) of the McKinney-Vento Act allows the use of funds for “other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.” Accordingly, when considering funding decisions, LEAs should analyze the needs of students experiencing homelessness in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its extraordinary impact.

How do SAUs invoice for reimbursement?

GEM Systems will be utilized for the reimbursement process. Please go to - www.4pcamaine.org

Select the link for “Federal Grant Reimbursement System”



IDEAs that Work
U.S. Office of Special Education Programs

Maine Department of Education
Application Website

Welcome to the Department of Education's Consolidated Application and Grant Reimbursement Website.

School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) Applications

- ESSERF 1 Application
- ESSERF 2 Application

Maine Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRE 2) Applications

Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program (EANS)

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

ARP Homeless Children and Youth II Application (Microsoft Form)

Federal Grant Reimbursement System

FY2021 IDEA Year End Report

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Application*

- FY2021 and earlier ESEA Applications
- School Year 2018-20 and earlier ESEA Performance Reports

Select the invoice for ARP HCY I or ARP HCY II



HOME SY20-21 INVOICES SY19-20 INVOICES SY18-9 INVOICES ACCOUNT GUIDANCE LOG OUT

Federal Grant Reimbursement Menu

Fill out the Billing period. The billing period on the invoices can be monthly or up to three months but cannot overlap fiscal years.

Select Reimbursement as the type of funds requested.

Select type of funds requested Reimbursement Other

Fill out the funds invoiced per budget category.

Provide trial balance / accounting documentation for the invoice. These need to be attached by uploading the .pdf files in GEM system.

***ACCOUNT MANAGER GUIDANCE FOR PROCESSING INVOICES**

This section can be used by account managers to upload additional compliance documentation for this invoice.

Upload PDF & Attach to Invoice

File: No file chosen

The SAU submitted a form via Microsoft Forms but can no longer access it. What do I do?

Email Amelia Lyons, McKinney Vento State Coordinator at amelia.lyons@maine.gov to request a copy of your submitted application.

The SAU submitted the form based on the initial estimate amount, but the grant award notification shows a different amount. What do I do?

All SAUs that have met the \$5,000 allocation threshold will need to update their budget within GEMS. Please access the GEMS platform at www.4pcmaine.org and click on *ARP Homeless Children and Youth II Budget Update*. You will then be asked to enter your username and password. If you do not have a username and password, you will need to request an ARP HCY one by emailing support@gemschoolsoftware.com with your district or school name. Once you have logged into the ARP HCY Budget Update form, you will be asked to provide a budget and brief description of expenses.

The SAU has never received McKinney-Vento funding before. Where do I start?

If you would like, email Amelia Lyons, McKinney Vento State Coordinator at amelia.lyons@maine.gov to set up a time to chat and brainstorm approaches. Review the McKinney-Vento Programming Roadmap

included here.

McKinney-Vento Programming Roadmap

Prepare MV Liaison	Build School Awareness	Build Community Awareness	Build Program	Expand Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Assess capacity and FTE•District Needs Assessment•Complete ME DOE MV Orientation Training•Join ME DOE webinars and trainings•Hire additional staff to support outreach and services for MV students (systems navigator, outreach staff, success coaches, AmeriCorps, contracts with community based organizations)•Update contact info in NEO and with MV ME DOE Listserv•Review MV documentation in school student information system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Train school staff (especially registrars, transportation, food service, teachers, counselors, social workers)•Dedicate building Points of Contacts system, with stipends•Set up and share referral protocol•Review and update forms and templates (enrollment, BID, caregiver, etc.)•Develop, translate, print outreach materials•District website/ social media / online enrollment information on McKinney-Vento	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Connect with community partners, neighboring SAUs•Establish connections with referral sources for health, dental, mental health, housing, substance abuse, and other appropriate services•Conduct outreach in community, including laundromats, DHHS offices, general assistance, food pantries, housing providers, etc.•Create resource list for families facing housing instability•Build family awareness (KYR materials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Monthly meetings with Liaison, POCs•Preschool engagement•Collaborate with Head Start•Unaccompanied Homeless Youth•Credit accrual and recovery, FAFSA completion, and college transition•Provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services•Before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs•Expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Offer teachers extra paid hours to provide individual academic support & weekly check-ins•Training on trafficking, housing instability, trauma-informed care, social-emotional learning•Summer programming & outreach•Build partnerships with local businesses for donations•Stock clothing closet, food pantry, school supplies for students•Partner with local colleges for tutoring•Collaborate with Migrant Education program•Ongoing PD for school staff•Ongoing family awareness activities•Ongoing collaboration with local districts, community partners, state agencies

I still would like more information. Where can I find it?

US DOE ARP HCY II information can be found [here](#).

The ME DOE webinar on ARP -HCY recording is available [here](#).

Any other questions, you can reach out to:

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