**ARP-HCY Program Application-**

**Frequently Asked Questions FAQs**

**GENERAL BACKGROUND AND FUNDING**

**What is the American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth Fund?**

In recognition of the extraordinary impact of the pandemic on students experiencing homelessness, the American Rescue Plan provided states nationally $800 million in aid through the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Fund. Oregon received $7,356,860 in funding from this program. Funding was allocated to states in two installments known as ARP-HCY I and ARP-HCY II.

**How was ARP-HCY I allocated?**

ARP HCY I funds are required to be “administered in a manner consistent with all of the requirements of the Education for Homeless Children and Youths program.” As a result, ARP-HCY I funds were allocated competitively. Districts who were eligible to apply included existing McKinney-Vento grantees, grantees who applied for McKinney-Vento funding but were not awarded funds due to state capacity constraints, and districts who were impacted by the 2020 wildfires.

**How was ARP- HCY II allocated?**

Funding from ARP-HCY II program is allocated to districts using the following formula, which was prescribed by the [U.S. Department of Education](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/07/09/2021-14705/final-requirements-american-rescue-plan-act-homeless-children-and-youth-program):

* 50 percent in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title I, Part A for the most recent fiscal year (i.e., fiscal year 2020), and
* 50 percent in proportion to the number of homeless children and youth identified by each LEA relative to all LEAs in the State, using the greater of the number of homeless children and youth in either the 2019-2019 or 2019-2020 school year in each LEA.

**Generally speaking, how can ARP Homeless I and II funds be used?**

Districts may use funds for any of the [**sixteen uses permitted by the McKinney-Vento Act**](https://schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Activities-Authorized-Under-Section-723d-of-the-McKinney-Vento-Act.pdf)**.** In addition, funds may be used for “any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of children and youth who are experiencing homelessness in order to enable their ability 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 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 the homeless children and
	7. youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
	8. providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.”

Districts can also award contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, and LGBTQ+ youth, and connect them to educationally related support and wraparound services.

For further information on allowable uses of ARP-HCY funds, see the [Chief State School Officers Memo](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/04/ARP-Homeless-DCL-4.23.pdf) and the ARP-HCY section on the [ODE McKinney-Vento Webpage](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/ESEA/McKinney-Vento/Pages/default.aspx).

**What are the allowable uses of funds under McKinney-Vento?**

Activities Authorized Under Section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. 11433(d)) [Updated April 23, 2021]

1. Supplemental educational services, such as tutoring and other academic enrichment programs;
2. Expedited evaluations for various educational services;
3. Professional development activities for educators and pupil services personnel working with homeless students;
4. Health referral services;
5. Defraying the excess cost of transportation in order to enable students to attend the school of origin;
6. Early childhood education programs for preschool-aged homeless children;
7. Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth in public school programs;
8. Before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs with educational activities;
9. Payment of fees and costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records of homeless children and youth;
10. Education and training for parents of homeless children and youth about rights and resources;
11. Development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services;
12. Provision of pupil services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services;
13. Activities to address needs that may arise from domestic violence;
14. Adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for non-school facilities to provide services listed above;
15. Provision of school supplies, including those to be distributed at shelters or other appropriate locations; and
16. Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless students to attend school.

**What is the timeline for obligating and drawing down ARP Homeless I funds?**

ARP-HCY I and II funds are available until September 30, 2024. The deadline for drawdown of obligated funds January 31, 2025.

**How do these funds relate to other Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds?**

ARP HCY I and II are supplemental to the supports and services provided with ESSER funds. The needs of students experiencing homelessness must be addressed through the use of the ARP ESSER funds at the state level, as well as through the required 20% local educational agency (LEA) reservation to address the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on specific student groups, including students experiencing homelessness.

**Is ARP-HCY subject to supplement not supplant?**

Yes. However, the ARP-HCY program must supplement, not supplant, the ESSER I, II and III dollars. The supplement not supplant provisions under the ARP-HCY program do not apply to the ESSA Title dollars.

**FORMING A CONSORTIA**

**Does my district have to form a consortium to receive ARP-HCY II Funds?**

Districts that receive less than $5,000 *must* form a consortium in order to access these funds and the sum of funding of districts in a consortium must exceed $5,000.Districts that receive more than $5,000 in funding *may* form, or join, a consortium, but they are not required to form a consortium.

**How does my district form a consortia?**

Districts in a consortium must identify a lead fiscal agent who will be responsible for receiving and allocating funds to consortium members. A consortia:

* may be a group of two or more districts;
* does not need to consist of contiguous districts;
* may be organized under an ESD;
* may be organized under a district receiving more than $5,000;
* may utilize existing consortia;
* can contract, or partner, with a community based organization, however the CBO cannot act as the lead/fiscal agent for the consortia.

**If my district receives more than $5,000 can I join, or form, a consortia?**

Yes. Districts who receive more than $5,000 can join, or form, a consortia. Your district can also serve as the fiscal agent for a consortia.

**DATA REPORTING**

**What are the data reporting requirements?**

In addition to the online data collection on homeless students required from districts at the end of each school year, all districts receiving ARP-HCY I & II funds must submit count data on *unenrolled* homeless children ages 0-2 and ages 3-5 served under the program. This data set is already required of McKinney-Vento subgrant programs, but will be new to many districts. Data needed are the same as for PK-12 students: living situation (shelter, unsheltered, doubled-up or motel/hotel) and unaccompanied status (yes/no). Generally, the information is collected by district MV Liaisons during intake interviews with parents and guardians. A sample Intake Form is posted on the [ODE McKinney-Vento webpage](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/esea/mckinney-vento/pages/default.aspx) under District Compliance. Data collection templates and procedures will be part of technical assistance and support for ARP-HCY for the duration of the program.