

ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief— Homeless Children and Youth Fund

Overview

On April 23, 2021 the U.S. Department of Education (ED) [announced](#) the availability of \$800 million to support the identification, enrollment, participation, and success of children and youth experiencing homelessness and to provide them with wrap-around services in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) § 2001(b)(1) authorizes the [ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth \(ARP Homeless\) Fund](#). ARP Homeless is being allocated to states through two separate awards: ARP Homeless 1.0 and ARP Homeless 2.0.

ARP Homeless 1.0

25 percent of Tennessee’s allocation (minus state reserve funds) will be made available as a supplement to current McKinney-Vento subgrant funds in early summer 2021. Following recommendations and guidance from ED, ARP 1.0 funds will be administered through a competitive grant for current McKinney-Vento subgrantees only. Funds from ARP Homeless 1.0 must be administered consistent with the requirement of McKinney-Vento funds and must supplement and not supplant funds and services provided through state/local funds; Title I, Part A homeless set-aside funds; McKinney-Vento subgrant funds, and ESSER 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 funds.

ARP Homeless 1.0 – Allowable Use of Funds

As stated above, ARP Homeless 1.0 funds supplement the McKinney-Vento program, and all allowable McKinney-Vento uses apply to these funds. For more information, local educational agencies (LEAs) should reference the list of authorized activities in section 723(d) of the EHCY statute, 42 U.S.C. § 11433(d).

These activities may include any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youth, such as:

- 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);
- Purchasing needed supplies (e.g., PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items); • providing transportation to enable children and youth to attend classes and participate fully in school activities; • purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied youth to enable the youth to attend and fully participate in school activities;
- 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 the homeless child or youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
- Providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate in school activities.

For more information on ARP Homeless 1.0, see ED’s [letter to chief state school officers](#) as well as the resources listed below. Additional information will be shared directly with McKinney-Vento subgrantees as it becomes available and will also be posted in [ePlan > TDOE Resources](#) > ARP Homeless.

ARP Homeless 2.0

75 percent of Tennessee’s allocation will be made available as soon as summer 2021 after ED completes necessary regulations to change McKinney-Vento’s required competitive subgrant process for the purpose of the second allocation of funding. ED anticipates that the new regulations will require states to distribute funds that they will receive in the second phase to LEAs via a formula that uses the LEA’s allocation under Title I, Part A and the number of identified homeless children and youth in 2018-19. Based on the initial guidance from ED, ARP Homeless 2.0 funds will be available to all Tennessee LEAs.

More information about ARP Homeless 2.0 will be shared with LEA homeless liaisons as it becomes available and will also be posted in [ePlan > TDOE Resources](#) > ARP Homeless. In anticipation of ARP Homeless 2.0 funding, homeless liaisons should begin to have discussions with LEA leadership around the needs of students experiencing homelessness and how ARP Homeless 2.0 funds might be used to address those needs.

Additionally, the following resources are available for LEAs that may not be familiar with the McKinney-Vento Act and the allowable use of McKinney-Vento funds:

- [ARP 1.0 – Letter to Chief State School Officers](#)
- [McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance](#) (will be updated by ED in summer 2021)
- [Fact Sheet: Supporting the Success of Homeless Children and Youth](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection:](#)
 - [Overview of U.S. Department of Education Guidance on American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)
 - [How to Use American Rescue Plan Act K-12 Education Funds to Identify and Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#) (NCHE)
 - [Homeless Liaison Toolkit](#)

ARP Homeless 1.0 vs. ARP Homeless 2.0 Summary

ARP Homeless 1.0	ARP Homeless 2.0
\$ 3,055,380 (25% of TN’s award minus state reserve)	\$12,221,517 (75% of TN’s award)
Available early summer 2021	Available as soon as summer 2021
Intended to supplement existing McKinney-Vento funds, interventions and supports (current McKinney-Vento subgrantees)	Intended to supplement <i>all</i> interventions and supports for students experiencing homelessness (all LEAs)
Competitive Grant	Formula Grant (based on Title I, Part A and 2018-19 homeless data)

For questions on ARP Homeless, please contact Vanessa.Waters@tn.gov.