

NEW Competitive ARP Homeless System Navigator Grant

Overview

The Tennessee Department of Education is providing subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to hire a Systems Navigator to help connect McKinney-Vento identified students and families with resources and community-based organizations (CBO's) and provide support successfully accessing these systems. Grantees can also contract with a CBO as their Systems Navigator (e.g., United Way or Boys and Girls Clubs).

These subgrants will allow for LEAs to further support the historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness, such as rural children and youth; Tribal children and youth, students of color; children, and youth with disabilities; English learners, LGBTQ+ youth; and pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students experiencing homelessness. The funds from the System Navigator subgrant are intended to coordinate with Title I, Part A; the McKinney-Vento subgrant; and ARP Homeless 1.0 and 2.0 funds (as applicable).

ARP Homeless System Navigator Role

The ARP Homeless Systems Navigator will support the LEA and school homeless liaisons in identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with wrap-around services and the assistance needed to enable them to attend school and participate fully in school activities. The Systems Navigator will assist the LEA and school homeless liaisons in meeting the urgent needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness; including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. The systems navigator will work closely with the LEA homeless liaison to ensure the LEA is in compliance with the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

ARP Homeless System Navigator Essential Functions

- Help families and youth access education and other services, such as shelter, utilities, housing, and rental assistance, childcare, Head Start, unemployment, and tax credits.
- Participate in and lead training on the identification of homelessness.
- Facilitate the organization of required record keeping throughout the identification and support processes, including, but not limited to, residency forms, investigation documentation, categorizing homeless situations appropriately, maintaining databases, etc.
- Assist homeless liaisons and school leaders in determining the best interest of the child or youth, to the extent feasible to keep child or youth in the school of origin, unless it is against the wishes of the parent/guardian.
- Assist homeless liaisons and school leaders in expediting enrollment of homeless children or youth even if the child lacks records normally required for enrollment.
- Ensure information on each homeless child and youth is entered immediately in the state mandated student database.
- Coordinate community support for resources for identified homeless students under the direction of the LEA homeless liaison.
- Facilitate needs assessments of families living in homelessness under the direction of the LEA homeless liaison.

- Maintain and fulfill requests from school homeless liaisons for resources or services needed for identified homeless students or families
- Assist in organizing supply closets, food pantries, hygiene kits, etc., for identified homeless students.
- Follow LEA financial procedures in obtaining resources needed by identified homeless students under the direction of the LEA homeless liaison.
- Use effective and professional communication skills when interacting with stakeholders, including families of students living in homelessness
- Notify child nutrition upon identification of homeless students.
- Assist homeless liaisons and school leaders in ensuring that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth to and from the school of origin.
- Always maintain confidentiality and professionalism

This competitive grant is open to all Tennessee LEAs. Funding will be awarded for two years: FY23 (2022-23) and FY24 (2023 -24). LEAs may request up to \$200,000 per school year. Allocations will vary from LEA to LEA based on pay rates, but requested amounts should be based on an **80%/20% formula**. Approximately 80 percent of the request should be for the salary and benefits of the position with the remaining 20 percent budgeted for position needs (travel, professional development, minimal equipment, communication costs, etc.). Award amounts will be based on a number of factors including LEA requests, availability of funds, the number of applicants, and the quality of the subgrant application.

The ARP Homeless System Navigator Grant opens in ePlan on **Thursday, June 2, 2022**. The application can be found in ePlan > Funding Applications > 2023 > ARP Homeless System Navigator. All applications are due in ePlan on or before **Wednesday, June 30, 2022**.

The ARP Homeless System Navigator Technical Application Guide and a pre-recorded webinar can also be found in ePlan > TDOE Resources > Relief Funding > ARP Homeless > ARP Homeless System Navigator.