

# **2023-25 Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Compliance Grant Application Informational Webinar**

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# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The intent of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is to ensure all children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence receive access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth.


The WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI) receives funds from the U.S. Department of Education and distributes those funds through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grants.

# Grant Overview

- Grant type: Competitive and discretionary
- Eligibility: Public school districts and independent charter schools
- DPI Contacts: Clara Pfeiffer and Kristine Nadolski

# EHCY Compliance Grant

The purpose of the 2-year Compliance grant is to:

- Strive for equitable distribution of EHCY funds throughout the state.
  - Provide increased technical support to districts to ensure compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
  - Encourage recipients to go beyond compliance in a select area.
  - Provide the opportunity for districts to feel prepared to apply for the EHCY 3-year innovation grant.
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# Considerations for Applying

- The EHCY Innovation and EHCY Compliance grant competitions are both currently happening now.
- Districts cannot apply for both grants. **Districts must select ONE to apply for.**
- For more information, please visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info>.

# Considerations for Compliance Grant

- Capacity - Does the district have staff and time to participate in quarterly technical assistance meetings (virtually) and complete the work?
- Readiness - Has the district gone through compliance monitoring recently and recognizes the need for improvement? Or believe the district is under-identifying students?
- Support - because the grant will focus on policies and procedures, districts must have the support of the administration. This may also include having access to data.

# Eligibility and Funding

- Eligibility: Public school districts and independent charter schools
- Funding: \$15,000 for each grant year. Total of \$30,000

# Before you Begin

Read the grant guidelines and the scoring rubric!

Use the scoring rubric and tips in the guidelines when drafting answers

<https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info>



# Grant Requirements

- Partnerships with other grant-funded districts
- **Quarterly Technical Assistance Calls**
- **Annual meeting (virtual or in-person)**
  - Fall 2023, 2024
- **Reports**
  - End-of-Year Report (June 2024, 2025)
  - Presentation to external stakeholders in 2024-25
- **Compliance Review**

# Grant Application Details

- Grant application opened February 27, 2023
- Complete grants online by April 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
- Application is in Qualtrics, online survey software
- Cannot save in Qualtrics. Please use the Collaboration Google Doc found on the <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/grant-info> webpage.
- When applications are submitted, grant contact will receive a copy of responses. Ensure the assurances form is signed and uploaded. Incomplete grants will NOT be accepted.

# Pathways

- Applicants complete a self-assessment process to assist in choosing a pathway
- Pathways
  - Staff and Community Awareness
  - Identification and Enrollment

# Readiness (Stakeholders)

**Who are the stakeholders identified for this grant project and what are the roles of these stakeholder groups in the implementation of the grant project?**

- The stakeholders and corresponding roles were described in-depth.
- Stakeholders/stakeholder roles are diverse and are able to represent students experiencing homelessness.
- Each stakeholder was chosen specifically for their expertise in working with/representing students experiencing homelessness.
- Stakeholders include groups directly related to schools/districts (families, students) and groups that support schools/districts (community agencies, businesses)

# Section IX - Plan

1. Demonstration of Need: Identify the overall need(s) to be addressed by the grant project. Identify the supporting data being used to determine need.

- There was a strong description of the overall need, the supporting data (**including the result of the self-assessment surveys and chosen pathway**), and the organized and systematic approach to use the data for meaningful analysis.
- This data analysis approach also included an assessment of the gaps over multiple years being experienced by students experiencing homelessness.

# Data for Needs Assessment

When determining the overall needs to address in the grant project, applicants must use data!

Data can be retrieved from WISEgrants and WISEdash Secure

- Ask for the Economic Indicator Analyst role in WISEdash or work with a data specialist in the district for access
- EHCY Application Data Guide gives step by step instructions

# Priority Statement/Area

DPI Created Priority Statement:

State and national data from 2020-21 show that:

- The state of Wisconsin identifies students experiencing homelessness as 1.58% of the total student enrollment, as compared to the national rate of 2.21%.
- 23% of Wisconsin school districts identified 0 or 1 students as experiencing homelessness.
- 45% of low-income districts in Wisconsin report students experiencing homelessness at a rate lower than the state average of total enrollment.
- National studies show that secondary students self-identify as experiencing homelessness at twice the rate of certified national reported data.

Based on the analysis of these data, **Wisconsin LEAs are under-identifying students experiencing homelessness.**

# Section IX - Plan

## Section IX - Plan

1b. What is the likely root cause(s) (i.e., factors, resource inequities, opportunity gaps, etc.) contributing to the need(s) to be addressed by this grant project?

- The likely root cause(s) was clearly identified, focuses on areas of strength in relation to the area(s) of need, and fits naturally with the outlined need(s).



# Section X. Do/Action Plans

- **3 Required SMART Goals/Action Plans** - (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely)
  - **Goal 1:** Policy/Procedure/Dispute Resolution
  - **Goals 2 and 3:** Applicants will choose from a list of goal statements developed by DPI based on their chosen pathway (Staff and Community Awareness OR Identification and Enrollment)

# Goals for Compliance Grant

- Annual staff training, Create training materials
- Increase/strengthen community partnerships
- Create district-specific awareness materials (brochure, poster, etc.),
- Create district-specific identification and enrollment materials (enrollment/residency forms, etc.)
- Develop district-specific written processes/operating procedures for student identification
- Establish/strengthen connections among inter-district programs and staff (preschool/Head Start, CTE, Data, Special Education)

# Section X. Action Steps

Minimum of 3 Action Steps per Goal (maximum of 6)


- Personnel Responsible
- Evidence of Completion
- Anticipated Date of Completion (within the 2-year grant cycle)

The Action Plan Section is worth twice as many points as other sections.



# Section XI - Study/Check

What is the process used to collect and analyze grant-specific data?

- There was a description of both what and how data will be collected, as well as how a protocol will be used to analyze these data.
  - It is clear these data will be used in order to refine, improve, and strengthen the project.
  - The data gathered relates to student outcomes and adult practices.
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# Section XII - Act (Coordination and Sustainability)

1. What are the protocols for ongoing communication about the grant project with internal and external stakeholders? Describe the procedures for communicating the grant project within and across the system.
  - Must include information on the anticipated plan for fulfilling the requirement to give a presentation to internal and external stakeholders during the second year of the grant
2. What procedures and policies are in place to sustain the grant project after the grant period?

# Section XIII - Budget Narrative

- Budgets are not required as part of the initial application.
- How will these funds help the district accomplish the chosen goals?
- Budget narrative will be examined when EHCY staff review the budgets entered for each year of the grant project.
- Budgets will be completed in WISEgrants after districts receive notification from DPI that the district is funded for the grant cycle.

# Grant Budgets

- Grant funds may be used for the 16 activities authorized under Section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
  - Please note this does **NOT** include flexibilities under ARP-HCY (e.g., hotel stays, repairs for non-district vehicles, purchasing vehicles, gift cards for food, etc.)
- Budget should relate to grant goals, but is not required to have a connection for all budget items.
- Cannot use more than 50% of funds on school of origin transportation (yearly)

# Grant Review Process

- The EHCY grant is competitive and follows the DPI competitive, discretionary grant process.
- Applications will be read by at least two DPI EHCY staff as well as a panel of external reviewers chosen by DPI.
- All internal and external reviewers will use the scoring rubric found in Appendix B of the grant guidelines to evaluate applications.



# Rubric - Extra Points

Applicants will have two extra points added to their total score for each qualifying factor:

- The LEA has a smaller percentage of students of experiencing homelessness than the state average of 2.09%.\*
- The LEA identified less than the state average of 2.09% students experiencing homelessness AND over 30% of the LEA student population is economically disadvantaged.\*

# EHCY Grant Timeline

- Grant application opened February 27, 2023
- Complete grants in Qualtrics online software by April 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
- **No extensions will be granted.**
- All applicants are anticipated to know the status of their grant application by June, 2023.

# Contact Us

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# Questions?

