Title I and School Support

Education for Homeless Children & Youth (EHCY) eBrief

February 2022

American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Part II Grant

The application and budget for the American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Part II grant is now open in WISEgrants! ARP-HCY funds are specifically dedicated to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness. ARP-HCY funds should be used in conjunction with other federal stimulus funds, federal and local funds.

All LEAs should make funding management selections by **March 4, 2022**. Initial applications and budgets must be submitted by **June 4, 2022**.

Take a look at the following resources pertaining to the ARP-HCY Part II grant:

- DPI ARP-HCY webpage: https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy
- ARP-HCY Part II Grant Guidelines
- DPI ARP-HCY Frequently Asked Questions document
- Responsibilities and Resources for ARP-HCY Consortia

Transportation Reimbursement Information

DPI has received many questions about whether it is the role of an LEA to require proof of car insurance for families experiencing homelessness who are using their own vehicle to transport students to school.

Though car insurance is required in the state of Wisconsin, requiring proof of car insurance is not required of a district and in many cases creates a significant barrier to families and students experiencing homelessness. It is not an appropriate role of a district to intervene in personal financial or legal decisions of families in this way.

It is important to acknowledge that the McKinney-Vento Act requires districts to provide (and pay for) transportation to/from the school of origin but it does **not** require districts to reimburse parents for driving their students to/from school. Reimbursing parents or youth for driving to school and/or extracurricular activities is only one of several acceptable ways to provide required transportation and is most often the most cost-effective way. However, if the district chooses not to provide transportation reimbursement, then they **must** provide another safe and reasonable form of transportation, such as a school bus or taxi. More information on transportation is available here: https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/guidance#Transportation.

Tax Refunds for Qualified Students Experiencing Homelessness

Qualifying youth experiencing homelessness and youth from foster care who are at least 18 years old are eligible for a $1,502 tax refund through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), even if they are full-time students. This is a departure from previous tax years, and of special importance to vulnerable youth who are still in high school or pursuing higher education. For more information, see this policy update from SchoolHouse Connection.

Upcoming Trainings and Connection Opportunities

See all upcoming opportunities on the new EHCY Trainings Calendar:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/10UoEn5gVukcz1cdveumI7ZDlwPy698Ir/edit

Lunch Time Live Connections

The DPI EHCY Team holds the Lunch Time Live chat series monthly. These are optional times to connect with liaisons and others across the state to share best practices in supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness.

March 10, 11:30 a.m.
April 20, 11:30 a.m.
May 17, 11:30 a.m.
June 6, 11:30 a.m.

Join via Zoom - Meeting ID: 896 1603 6146; Passcode: 202122
https://widpi.zoom.us/j/89616036146?pwd=d3h6NHhNN1U5M1pBbnZKVDNGUXNoZz09

A PDF of this eBrief is available on the DPI EHCY Webpage

A Newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

eBrief Sign-Up

If you know of others who would like to receive this eBrief, please share this link so they can be added to our mailing list.

New Resources!

Recommendations for Awarding Partial Credits to Students Experiencing Homelessness

McKinney-Vento requires states and districts to have procedures to remove barriers that prevent students from receiving appropriate credit for full or partial coursework completed at a prior school. This new document was created by homeless liaisons from across the state and includes recommendations on how to award partial credit. District staff can adopt any of the recommendations that make sense in their own district.

ARP-HCY Frequently Asked Questions

DPI recently published these FAQ to assist all districts in the use of ARP-HCY funds.

State Coordinator Corner

Karen Rice left DPI for a position with SchoolHouse Connection in the fall. We are sad she is gone, but excited she is working with McKinney-Vento at a national level. Due to limited availability, if you would like to discuss a specific situation, please email Clara or Kristine, or you can schedule a call with Kristine using this link.

Resources

DPI EHCY website
NCHE
NAEHCY
SchoolHouse Connection
McKinney-Vento Act
McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance

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