ARP Homeless Targeted Support Grant

Request for Applications from eligible applicants

The Ohio Department of Education is pleased to announce a statewide funding opportunity for eligible Head Start programs, Joint Vocational School Districts, community schools and districts to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Ohio is taking a multifaceted approach to help students recover from the impact of the pandemic, as evidenced by Future Forward Ohio. Future Forward Ohio has three interrelated strategies: (1) overcoming obstacles to learning, (2) accelerating learning and (3) preparing students for future success. The ARP Homeless Target Support Grant is an important investment in **overcoming obstacles to learning.**

The ARP Homeless Target Support Grant's goal is to provide resources for grantees to meet the exceptional needs of students experiencing homelessness since schools and districts are a source of stability and consistency. Traditional public school districts and community schools with the full time equivalent of fewer than ten (10) identified students experiencing homelessness in the 2020-2021 school year as reported in EMIS, Head Start programs that received the Early Childhood Education Grant from the Department with access to the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) and Joint Vocational School Districts (JVSD) are invited to apply for this grant. This is a one-time award of $10,000 and grantees can obligate funds until June 30, 2024. Grantees can use funds to address the immediate needs of homeless children and youth and those at risk of housing instability at the local level—including identification, provisions of essential basic needs and other wraparound services and supports.

Background

Eligible applicants can benefit from this additional funding to respond to the immediate needs of students experiencing housing instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic and create sustainable systems to identify and support students experiencing homelessness. Considerations that led to the creation of this targeted support grant include:

- **Address Likely Under-Identification***:*
  - **Community Schools and Districts**: A 2021 report from the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) estimates that 2.5% of students experience homelessness, but Ohio schools and districts report that around 1.3% of students in Ohio experience homelessness. The difference between these statistics may be due to the changes in learning models and additional barriers to regular attendance created by the pandemic. This grant is an opportunity for schools and districts to create new or revise current systems of identification for students experiencing homelessness.
  - **Head Start Programs**: A 2020 report from the U.S. Department of Education found that 1 in 25 children under the age 6 in Ohio experience homelessness. This grant is an opportunity for Head Start programs to create or revise current systems of identification.
  - **Joint Vocational School Districts**: A 2020 NCHE report estimates that 2.5% of students experience homelessness, but the Department reports that around 0.8% of students in JVSDs experience homelessness. This grant is an opportunity for JVSDs to create new or revise current systems of identification
- **Improve Educational Opportunities and Outcomes**:
  - **Community Schools and Districts**: The 2021 NCHE report stated that students experiencing homelessness in Ohio have low rates of proficiency in mathematics (32.1%), English (35.8%)

and science (37.1%). The [graduation rate](#) in 2020 for students experiencing homelessness in Ohio was 63.4% compared to 87.2% for housed students. This grant is an opportunity for schools and districts to encourage student success.

- o **Head Start Programs**: A [2020 report](#) from the U.S. Department of Education found that Head Start programs across the state serve 6% of children experiencing homelessness. This grant is an opportunity for Head Start programs to engage students early and encourage future academic success.
- o **Joint Vocational School Districts**: The [2020 NCHE report](#) states that students experiencing homelessness at JVSDs have higher graduation rates and lower dropout rates compared to traditional schools. Over the past few years, JVSDs have seen an increase in students experiencing homelessness participating in courses but a decrease in concentrations. This grant is an opportunity to ensure that students experiencing homelessness can remain in the classroom and actively engaged in their program and activities.
- **Access to Additional Funding**: Stakeholders from eligible entities have expressed that they want to improve student outcomes on these key measures and provide for the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness, but need funding and resources to do so.

Grant Overview

Ohio's schools and districts that are eligible to apply for this grant should reference the following information throughout the application and implementation of this grant:

- This grant is funded by the American Rescue Plan as a response to the disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on families experiencing homelessness.
- Each grantee will receive a one-time award of $10,000 in FY 23 with automatic carryover of any remaining funds into FY 24.
- The Department intends to award funds in November 2022.
- This grant supplements existing funding streams including ARP Homeless II funding, Perkins V funding, the Early Childhood Education Grant and other state and federal sources. Grantees can use these funds in addition to other funding streams and the general fund. Grantees do not have to spend down any of these funding streams before spending down this grant.

Purpose of Funds and Allowable Uses

These funds are available for low incidence schools and districts to accomplish one of three purposes:

1. Provide families experiencing housing insecurity with knowledge and resources to ensure educational stability and consistency for students
2. Meet essential, basic needs of students experiencing homelessness
3. Bolster existing and/or create new wrap-around services and supports.

Provide families experiencing housing insecurity with knowledge and resources to ensure educational stability and consistency for students

Allowable uses for this category include:

- Summer learning opportunities and preparation for the school year
- Payment of fees to reduced barriers to attendance (including acquiring birth certificates, transferring records and immunization history)
- Professional development for personnel
- Enhancement of identification, enrollment and retention systems
- Programs and services to attract, identify and retrain students experiencing homelessness
- Training and resources to parents of students experiencing homelessness

Meet essential, basic needs of students experiencing homelessness

Allowable uses for this category include:

- Referrals for medical care including dental and mental healthcare
- School supplies that can be distributed at shelters and to students directly
- Essential supplies like PPE, eyeglasses and personal care items
- Cellphones or other devices to support school participation
- High speed Wi-Fi and hotspots especially in shelters and underserved communities
- Hotel/motel stays for up to three (3) nights
- Prepaid store cards for materials to allow for participation
- Evaluation of students including special needs assessment, gifted and talented assessments and English learning assessments
- Adaption of a space outside of school to help students study
- Emergency assistance not expressly stated above

Bolster existing and/or create new wrap-around services and supports

Allowable uses for this category include:

- Stipends for staff members to plan strategies, form relationships and connect with community-based organizations
- Contracts with community-based organizations to support underserved homeless populations
- Wrap-around services
- Transportation to and from school and school activities
- Early childhood education (especially for parenting students experiencing homelessness)
- The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to non-homeless children and youths.
- Coordination with community-based organizations to provide services and supports
- Specialized instructional services including violence prevention and counseling
- Supports and services for students living with domestic violence and parental mental health and substance abuse
- Tutoring and supplemental instruction

Timeline

- Monday, August 29: Application opens
- September 7, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Virtual Bidders Conference is a one-hour information session to learn more about this grant opportunity and the application process. This is **not required** and will be recorded and posted on this website.
- Monday, October 17: Applications due
- Thursday, November 10: Award letters sent to schools and districts
- Thursday, November 10: Funding uploaded into CCIP

Funding Amount and Application Overview

Eligible applicants and expectations

Schools and districts with the full time equivalent of fewer than ten (10) identified students experiencing homelessness in the 2020-2021 school year reported in EMIS, Head Start programs that received the Early Childhood Education Grant from the Department with access to the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) and Joint Vocational School Districts are eligible. Each grantee will receive $10,000 total for fiscal

years 2023 and 2024 but may receive more depending on the number of eligible applicants. Funds must be used to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness. Grant funds may be used for indirect costs and funds can be carried over from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024. Grant funds may not be sub-granted to other entities. Grantees may draw down their funds any time between grant award and June 30, 2024. Grantees can only use funds for expenses incurred after the award of funds. Grantees will submit project cash requests (PCRs) monthly and will submit quarterly surveys to give the Department an update about how the grantees are using their funds. Grantees will be expected to participate in any evaluations conducted.

How to apply
Schools and districts can apply for this grant by submitting the following components by October 17 at 4:59 p. m. Eastern Standard Time:

1. Answering application questions on CCIP (found in Appendix A).
2. Filling out the assurances section on CCIP (found in Appendix B).
3. Filling out a Budget and Budget Details section on CCIP (found in Appendix C).

Scoring
Applications will have three questions and will be scored based on three criteria:
1. Does the program's proposal adhere to the allowable uses? (4 points value total),
2. Will the activities and programs included in this application support the needs of students experiencing homelessness? (4 points value total) and
3. Does this answer exceed expectations (4 points value total)

The applications with the highest scores will be awarded.

Questions?

Interested applicants are invited to participate in an informational webinar with the Department on Sept. 7. Applicants can also attend office hours on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Target Support Grant Office Hours on Microsoft Teams. Please contact Ashley Heuser with questions at Ashley.Heuser@education.ohio.gov or (614) 441-0886.

Ohio | Department of Education

Appendix A: Questions and Rubric

Questions: Applicants will be required to answer all the following questions. Applicants are encouraged to type their answers separately and then copy and paste them into the CCIP application.

1. Tell how the school, district or program will use these funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.
2. What is the school, district, or program's current identification process for students experiencing homelessness?
3. How will this grant help develop the school, district or program's identification process, retention initiatives and educational success programs for students experiencing homelessness?

Rubric

Question	Scoring			Totals
	Does the school, district or program's proposal adhere to the allowable uses? (4 points value total)	Will the activities and programs included in this application support the needs of students experiencing homelessness? (4 points value total)	Does this answer exceed expectations? * (4 points value total)	
1. Tell how the school, district or program will use these funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness.	0: The response is either incomplete or does not contain allowable uses. 1: The response contains allowable uses but would benefit from additional information, explanation or details. 2: The response contains allowable uses and sufficiently explains how the applicant will implement the program.	0: The response is incomplete or contains initiatives that are not likely to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness. 1: The response contains initiatives that may support the needs of students experiencing homelessness but would benefit from additional information, explanation or details. 2: The response contains initiatives that will support the needs of students experiencing homelessness and demonstrates capacity for implementing the program.	0: The response does not address any of the following: sustainability, integration, or local innovation 1: The response addresses at least one of the following: sustainability, integration or local innovation. 2: The response addresses two or more of the following: sustainability, integration or local innovation	
	X/2 points	X/2 points	X/2 points	X/6 points

2. What is the school, district or program's current identification process for students experiencing homelessness?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. How will this grant help develop the school, district or program's identification process, retention initiatives and/or educational success programs for students experiencing homelessness?	0: The response is either incomplete or does not contain allowable uses. 1: The response contains allowable uses but does not sufficiently describe how the funds will improve the identification process, retention initiatives and/or educational success programs. 2: The response contains allowable uses and sufficiently describe how the funds will improve the identification process, retention initiatives and/or educational success programs. X/2 points	0: The response is incomplete or contains initiatives that are not likely to support the needs of students experiencing 1: The response contains initiatives that may support the needs of students experiencing homelessness but would benefit from additional information, explanation or details. 2: The response contains initiatives that will support the needs of students experiencing homelessness and demonstrates capacity for implementing the program. X/2 points	0: The response does not address any of the following: sustainability, integration, or local innovation 1: The response address at least one of the following: sustainability, integration or local innovation. 2: The response address two or more of the following: sustainability, integration or local innovation X/2 points	X/6 points
Total	X/4 points	X/4 points	X/4 points	X/12 points

*Applications could exceed expectations with plans that include considerations related to:

- sustainability, including how the systems of support funded by this grant will outlast the funding cycle
- integration, including how funds will be used to create or sustain systems of support beyond provision of one-time-use items
- local innovation, such as a creative solution to address the particular needs of students experiencing homelessness based upon identified needs of the grantee's students within the local context

Ohio | **Department** of **Education**

Appendix B: Assurances

ARP Homeless State Activities Assurances

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP-Homeless) funds are for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth, providing wraparound services in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and providing assistances needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, including in-person instruction in the spring and summer learning and enrichment programs that begin after the typical school year. Applicants are encouraged to review ARP-ESSER assurances by accessing U.S. Department of Education ARP ESSER Grant Award Assurances prior to submitting their application.

Eligibility Assurance

This application is for an eligible institution (a Joint Vocational School District, schools and districts with the full time equivalent of fewer than ten (10) identified students experiencing homelessness in the 2020-2021 school year as reported in EMIS or a Head Start program in Ohio that received the Early Childhood Education Grant from the Department with access to the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP)).

Ohio | **Department** of Education

Appendix C: Budget and Budget Details

Budget Page:

Applicants will need to fill out and submit a proposed budget for using their funds. The categories included in the Budget page align with the allowable uses. For example, if an applicant would like to include professional development in their proposal, then they would put in X amount in the cell in the Professional Development row and the Purchased Services column. Applicants should budget for the entire $10,000 grant.

Purpose Code	Object Code Salaries 100	Retirement Fringe Benefits 200	Purchased Services 400	Supplies 500	Capital Outlay 600	Other 800	Total
Instruction							
Support Services							
Governance/Admin							
Prof Development							
Family/Community							
Safety							
Facilities							
Transportation							
Indirect Cost							
Total							
						Adjusted Allocation	
						Remaining	

Budget Details Page:

Applicants will need to submit a Budget Details page which includes checking assurances (Section 1), checking requirements (section 2), answering questions (Section 3), and allowable uses allocation (Section 4). Applicants should allocate funds with the corresponding allowable uses.

Select activities that the LEA will implement with the ARP-Homeless II Funds and provide an estimated amount for that activity (check one or more). If the applicant will not spend funds on a particular use the applicant needs to enter 0.00. The allowable uses (q-w) include expanded permissions for funds due to the impact of COVID-19 and the intent to meet the extraordinary needs of student experiencing homelessness. The total in the Amount boxes must add up to the allocation.		
P = Public		
AMOUNT	P	a. The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths
AMOUNT	P	b. The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the ESEA,20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).
AMOUNT	P	c. Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such

		personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this part, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
AMOUNT	P	d. The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
AMOUNT	P	e. The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A) of the McKinney-Vento Act, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 732(g)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
AMOUNT	P	f. The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children
AMOUNT	P	g. The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.
AMOUNT	P	h. The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities
AMOUNT	P	i. If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
AMOUNT	P	j. The provision of education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or youths.
AMOUNT	P	k. The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
AMOUNT	P	l. The provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
AMOUNT	P	m. Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
AMOUNT	P	n. The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under section 723(a)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act to provide services under section 723(d) of the McKinney-Vento Act
AMOUNT	P	o. The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
AMOUNT	P	p. The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.
AMOUNT	P	q. 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);
AMOUNT	P	r. Hygiene products(soap, detergent, cleaning, diapers/baby wipes)
AMOUNT	P	s. providing supplemental transportation to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.
AMOUNT	P	t. purchasing cell phones or other technological devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities, for unaccompanied, homeless children and youth to enable such children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities.

Ohio | **Department** of **Education**

AMOUNT	P	u. Hiring dedicated staff to identify/support homeless students. Or McKinney-Vento program improvement (such as professional development tools, needs assessment, etc.
AMOUNT	P	v. 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 homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
AMOUNT	P	w. providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.

Ohio | Department of Education