

McKinney-Vento Subgrant

Request for Applications Fiscal Years 25-27



McKinney-Vento RFA

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**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

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McKinney-Vento Subgrant

Request for applications for Fiscal Years 25-27 award cycle

INTRODUCTION TO THE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The McKinney-Vento Act of 1973, which the Each Student Succeeds Act of 2015 reauthorized, requires the U.S. Department of Education to grant funds to State Education Agencies (SEAs). SEAs awarded at above the minimum level (including Ohio) must subgrant at least 75% of its total award to Local Education Agencies (LEAs).¹ In 2020, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) which included \$30 million for Ohio's LEAs to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness. Before ARP Homeless, 13 LEAs received funds to support students experiencing homelessness. In 2023, over 600 LEAs have received funds to support students experiencing homelessness. In order to continue schools and districts' important work of supporting students experiencing homelessness, all community schools and traditional public school districts are eligible to apply for McKinney-Vento subgrants.

The purpose of the McKinney-Vento subgrant is to facilitate the identification, enrollment, consistent attendance, academic success and wellness for students experiencing homelessness. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), McKinney-Vento subgrantees must include supports for public preschool students and unaccompanied youth. More information on McKinney-Vento law is available on the [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's website](#).

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 McKinney-Vento subgrant will help grantees **overcome obstacles to learning** and **prepare students for future success**.

Application Details:

The deadline for all Fiscal Years (FY) 25-27 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program applications is March 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

- Applications will open on March 4, 2024 on the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP)
- Applications include:
 - Budget Grid
 - Narrative answers to all questions. Applicants must answer all required questions. See [Appendix A](#) for the list of questions.
- **Optional:** Interested applicants can submit an [Intent to Apply](#) through the linked form by March 1, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. Interested applicants that did not submit the Intent to Apply can still apply for funds.

Completion and submission of a McKinney-Vento grant application constitutes acceptance of all identified assurances and agreement to abide by the results of the selection process. Each program district must read the assurances in the application prior to submitting and approving an application. Please refer to program-specific assurances in [Appendix B](#).

¹ https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Module-5_10-in-10.Subgrants.Final_.pdf

The Department will host and record a webinar for interested applicants to learn more about the grant opportunity on Feb. 6, 2024. The recorded webinar will be available for viewing on the [McKinney-Vento Resources for Awareness webpage](#).

ALLOWABLE USES:

The McKinney-Vento Act includes sixteen (16) allowable uses including the excess cost of transportation for students experiencing homelessness, paying a staff member a stipend to administer the roles and responsibilities of a homeless education liaison and professional development. Applicants and grantees can reference the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)'s [Use of Funds Tip Sheet](#) to evaluate if a proposed expenditure is allowable. Indirect costs to administer the grant are allowable with an approved rate. Please email IndirectCosts@education.ohio.gov for more information.

[Appendix C](#) contains the allowable uses of the McKinney-Vento subgrant.

Eligibility and Award Structure:

ELIGIBILITY:

All community schools and traditional public school districts in Ohio are eligible to apply for the FY 25-27 McKinney-Vento subgrant. The Department will award a total of fifty (50) subgrants.

CONTINUATION AWARD:

Grantees will receive funding on a three-year cycle. Districts and community schools granted funding for the initial year are eligible to renew their funding for a second and third year contingent on the following:

- Timely and accurate submission of data;
- Completion of the continuation application in years two (2) and three (3) of the grant cycle;
- Approval of grantees' progress toward program goals, objectives, indicators and implementation of the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Act determined through the three-year cohort monitoring process; self-survey, desk survey and/or on-site review;
- Satisfactory progress toward completion of any necessary remediation identified by the Department.

CARRYOVER PROVISIONS:

Grantees may be able to carryover funds to the following fiscal year under extenuating circumstances. Subgrantees should provide a description of extenuating circumstances for consideration. The Department must approve carryover requests before the end of the current fiscal year.

Review Process:

TIERED REVIEW:

The Department will create five (5) tiers and will sort applicants into those tiers based on the LEA's estimated allocation (for more information about the formula for estimated awards, see the section [Funding Structure](#)). The Department will calculate tiers by:

- Determining the formula estimated allocation for all community schools and traditional public school districts;
- Sorting the LEAs by size of the estimated allocation;
- Selecting the top 25% of estimated allocations in the tier and moving them to the next tier;
- Repeating until all LEAs are grouped into one of five tiers to ensure that only similarly situated community schools and traditional public school districts will compete against each other.

A spreadsheet detailing each community school and traditional public school district's tier will be available before the application opens.

Applicants that are not FY 22-24 McKinney-Vento Grantees can consult the table below for estimated allocations. The data in the table is an estimate based on earlier data. **Actual values are subject to change.**

Tiers	Average FTE of Students Experiencing Homelessness	Average Amount of Title I, Part A Set-Aside	Average Yearly McKinney-Vento Estimated Allocation
1. Moderate Need	>10	\$ 198,103.22	\$ 11,258.40
2. Intermediate Need	28	\$ 669,543.37	\$ 16,100.17
3. High Need	118	\$ 1,716,195.98	\$ 30,779.51
4. Higher Need	297	\$ 6,972,527.42	\$ 74,118.28
5. Highest Need	1,466	\$30,083,521.03	\$307,193.02

FY 22-24 McKinney-Vento Grantees can consult the table below for estimated allocations. The data in the table is an estimate based on earlier data. **Actual values are subject to change.**

Tiers	Average FTE of Students Experiencing Homelessness	Average Amount of Title I, Part A Set-Aside	Average Yearly McKinney-Vento Estimated Allocation
3. High Need	158	\$ 1,899,970.58	\$136,021.86
4. Higher Need	414	\$ 9,261,097.58	\$197,411.81
5. Highest Need	1,572	\$34,252,205.07	\$437,622.78

RATIONALE:

By grouping LEAs into tiers based on their estimated allocations (which is based on need, both in count of students experiencing homelessness and socioeconomic status), applicants that are similarly situated only compete against each other. A smaller, rural district will be in a separate tier from a larger, urban district.

UNIDENTIFIABLE APPLICATIONS:

Ernst and Young, a contractor with the Department, will recruit readers to review and score the applications. The reviewers will not know which LEA’s application they are reviewing. Applicants will submit a PDF version of their narrative application and must remove identifying information in the PDF including:

- LEA name,
- City and county served, and
- Name of McKinney-Vento programs.

REVIEWING CURRENT GRANTEEES AND NEW APPLICANTS:

The contractor will separate applications from current McKinney-Vento grantees from other applicants to ensure that new applicants compete with each other. Reviewers will only score either current McKinney-Vento grantees or new applicants. After reviewers score all applications, cut scores within the tiers will be calculated.

Award Process:

The Department seeks to award the FY 25-27 McKinney-Vento subgrant to fifty (50) LEAs to empower schools and districts across Ohio to meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness. Reviewers will use the

rubric below when scoring applications. The Department anticipates the competitive grant read process will be complete and final decisions made by June 30, 2024. Applicants will receive electronic notification of all funding decisions via email to their superintendent, treasurer and homeless education liaison. The Substantially Approved Date will be July 1, 2024.

APPLICATION RUBRIC:

Reviewers will rate responses according to the level of detail provided. Trained grant readers use the following rubric to assign scores for individual applications. Applicants should review this rubric to develop exemplary responses.

Rating	Points	Description
No evidence	0	A response is not provided.
Insufficient evidence	1	The response is significantly incomplete, missing or inadequately addresses required elements.
Limited evidence	2	The response addresses some of the established criteria, but descriptions and explanations are incomplete and lack supporting evidence.
Sufficient evidence	3	The response addresses the majority, but not all, of the established criteria; descriptions or explanations include substantial gaps; and supporting evidence is limited.
Strong evidence	4	The response addresses all established criteria, but explanations or descriptions lack detail and evidence provided fails to provide evidence of alignment to other elements of the application.
Exceptionally strong evidence	5	The response addresses all criteria thoroughly; includes detailed descriptions and explanations; and specific, high-quality evidence demonstrates alignment of elements through understanding of key issues.

TIEBREAKING:

If there is a tie between two applicants, the Department will award based on the following metrics from the 2022-2023 school year:

- Full Time Equivalent count of students experiencing homelessness,
- Proportion of students experiencing homelessness of the general student population, and
- Proportion of students experiencing homelessness of free and reduced lunch recipients.

Funding Structure

The Department will award funds to the highest scoring applications using the formula below with a \$10,000 base allocation for the FY 25-27 McKinney-Vento subgrant funding structure. The formula for estimated awards is:

- 50% of the proportion of the students experiencing homelessness that the LEA has in comparison with other state LEAs in the 2022-2023 school year, plus
- 50% of the proportion of Title I funds the LEA received in FY 24 proportional to other LEAs in the state.

Example: Sunnyside Local School District has 0.5% of students experiencing homelessness in Ohio and 1.5% of Title I funds in the state of Ohio. If the Department receives \$4,000,000 in McKinney-Vento funds from Congress, Sunnyside Local School District's estimated award would be:

$$((0.005 \times 0.5) \times 4,000,000) + ((0.015 \times 0.5) \times 4,000,000) + 10,000 = \$50,000$$

Sunnyside Local School District:	Example	Formula	Result
Percent of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Ohio	0.5%	0.005 (percentage) x0.5 (multiplier) x \$4,000,000 (total subgrant)	\$10,000
Percent of Title I Allocation in Ohio	1.5%	0.015 (percentage) X0.5 (multiplier) X \$4,000,000 (total subgrant)	\$30,000
Base Allocation	\$10,000 (for everyone)	= \$10,000	\$10,000
McKinney-Vento Estimated Allocation			\$50,000

Fiscal Years 22-24 McKinney-Vento grantees will have an additional \$100,000 continuation supplement as part of their estimated allocation.

The Department will share the estimated allocations with all community schools and traditional public school districts before the application opens. Only the highest scoring applications will receive the subgrant (see the section [Review Process](#) for more information about scoring).

ENSURING FAIR ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS:

Through this competitive structure:

- LEAs with **lower counts of students experiencing homelessness** will have an incentive to apply, while LEAs with higher counts of students experiencing homelessness will also benefit by having a larger estimated allocation.
- LEAs that serve communities with a **lower socioeconomic status** and other confounding factors will have a greater estimated allocation by including Title I allocation in the formula.
- There is more support for **rural districts**, since many report struggling to identify students experiencing homelessness due to the stigma despite serving students in high poverty areas.

Grant Administration Details

GRANT TIMELINE:

- Feb. 6, 2024: Bidder's Conferences for current McKinney-Vento grantees (morning) and new applicants (afternoon).
- March 1: Intent to Apply submission deadline
- March 1, 5:00 p.m.: Deadline to ask content-related questions. Content-related questions after this deadline will be referred to the website.
- March 4: Applications open in CCIP
- March 4: Grant opportunity posted on The Ohio Grants Partnership webpage at [Grants.Ohio.Gov](https://grants.ohio.gov).
- March 29, 5:00 p.m.: Applications due in CCIP

- June 30: Grantees announced

MONITORING:

The U.S. Department of Education requires each McKinney-Vento grantee participate in the subgrantee monitoring process. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce monitoring process is a three-year monitoring rotation established at the beginning of each new grant cycle. The Department will place grantees in cohorts categorized by risk (which will include spend down rates of ARP Homeless funds). Grantees must be prepared to provide evidence of program compliance through the compliance monitoring system. Review of McKinney-Vento programs occur one of three ways depending on the cohort rotation (on-site, desk review or self-survey). The Department may also request supporting documentation when grantees submit Final Expenditure Reports and Project Cash Requests. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Department will inform grantees of their assigned review format.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Grantees can work to make critical links to other funding sources to sustain McKinney-Vento programming beyond the grant cycle. Grantees should consider braiding funding streams and in-kind services with other grants, such as Title I, Title IV and community organizations to determine how best to leverage resources for the long-term sustainability of programs.

Grantees may enter into memorandum of understanding agreements with other agencies and community-based organizations; however, grantees assume responsibility for setting program goals and monitoring program accomplishments. The grantee will serve in the capacity of fiscal agent.

GRANT TERMINATION:

The Department reserves the right to withhold, reduce or terminate funding awards on discovery of the following, but not limited to:

- Violation of grant rules;
- Violation of law;
- Violation of program assurances;
- Failure to respond to a noncompliance;
- Failure to maintain or provide proposed support documents for expenditures;
- Failure to implement a corrective action plan;
- Failure to address data or monitoring requirements;
- Failure to make corrections based on technical assistance; and/or
- Violation of health, safety or civil rights.

CONTACT:

For assistance specific to the McKinney-Vento application, please contact Ashley Heuser by phone at 614-441-0886 or by email at HomelessEducation@education.ohio.gov.

Appendix A: Application Questions

1. QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM

Background: The McKinney-Vento Act requires that grantees receive funds based on the **quality of the proposed program** and the needs of their students and community.

Question: Provide a brief summary of the **proposed projects**:

- a. Purpose (15 pts)
- b. Projected outcomes (15 pts)
- c. Meaningful family involvement (15 pts)
- d. Evaluation plan (15 pts)

Weight: 60 points

Character Limit: 8,000

2. NEED OF THE APPLICANT

Background: The McKinney-Vento Act requires that grantees receive funds based on the quality of the proposed program and the **needs of their students and community**.

Question: Please describe the **need** of the applicant's students and community. Include **data-driven metrics** which could include but are not limited to:

- a. The count of students experiencing homelessness,
- b. The proportion of students experiencing homelessness compared to the general student population,
- c. The count or proportion of students receiving support from the National School Lunch Program,
- d. Daily attendance rate disaggregated by housing status,
- e. Chronic absenteeism rates disaggregated by housing status,
- f. The count or proportion of students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) disaggregated by housing status,
- g. The count or proportion of students who are English Learners disaggregated by housing status,
- h. The census data about socioeconomic status of families in the district, or
- i. Other data-driven metrics demonstrating need.

Weight: 15 points

Character Limit: 2,000

3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Background: The McKinney-Vento subgrant will continue for three years. Applicants should demonstrate that they have an implementation plan for high-quality programs to support students experiencing homelessness.

Question: Provide a detailed plan for implementation. Please include:

- a. Key activities,
- b. Deliverables to achieve goals listed in Question 1,
- c. Lead person(s) and their role or title,
- d. Resources needed,
- e. Performance measures or benchmarks, and
- f. Timeline.

Weight: 15 points

Character Limit: 2,000

4. TITLE I, PART A HOMELESS SET-ASIDE:

Background: Community schools and traditional public school districts can use Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside to support students experiencing homelessness in addition McKinney-Vento subgrant funds.

Question: What percentage of the applicant’s McKinney-Vento subgrant will the applicant match with FY 26 and FY 27’s Title I, Part A, Homeless Set-Aside?

Example: Sunnyside Local could receive a \$10,000 McKinney-Vento subgrant and pledge to match 10% of the estimated allocation with Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside, resulting in a \$1,000 Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside allocation.

Character Limit: 10 characters

Weight: 5 points (0%=0pts; 1-2%=1 pt.; 3-4%=2 pts; 5-6%=3pts; 7-9%=4pts; 10% and more=5 pts)

Total available application points: 95 points

GUIDANCE ON ANSWERING QUESTIONS:

Applicants may find that some sections request information they included in answers to previous sections. While repeating information is acceptable, applicants may want to avoid directing reviewers to “see previous section” when completing questions as reviewers score multiple applications. Applicants can reference the rubric on page 7 when answering the questions.

Appendix B: Assurances

By submitting this application, the district or community school agrees to the following assurances regarding compliance with:

Federal Law:

- a. The information contained in this application is accurate and complete.
- b. The subgrantee will adhere to the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Subtitle VII-B Reauthorized December 10, 2015, by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (effective October 1, 2016).
- c. The subgrantee's combined fiscal effort per student, or the aggregate expenditures of that agency and the state with respect to the provision of free public education by such agency for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made, was not less than 90 percent of such combined fiscal effort of aggregate expenditures for the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made.
- d. The subgrantee will comply with, or will use requested funds to comply with, paragraph (3) through (7) of section 722(g) or 42 U.S.C. 11432.
- e. The subgrantee will meet the requirements of section 722(g)(3).
- f. The subgrantee will maintain supporting documents for expenditures under this program in an orderly manner to allow for auditing of expenditures and will provide them to the appropriate official upon request.
- g. The subgrantee will act as the fiscal agent for subcontracts and will supervise said subcontracts for certain activities of the grant.
- h. The board or governing authority of the above-named LEA has authorized this applicant as its representative to file this application.
- i. Students experiencing homelessness will be integrated into regular education programs, including the provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths and the 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 or similar state and local programs in career and technical education and school nutrition programs.
- j. The subgrantee will collect and promptly provide data requested by the state coordinator pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) of 42 U.S.C. 11432(f). (See 42 U.S.C. 11433(b)(6)).
- k. The subgrantee will uphold the ten roles and responsibilities of homeless education liaisons (See 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A)).

Subgrant requirements:

- a. The subgrantee agrees to match the percentage match included in Question 4 of the LEA's McKinney-Vento estimated allocation outlined in the Title I, Part A Homeless Set Aside for FY26 and FY27.
- b. The subgrantee will participate in any mandatory meetings and monitoring reports the Department deems necessary. This could include, but is not limited to:
 - Quarterly monitoring surveys;
 - Annual monitoring (including onsite, desk or self-survey);
 - Department-hosted professional development related to implementing the McKinney-Vento Act;
 - Other mandatory meetings and surveys that the Department will give grantees adequate notice before requiring.

Appendix C: Allowable Uses of McKinney-Vento Funds

AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES FOR MCKINNEY-VENTO EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH FUNDING:

1. The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the challenging state academic standards.
2. The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youth, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency, services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) or similar state or local programs, programs in vocational and technical education and school nutrition programs).
3. Professional development and other activities for educators and pupil services personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youth, the rights of such children and youth under this subtitle and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youth.
4. The provision of referral services to homeless children and youth for medical, dental, mental health and other health services.
5. The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A), not otherwise provided through federal, state or local funding, where necessary, to enable students to attend the school selected under section 722(g)(3).
6. The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs not otherwise provided through federal, state or local funding for preschool-age homeless children.
7. The provision of services and assistance to attract, engage and retain homeless children and youth and unaccompanied youth in public school programs and services provided to non-homeless children and youth.
8. The provision of before- and after-school programs, mentoring programs and summer programs for homeless children and youth in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance and supervision of educational activities.
9. If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youth in school, including birth certificates, immunization or medical records, academic records, guardianship records and evaluations for special programs or services.
10. The provision of education and training to the parents of homeless children and youth about the rights of and resources available to such children and youth.
11. The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youth as described in section 722(g)(5).
12. The provision of pupil services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
13. 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.
14. The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any non-school facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.
15. The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities or other appropriate locations.

16. The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school.

Appendix D: Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside Resources

All LEAs [are required to uphold the McKinney-Vento Act](#) and can use Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside to support students experiencing homelessness in addition to subgrant funds.

Title I, Part A funds may be used to provide a wide variety of services to homeless students. In addition to providing services to assist homeless students in meeting the state's challenging learning standards, Title I, Part A funds may be used to provide services to homeless children and youths, including those in Title I schools, that may not ordinarily be provided to other Title I students. For example, to help homeless students effectively take advantage of educational opportunities, a district may use Title I, Part A funds to provide, where appropriate, items or services including, but not limited to:

- Items of clothing, particularly if necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement;
- Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes;
- Student fees necessary to participate in the general education program;
- Personal school supplies, such as backpacks and notebooks;
- Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school;
- Immunizations;
- Food;
- Medical and dental services;
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids;
- Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning;
- Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels and other temporary residences;
- Extended learning time (before- and after-school, Saturday classes, summer school) to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions;
- Tutoring services, especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live;
- Parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students;
- Fees for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate testing;
- Fees for college entrance exams, such as the SAT or ACT; and GED testing for school-age students.

Two principles govern the use of Title I, Part A funds to provide such services to homeless students. First, the services must be reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational opportunities. Second, Title I, Part A funds must be used only as a last resort when funds or services are not available from other public or private sources, such as the USDA's National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program, public health clinics or local discretionary funds (sometimes provided by the PTA) used to provide similar services for economically disadvantaged students.

For more information, access [Title I, Part A Homeless Set-Aside](#).