



**American Rescue Plan
Homeless Children and Youth
(ARP-HCY)**

Arizona State Plan

*Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education
September 7, 2021*

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

Arizona State Plan

For ARP Homeless I:

1. **How the SEA has used or will use up to 25 percent of funds** awarded under ARP Homeless I for **State-level activities** to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to increase access to summer programming in 2021. This must include how the SEA has supported LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies for immediate needs this spring 2021, and how it will support LEAs for school year 2021-2022. This should include the extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past in order to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II;

ARP Homeless I State-level activities	LEA Level	State Level
Training	<p>The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Homeless Education Program has, and will continue to, support LEAs through providing training opportunities for LEA Homeless Liaisons and staff, on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of homeless children and youth • Determining eligibility • Transportation • Grants • Allowable expenses • Dispute resolutions and scenarios <p>Moving forward, these trainings will be translated into categorized modules, and tailored to meet the needs of specific stakeholders.</p> <p>ADE will further continue to support LEA Homeless Liaisons through</p>	<p>ADE will also continue to provide training opportunities for both internal and external stakeholders statewide regarding the identifying and serving children and youth experiencing homelessness, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of homeless children and youth • Determining eligibility • Transportation • Grants • Allowable expenses • Dispute resolutions and scenarios. <p>These trainings will take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boot camps • Conferences • Presentations • Internal meetings

	<p>providing information and resources through mediums such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Webinars • Office Hours • Newsletters • Monthly Blogs • Website 	
Technical Assistance	<p>Technical assistance will continue to be provided to LEAs on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of Homeless students • How to provide wrap-around services • Building partnerships with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) • ARP-HCY grants application processes • Allowable activities 	<p>ADE staff will also continue to provide specific technical assistance to support our state agencies, CBOs, and other internal and external stakeholders through a multi-pronged approach to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars • Office hours • In-person conferences • Think Tanks
Capacity-Building	<p>ADE will support building local capacity with LEA stakeholders through supporting partnerships with Community Based Organizations, the introduction of the Continuum of Care in Arizona and encouraging continued collaboration with additional state agencies providing supports for children and youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>ADE will seek to add an additional State Homeless Program Specialist to build additional capacity at the SEA to help provide statewide training and technical assistance to LEAs and other internal and external stakeholders. The Specialist will also work with LEAs that have not received EHCY subgrants in the past to help them be successful with the ARP-HCY grant process by providing technical assistance on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application process • Budgeting • Providing services based on the needs of the homeless students and youth in their district and area.
Engagement	<p>The ADE Homeless Education Program will engage LEA Homeless Liaisons in a state conference in October 2021. Additionally, the State Homeless Coordinator will offer weekly office hours and facilitate Think Tank sessions to further engage LEAs and support collaborative problem solving and</p>	<p>ADE will engage parents/guardians of homeless students and youth by facilitating a monthly webinar that will include sharing information and resources regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney-Vento Rights • How to access available wrap-around services and supports

	networking to share best practices and strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to contact and engage with LEA staff • Community-based organizations and resources
Increase Access to Summer Programming in 2021	Due to state budget procedures, ADE will allocate ARP Homeless I Funds in October 2021. ADE will provide LEA Homeless Liaisons with guidance through hosted webinars and technical assistance on how to collaborate with their local LEA teams to support planning for providing summer programming and targeted services opportunities for their children and youth experiencing homelessness in Summer 2022.	

How the SEA has supported LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies for immediate needs this spring 2021	<p>Due to state budgeting procedures, ADE will allocate ARP Homeless I funds in October 2021. In preparation for the release of these allocations, in Spring 2021 ADE provided webinars for current EHCY subgrantees. These webinars focused on the ARP HCY Plan, and the requirements for ARP Homeless I funds. Think Tank sessions were also held to provide guidance on collaborating with CBOs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids in Focus - an organization that initiates a 9-week summer course that focuses on photography • Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP). YHDP facilitates collaborations with CBOs to provide information to LEAs about wrap-around services to include short-term housing, emergency housing, permanent housing, educational support, higher educational support, information on trade schools and navigation services on state agencies • Adelante Healthcare – a healthcare group that provides wrap-around services
How the SEA will support LEAs for school year 2021-2022	<p>ADE will support LEAs in SY 2021-2022 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring an additional Homeless Program Specialist at the SEA to provide statewide training and technical assistance for LEAs • Providing monthly webinars to train LEAs on the immediate identification, enrollment, and re-engagement of students experiencing homelessness • Providing training, technical assistance, office hours, and Think Tanks with special attention to LEAs that previously have not received EHCY subgrant funding • Inviting CBOs to present at monthly webinars to present on their services and to facilitate connections between LEAs and CBOs in providing support for homeless students and youth

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with ADEs Early Childhood Education unit to provide a multi-pronged approach to training, including webinars, technical assistance, office hours, newsletters, and updates on the HEP site. This training will include the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preschool ○ Head Start ○ Childcare and early intervention initiatives throughout the state ○ Available resources ○ Transportation • Providing, and posting on the ADE Homeless Education Program website, on-going guidance to ensure that LEAs are aware of the requirements of ARP Homeless I and II, to include all related grants assurances • Inviting healthcare professionals to present at monthly webinars to provide trauma-informed training and practices to address the increase of mental health needs experienced by homeless students and youth • Providing resources to share with parents regarding their rights, LEA points of contact and information about services, including transportation and the dispute resolution process. This information will be disseminated through webinars, newsletters and our website
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<p>The extent to which the SEA has or plans to build capacity in LEAs that have not received an EHCY subgrant in the past in order to ensure that these LEAs are well-prepared to utilize the funds provided in ARP Homeless II</p>	<p>ADE will work to support local capacity in LEAs that have not previously received an EHCY subgrant in the past to prepare them for the ARP Homeless II grant process through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating a webinar to present the ARP Homeless II grant application and give guidance on the data and information required. Guidance will be published for novice LEAs to refer when completing their new grant applications • Scheduling meet and greet sessions to help build strategic partnerships between veteran Homeless Liaisons and new Liaisons • Providing monthly webinars and office hours
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2. **How the SEA has used or will use their funds for State-level activities** to provide support to LEAs to **increase access to summer programming** and **plan for and provide wraparound services** for **summer 2021**, in collaboration with State and local agencies and other community-based organizations; and

Due to state budgeting procedures, ADE will allocate ARP Homeless I funds in October 2021. In preparation for the release of these allocations, in Summer 2021 ADE provided webinars to LEAs focused on ARP Homeless I and II grant opportunities – to include information regarding the assurances, requirements, grant processes and timelines, and required program narrative questions. Additionally, Think Tank sessions were held with LEA Liaisons to discuss future intercession and summer program opportunities for homeless students and youth.

3. **How the SEA has used or will use at least 75 percent of funds** awarded under ARP Homeless I for **distribution to LEAs** in accordance with all requirements of EHCY. This must include the extent to which the SEA has or will use funds to supplement existing EHCY subgrants to allow for more rapid fund distribution to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness, and the extent to which the SEA analyzed and reviewed where there are significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness across the State (including in LEAs that are not existing EHCY subgrantees), and how it has or will ensure that supports from ARP Homeless I can urgently reach them.

<p>The extent to which the SEA has or will use funds to supplement existing EHCY subgrants to allow for more rapid fund distribution to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness</p>	<p>ADE will provide ARP Homeless I allocations to existing EHCY subgrantees to supplement their current subgrants to efficiently release funds to support and further enhance their current plans to provide services and supplies for their students and youth experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>The extent to which the SEA analyzed and reviewed where there are significant concentrations of students and families experiencing homelessness across the State (including in LEAs that are not existing EHCY subgrantees), and how it has or will ensure that supports from ARP Homeless I can urgently reach them.</p>	<p>In consultation with ED, ADE analyzed data to devise a process of allocating funds to non-subgrantees, who identified a need but were not awarded an EHCY subgrant last year due to the lack of availability of funds. In preparation of this new ARP Homeless I mini-grant allocation process, these LEAs were supported through providing technical assistance, Think Tank sessions, training and webinars.</p>

For ARP Homeless II:

1. **How the SEA will use up to 25 percent of funds** awarded under ARP Homeless II for **State-level activities** to provide training, technical assistance, capacity-building, and engagement at the State and LEA levels, including support to LEAs to plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies, for school year 2021-2022; and

ARP Homeless II State-level activities	LEA Level	State Level
Training	<p>The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Homeless Education Program has, and will continue to, support LEAs through providing training opportunities for LEA Homeless Liaisons and staff, on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of homeless children and youth • Determining eligibility • Transportation • Grants • Allowable expenses • Dispute resolutions and scenarios <p>Moving forward, these trainings will be translated into categorized modules, and tailored to meet the needs of specific stakeholders.</p> <p>ADE will further continue to support LEA Homeless Liaisons through providing information and resources through mediums such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Webinars • Office Hours • Newsletters • Monthly Blogs • Website 	<p>ADE will also continue to provide training opportunities for both internal and external stakeholders statewide regarding the identifying and serving children and youth experiencing homelessness, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of homeless children and youth • Determining eligibility • Transportation • Grants • Allowable expenses • Dispute resolutions and scenarios. <p>These trainings will take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boot camps • Conferences • Presentations • Internal meetings
Technical Assistance	<p>Technical assistance will continue to be provided to LEAs on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of Homeless students 	<p>ADE staff will also continue to provide specific technical assistance to support our state agencies, CBOs, and other internal</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to provide wrap-around services • Building partnerships with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) • ARP-HCY grants application processes • Allowable activities 	<p>and external stakeholders through a multi-pronged approach to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars • Office hours • In-person conferences • Think Tanks
<p>Capacity-Building</p>	<p>ADE will support building local capacity with LEA stakeholders through supporting partnerships with Community Based Organizations, the introduction of the Continuum of Care in Arizona and encouraging continued collaboration with additional state agencies providing supports for children and youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>ADE will seek to add an additional State Homeless Program Specialist to build additional capacity at the SEA to help provide statewide training and technical assistance to LEAs and other internal and external stakeholders. The Specialist will also work with LEAs that have not received EHCY subgrants in the past to help them be successful with the ARP-HCY grant process by providing technical assistance on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application process • Budgeting • Providing services based on the needs of the homeless students and youth in their district and area.
<p>Engagement</p>	<p>The ADE Homeless Education Program will engage LEA Homeless Liaisons in a state conference in October 2021. Additionally, the State Homeless Coordinator will offer weekly office hours and facilitate Think Tank sessions to further engage LEAs and support collaborative problem solving and networking to share best practices and strategies.</p>	<p>ADE will engage parents/guardians of homeless students and youth by facilitating a monthly webinar that will include sharing information and resources regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney-Vento Rights • How to access available wrap-around services and supports • How to contact and engage with LEA staff • Community-based organizations and resources

<p>How the SEA will plan for and provide wrap-around services, in collaboration with State and local agencies, for school year 2021-2022</p>	<p>ADE will continue to provide webinars focused on providing wrap-around services in collaboration with state and local agencies to support students experiencing homelessness and other marginalized student groups. State-level activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring an additional Homeless Program Specialist at the SEA to provide statewide training and technical assistance for LEAs to help build local capacity • Provide professional learning to build local capacity on ARP-HCY allowable expenses, to include supplies and services • Collaborating with LEAs to ensure an understanding of the use of ARP HCY funds and the expectation to collaborate with CBOs to ensure wrap-around services are available to further support students and families • Collaborating with a CBO to launch a marketing campaign aimed at identifying homeless students and reconnecting them to schools and early childhood programs • Coordinating with other state-level program offices to streamline services being offered to children and youth experiencing homelessness, such as health care, housing, and assistance with transportation
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2. **How the SEA will use at least 75 percent of funds** awarded under ARP Homeless II for **distribution to LEAs** in accordance with the final requirements. This must include a description of how the SEA will distribute funds in accordance with the required formula to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness and the extent to which the SEA has encouraged or will encourage the creation of consortia for those LEAs that may not meet the required minimum formula amount.

<p>Description of how the SEA will distribute funds in accordance with the required formula to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness</p>	<p>ADE will provide training and technical assistance to support LEAs with the ARP Homeless II grant application process. The process will include development of a new ARP Homeless II grant application that will provided through the agency’s online Grants Management system.</p> <p>ARP Homeless II allocations will be determined based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in proportion to the amount that each LEA received under Title I-A for FY2020 • 50% in proportion to the number of homeless children and youth identified by each LEA relative to all LEAs in the State, using the greater of the number of homeless children and youth in either
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	<p>the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school year enrolled in each LEA</p> <p>To ensure accountability, LEAs will be required to acknowledge required grant Assurances that will address the needs of students experiencing homelessness, provide detailed information through addressing required Program Narrative Questions and submit a detailed budget.</p>
<p>The extent to which the SEA has encouraged or will encourage the creation of consortia for those LEAs that may not meet the required minimum formula amount.</p>	<p>ADE will provide training and technical assistance to LEAs regarding the process for joining a consortium if and when the allocation awarded to an LEA is less than \$5,000.</p> <p>ADE will work with County Education Service Agencies (ESAs) and larger LEAs to become the Lead Point of Contact / Fiscal Agents for ARP Homeless II grant consortia.</p>

For both ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II:

1. How the SEA will **ensure that ARP-HCY supplements the support and services provided with ARP ESSER funds and does not replace the use of ARP ESSER funds** to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness;

ADE will ensure that services and supports provided through ARP-HCY Homeless I and Homeless II programs will supplement and not replace the SEA's use of ARP ESSER Funds to support students experiencing homelessness.

An assurance will be included as part of LEA ARP-HCY Homeless I and II grant applications for LEAs to ensure that funds received through these programs will supplement and not replace supports these LEAs may be providing through their ARP ESSER fund grants.

ADE gathered research and community input via its Equitable and Effective School Funding Task Force to develop a set of recommendations on the distribution and prioritized use of SEA discretionary ARP ESSER funds. Over 100 stakeholders, representing school district and charter leadership, philanthropy, the non-profit sector representative, early childhood practitioners and advocates, major education associations, special education advocacy groups, school board members, educators, and state agency leadership joined the reconvened task force meetings. The input from stakeholders was used to develop the priorities outlined as part of ADE's ARP ESSER State Plan. It will also be used to guide ADE's process for determining state-driven interventions and investments, processes for distributing funds, and setting criteria for use of funds and data reporting and evaluation. As ADE moves forward with this process for ARP ESSER, the agency will ensure that ARP-HCY SEA set-aside funds will be used to supplement and not replace recommended services and supports to be provided through ARP ESSER.

2. **The extent to which** the SEA will use its **State-level activities funds to award subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations** that are well-positioned to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness in historically underserved populations 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, and connect them to educationally-related support and wraparound services; and

ADE is committed to developing additional partnerships with Community-Based Organizations, and will seek to award ARP HCY subgrants and/or contracts from state-level activities funds to CBOs to further enhance the agency's capacity to support the identification and re-engagement of students and youth experiencing homelessness – in particular those children and youth in historically underserved populations.

3. **How the SEA will encourage LEAs to award contracts to community-based organizations to help identify and support historically underserved populations experiencing homelessness.**

The ADE Homeless Education Program staff will provide trainings and technical assistance to LEAs to encourage them to engage with Community-Based Organizations as a key strategy to help build their local capacities to identify and more effectively serve historically underserved populations of children and youth experiencing homelessness. Training opportunities may include topics such as:

- How to identify local, regional, and statewide CBOs for LEA partnerships, and how to structure local partnerships within the requirements of ARP HCY funds
- Inviting CBOs to present at monthly webinars to present on their services to further facilitate connections and partnerships between LEAs and CBOs in providing services and supports for homeless students and youth.