## FY24 Program Information Instructions

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act guarantees a free, appropriate public education for all homeless children and youth by removing barriers to their enrollment and attendance in school and supporting their educational success.

## Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Grant Funds

The EHCY funding source is the U.S. Department of Education, through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 (Title X, Part C of the *No Child Left Behind Act*, P.L. 107-110), as amended by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.

The purpose of McKinney-Vento subgrant funds is to eliminate specific barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, and academic success of children and youth experiencing homelessness through the allowable 16 activities outlined statute (42 U.S.C. § 11433(d)).

The State Education Agency (SEA) must facilitate a competitive subgrant process at least once every three years to allocate EHCY funds to LEAs. EHCY subgrant awards are contingent upon the annual state allocation provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

#### **EHCY Subgrant Funding Guidelines**

The EHCY grant runs on a three-year grant cycle to *supplement, not supplant* the existing services provided to all students to eliminate specific barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, and academic success of children and youth experiencing homelessness. FY24 is the first year of the three-year EHCY grant cycle.

EHCY grant funds are awarded on a highly competitive basis and selection will be made based on the proposed project's quality, an assessment of the educational and related needs of students, and the ability of the applicant to meet these needs. Applicants must be able to demonstrate need by having a minimum of 50 students experiencing homelessness enrolled in the LEA. An LEA may consider joining a consortium comprised of LEA Consortium Members within their service area or zip code to meet or exceed the minimum threshold requirements of this application.

#### **Subgrant Consortium Guidelines**

It is the responsibility of the LEA that must join a consortium to meet the minimum requirements of the application to identify, communicate, and establish the consortium requirements *prior* to submitting an FY24 EHCY grant application.

To this end, each consortium must establish a fiscal agent to *submit a single FY24 EHCY grant application on behalf of the consortium*, and ensure compliance with the terms of the grant, including but not limited to uploading its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Assurances and Certifications for each LEA Consortium Member, program narrative responses reflective of the identified needs of each LEA Consortium Member, and a proposed budget that is reflective of the fiscal agreements comprised in the MOU.

Applicants can find the following resources in the Resource Library, Related Documents page, and EHCY funding page:

- Grant Application Rubric TBD
- Grant Application Funding Tiers TBD
- Allowable Uses of Funds
- EHCY & ARP-HCY Use of Funds Tip Sheet
- <u>Sample, Editable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</u>
- LEA Consortium Member Certifications and Assurances

To receive an award, applicants must comply with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and applicable state laws related to homelessness. Awards will be made on the quality of the project and its ability to excel as a model for Arizona. In addition, proposals must show a well-developed, feasible plan for servicing the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including **but not limited to** professional learning opportunities, an evaluation plan, and strong collaboration with at least one community-based organization, public agency, or other nonprofit organization.

All EHCY funds should be spent according to the Director Approved project proposal and within the project availability of the funds, which concludes September 30, 2024. Any updates to the original Director Approved project proposal must be requested by completing a budget revision to the original EHCY grant application before the expenditure. Once the revision has received Director Approval, the expenditure changes may occur, and must be included in the annual report.

LEAs / Consortia are required to submit Reimbursement Requests to access the allocations for grants administered by the Arizona Department of Education. To this end, LEAs should endeavor to submit regular and timely FY24 EHCY Reimbursement Requests for expenditures incurred at the LEA-level to ensure that all funds are drawn-down by September 30, 2024. Please reference the Quarterly Fiscal Report provided by Grants Management Enterprise (GME) to monitor your LEA's reimbursement activity and ensure the timely draw-down of funds.

Reimbursement Requests can only be submitted for budgeted items and services that have received prior Director Approval and for expenditures which have already been incurred.

An LEA / Consortium with more than the allowable carryover amount of 10% at the conclusion of the project availability must either submit a grant waiver to provide the reason for the carryover and a plan to spend the remaining funds or may be denied renewal funding for a period of one year after the project end date.

# **FY24 EHCY Timelines**

- Application Open Date: March 1, 2023
- Application Close Date: May 1, 2023
- Targeted SEA Director Approval Date: July 1, 2023
- Project Start Date: July 1, 2023
- Project End Date: September 30, 2024

- Reimbursement Request Deadline: All Reimbursement Requests must be submitted and approved PRIOR to the project end date. Reimbursement Request deadlines will be set, as applicable, based on ADE/ADOA Accounting requirements for fiscal year and/or projected end dates.

- Completion Reports Available: July 1, 2024

For program questions and support, please reach out via the following email:<u>Homeless@azed.gov</u>