



Homeless Education Program Updates for Education & Community Partners

Upcoming Events

FY27 EHCY Competitive Year I Grant Application Window

April 1st – June 1st, 2026

Required End-of-Year Procedures for Local HEPs

April 23rd at 10am & 1pm

Office Hours: End of Year Programmatic and Data Reporting Requirements

May 14th at 10am & 1pm

Inside this Issue

The Arizona Homeless Education Program

End of Year Data Reporting Requirements

FY27 EHCY Grant Opportunity

2026 Liaison of the Year

Professional Learning

Guidance Documents

Technical Assistance

The Arizona Homeless Education Program



Dr. Brittani (Didi) Roy
*Director of
Educational Policy
& Program Integrity*

Homeless Education Program

Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Student Support



Rita Rodriguez
*Homeless Education
Program
Coordinator*



Marisa Peña
*Refugee Student
Support – Lead
Program Specialist*



Jan Brite
*Homeless Education
Program Grants
Specialist*

The mission of the Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) is to ensure positive comparable academic outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness through implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The Arizona Homeless Education Program is housed within the Office of Homeless, Foster Care, Refugee, and Title I-D Education Programs. Our team is comprised of passionate and knowledgeable individuals eager to serve students experiencing homelessness and the stakeholders who support them.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December 2015, serves as the primary federal legislation detailing the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. The [Arizona Homeless Education Program Overview Video](#) provides more information on the Arizona Homeless Education Program and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

End of Year Data Reporting Requirements

All local education agencies (LEAs), including charter districts, are required to report reliable, valid, and comprehensive data on homeless children and youth (HCY) and unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) to the State education agency (SEA), as mandated by [42 U.S.C. § 11432\(g\)\(6\)\(C\)](#). These data are reported to the U.S. Department of Education to determine Arizona's Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) allocation and guide programmatic decisions for the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) Homeless Education Program.

All data on HCY and UHY must be accurately reported to the Arizona Education Data Standards (AzEDS) database no later than **June 30th** of each school year. To ensure that data reported to AzEDS is reliable, valid, and comprehensive, LEAs must regularly conduct internal data integrity checks utilizing their [McKinney-Vento internal data tracking sheet](#) and AzEDS reports (HEP10, HEP72, and INTEG15).

Information about data reporting requirements and how to utilize AzEDS reports to ensure data integrity can be found on the [Arizona Homeless Education Program Data webpage](#).

FY27 EHCY Grant Opportunity

We are happy to announce that the FY27 Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Competitive Year I Grant application is currently open in Grants Management Enterprise (GME)! The FY27 EHCY Competitive Year I Grant is the first year of the three-year grant cycle.

Grant Information:

- **Grant Type:** Competitive
- **Award Type:** Formula
- **Eligible Applicants:** All local education agencies (LEAs)
- **Application Threshold:** No threshold requirement
- **Application Open Date:** April 1st, 2026
- **Application Close Date:** June 1st, 2026
- **Project Start Date:** July 1st, 2026
- **Project End Date:** September 30th, 2027
- **Carryover Allowed:** Yes, if awarded, minimal carryover is permitted into FY28

For more information on the revised funding formula, allowable uses of funds, application process, and what to expect when applying for this grant, please review the EHCY informational [webinar recording](#) and [presentation slides](#). These webinar materials, along additional resources and details about this competitive grant opportunity, can be found on the [Arizona Homeless Education Program Education of Homeless Children & Youth \(EHCY\) Grant Information and Resources webpage](#).

2026 Liaison of the Year

The Arizona Housing Coalition (AZHC), in collaboration with Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) is excited to begin collecting nominations for the 2026 McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of the Year!

The recipient of this award will be announced at the AZHC 31st Annual Conference taking place on May 12th and 13th, 2026 at the Phoenix Convention Center.



Speaking Up for Home and Hope

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of the Year award is designed to highlight and honor the exceptional efforts of those who strive to address barriers to educational access, participation, and achievement which impact students experiencing homelessness.

Nominations have been collected from school district personnel, community-based organizations, and community members. Nominees exhibit willingness to understand, support, and implement bold solutions to tackle the complex and dynamic challenges facing children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. These efforts ensure provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act are actualized for students experiencing homelessness. Stay tuned to learn who is selected!

Professional Learning

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires that the Office of the State Coordinator provide professional learning opportunities for local education agency (LEA) personnel and McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless children and youth and to provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness ([42 U.S.C. § 11432\(f\)\(6\)](#)).

Additionally, States are required to adopt policies and practices to ensure the participation of McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons in professional learning and other technical assistance activities. Based on this requirement, the Arizona Homeless Education Program has determined that in the State of Arizona, **McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons are required to meet a minimum of eight (8) professional learning hours each school year** to ensure that their awareness of McKinney-Vento Act requirements and best practices is current ([42 U.S.C. § 11432\(g\)\(1\)\(J\)\(iv\)](#)).

All live professional learning sessions are recorded, and materials are made available for review at any time on the [Arizona Homeless Education Program Training for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons webpage](#).

The Arizona HEP has announced the following professional learning calendar for the 2025-2026 school year:

Month	Course Title	Session Date & Time	Course Description
April	Required End of Year Procedures for Local Homeless Education Programs	<p>Session 1 Thursday, April 23rd from 10am-12pm Registration Link</p> <p>Session 2 Thursday, April 23rd from 1pm-3:00pm Registration Link</p>	<p>This 1.5-hour-long professional learning session and following 30-minute Q&A “Office Hour” will provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons and other local education agency personnel with the information and tools necessary to effectively prepare for and carry out “end-of-year” procedures to ensure access to services, school stability, and school of origin rights are maintained for students experiencing homelessness throughout the summer months into the upcoming school year, and ensure reporting requirements are met for the end of the school year, summer programming, and the upcoming school year.</p>
May	Office Hours: End of Year Programmatic and Data Reporting Requirements	<p>Session 1 Thursday, May 14th from 10am-11:30am Registration Link</p> <p>Session 2 Thursday, May 14th from 1pm-2:30pm Registration Link</p>	<p>This Arizona HEP Office Hour session provides McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons and other local education agency personnel with an opportunity to review requirements and processes to close out the school year, ensuring that students experiencing homelessness are supported through the summer months and into the upcoming school year, and the required data elements are reported accurately and on time. After an overview of the topic, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about how the information shared applies to their local education agency.</p>

Guidance Documents

The Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) regularly develops, reviews, and revises the resources designed to support local education agencies (LEAs) and McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons. Review the following resources that have recently been developed or revised by the Arizona HEP, as well as a collection of resources that are useful at the end of the school year.

Newly Developed or Recently Revised Resources:

- [Identification Process Guidance & Resources](#)
- [Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Identification Process Guidance & Resources](#)
- [Written Notification of McKinney-Vento Eligibility & School Placement Determination \(Sample Form\)](#)
- [Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit \(Sample Form\)](#)

Resources for the End of the School Year:

- [End of Year Notification Letter \(Sample\)](#)
- [Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire & Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths](#)
- [Summer School Guidance](#)
- [Summer School Procedural Checklist \(Sample\)](#)
- [Summer School Letter to Families \(Sample\)](#)
- [Local Comprehensive Needs Assessment \(LCNA\) \(Sample\)](#)
- [Identification Process Guidance & Resources](#)
- [Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Identification Process Guidance & Resources](#)
- [Re-Eligibility Determination Guidance & Resources](#)

Additional guidance documents and sample forms developed for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons to adopt and adapt in alignment with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Arizona ESEA Consolidated State Plan can be accessed on the [**Arizona Homeless Education Program Guidance & Sample Documents for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons webpage.**](#)

Technical Assistance

It is common for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons, other school district staff, and community partners to have questions about a variety of topics related to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Homeless Education Programs. If you need support, we encourage you to utilize the following:



The [Arizona Homeless Education Program website](#) provides a collection of recorded professional learning sessions as well as a variety of guidance and sample documents which can help individuals interested in learning more about specific topics. We encourage you to check out these resources when questions arise. If you still need support, reach our office by emailing Homeless@azed.gov or calling (602) 542-4963.

Additionally, the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), which operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance and information center is a source of information and support. The NCHE Helpline is available to provide technical assistance to school districts, youth, parents, guardians, caregivers, and community members with questions related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The helpline is staffed Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM ET/6:00 AM to 2:30 PM PT and can be reached at 1(305) 306-8495 or NCHE.helpline@safalpartners.com.

