

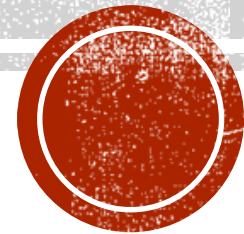
MCKINNEY-VENTO DISCUSSIONS

Thursday December 9, 2021 –

2 Topics – ARP Funds and Transportation

Christina Dotson

McKinney-Vento State Coordinator
New Hampshire Department of Education



New Hampshire

Department of Education

AGENDA

- ARP Funds
 - ARP quick review
 - What has been done in NH so far?
 - Allowable use of Funds
 - What are your questions? What are you thinking about?
- Transportation
 - A review of the McKinney-Vento law around transportation
 - Some ideas
 - What have people done that have worked?
 - Questions



ARP FUNDS — QUICK REVIEW

- ARP – Education for Homeless Children and Youth came out in two different funding streams earlier this year
- The first funding stream – ARP Homeless I - was released as a competitive grant open to all districts. We had 5 districts apply and all 5 districts were awarded those grants.
- The second funding stream – ARP Homeless II -was released as a formula grant to all Lea's that received \$5,000 or more per the formula as stated by the Federal DOE
- There is a consortia option for districts did not have a formula grant about \$5,000. We have had two consortia's formed. Thank you to those districts! You still have time to form a consortia so let me know what help you need!
- One more note on consortia – we will take consortia requests until January 31,2022. After that date we will re-allocate the leftover funds to



WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITH ARP FUNDS

- All ARP grants are currently open and have been since October 17. You can work with your grant managers and business office as needed to get those grants going. To access the grant you need permission from your i4see coordinator through the Grants Management System
- Of the 52 ARP Homeless formula grants - We have had 4 Approved, 1 Substantially Approved, 1 Submitted, 3 awaiting local signature and 14 started (as of 12/8/2021 11:00 am)
- Of those that have been submitted – a majority have requested transportation costs. While this is an allowable cost of the grant, the focus of the grant is identification, outreach and providing wrap around services.



USING ARP FUNDS

- Consider: What are the needs of McKinney-Vento children and youth in my district?
- Solicit stakeholder feedback and suggestions
- Think BIG!
- These funds are unprecedented and a unique opportunity! What can you advocate for that would greatly benefit the children you work with?



ALLOWABLE USES

- Social worker/Outreach coordinator – someone specifically hired to reach out to families and students experiencing homelessness to connect them with services and access to education
- Tutor/Instructional time - Time outside of the school day for instructional help in a quiet area.
- Access to supplies and necessities – meeting the hierarchy of needs so that students are prepared to learn
- Payments for costs and fees for an array of things associated with education: extracurricular costs, necessary documents, and transportation options
- Professional Development for your district staff on McKinney-Vento
- Mental Health Services
- Wrap Around services – this can cover a variety of things – after-school place for kids to do homework, social emotional services, etc.



FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **How can you meet the needs of your students to overcome the obstacles of the current world?**
- **What have you been doing that you might want to shout out to others?**
- **What questions do you have about this grant?**



TRANSPORTATION: WHAT'S IN THE LAW

- LEAs must provide transportation to & from school of origin (includes public pre-school)
 - At parent or guardian request, or at liaison request for an unaccompanied youth. UHY can also request transportation.
 - Until end of the school year if student obtains permanent housing.
 - Even if transportation not typically provided.
 - If temporarily staying in same LEA, that LEA must provide transportation to school of origin.
 - If the student's living arrangements are in an area served by another LEA and the best interest determination has been that the student stay in school of origin, then the LEAs must come to together to agree on transportation and cost. If an agreement cannot be made costs must be shared equally.
 - 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii); Guidance Transportation



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT MV TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation must be provided to extracurricular activities (and back home) if lack of transportation is a barrier.
- LEAs must provide student in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students.
- Transportation decisions regarding distance and time to travel are student centered.
- MV students must be enrolled (attending classes) immediately. Delays in setting up transportation do not meet the “immediate” requirement. LEA must make temporary arrangements if needed until more permanent transportation is in place.
- Collaboration between districts is helpful and necessary when thinking about splitting costs and best practices



TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION

- Based upon best interest and consultation with the parents, the LEA ultimately decides the mode of transportation
- While many options exist for transporting homeless students, the mode the LEA selects must align with SEA and LEA pupil transportation policies and safety standards and must not create a barrier to the student arriving to school on time or cause an undue burden on the parents or student
- Bus service – are there ways to connect the bus routes between districts?
- Parent/Student driven – reimburse for mileage or give gas cards (with documentation of usage)
- Taxi services – most expensive
- Community Service Centers – are there ways to connect and arrange transportation with their vans?
- Regional Transportation hubs – use with ARP funds or consortia?



FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION

- LEA funds or General Funds
- Title IA Funds – use of Title IA funds must be necessary, reasonable, and beyond the average cost for student transportation within the district
- McKinney-Vento Subgrants - LEAs that receive a subgrant may use these funds to “defray the excess cost” of providing transportation to students experiencing homelessness. This cost must be listed out within the grant application and, as with Title IA set asides, be beyond the average cost of student transportation within the district
- ARP Homeless – you can use this fund to supplement transportation costs, hire someone to help with transportation needs, or even purchase things to use for transportation, like car seats for younger riders or even as big as a district van.



SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Have a contract for parents concerning the type of transportation selected and expectations of behavior (both for students and parents)
- **Collaborate!** Work with neighboring districts, parents, and the community.
- If you do hire outside transportation – consider safety needs and background checks – always follow district policies.



YOUR TURN

- What have you done that has worked you are excited about that you can share?
- What do you have more questions about?



RESOURCES

ARP Funds

- [How to Use American Rescue Plan Act K-12 Education Funds to Identify and Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness | SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [ARP – National Center for Homeless Education](#)

Transportation

- [Transporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness \(ed.gov\)](#)
- [Q & A from our Inboxes | SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Copy of Transportation 2021 - Google Slides](#) – a presentation given by Linda Thistle Elliot during the May State PD

- Christina Dotson
- Christina.dotson@nh.doe.gov
- 603-271-3840



**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR
YOUR STUDENTS!**

