

**Providing Wraparound Services and Working with
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):
Navigating the Ongoing Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis**

National Center for Homeless Education

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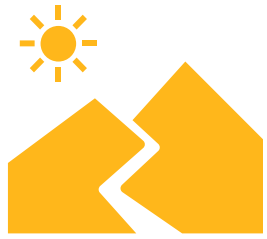


Get to Know NCHE

- NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education's homeless education technical assistance and information center
- Based at the SERVE Center at the University of NC in Greensboro
- Website: <https://nche.ed.gov/>
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- Products & Listserv: <https://nche.ed.gov/resources/>
- Social Media
 - Twitter: [@NCHEducation](https://twitter.com/NCHEducation)
 - Facebook: facebook.com/NCHEducation



Agenda



- **Today's topic:** Partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) to increase staff capacity, improve identification of homeless children and youth, and provide wraparound services
- **Today's agenda**
 - Review the relevant language in guidance documents
 - Provide some clarity on use of funds
 - Share strategies that states and districts are using
 - Respond to general questions

Statutory Language

- ARP-HCY funds shall be used for providing homeless children and youth with wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19

TITLE II—COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Subtitle A—Education Matters

PART 1—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 2001. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available through the Education Stabilization Fund, there is appropriated to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$122,774,800,000, to remain available through September 30, 2023, to carry out this section.

(b) **GRANTS.**—From funds provided under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) use \$800,000,000 for the purposes of identifying homeless children and youth and providing homeless children and youth with—

(A) wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19; and

(B) assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities; and

(2) from the remaining amounts, make grants to each State educational agency in accordance with this section.

(c) **ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.**—The amount of each grant under

Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) Language

Re: Purposes of ARP-Homeless I Funding for SEAs and LEAs

“This first disbursement is designed [...] so States and local educational agencies (LEAs) can increase capacity by hiring staff, dedicating resources, and planning partnerships with community-based organizations, among other strategies.”
(<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/04/ARP-Homeless-DCL-4.23.pdf>, p. 1)

DCL Language

Re: ARP-Homeless | Funding for State-Level Activities

“The Department encourages States to award from funds reserved for State-level activities subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify [homeless] children and youth and connect them to educationally related supports and wraparound services.”

(<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/04/ARP-Homeless-DCL-4.23.pdf>, p. 2)

“[The Department] also specifically urge[s] States to 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 this summer (summer 2021), in collaboration with State and local agencies and other community-based organizations.” (<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/04/ARP-Homeless-DCL-4.23.pdf>, p. 3)



DCL Language

Re: ARP-Homeless | Funding for LEAs

“[T]he Department encourages LEAs with sufficient funds to award contracts to community-based organizations [to help identify historically underserved students] and provide [them with] wraparound services.”

(<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/04/ARP-Homeless-DCL-4.23.pdf>, p. 3)

Allowable use of funds: “Providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services)” (<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/04/ARP-Homeless-DCL-4.23.pdf>, p. 3)





Improving Identification



State Plans: Examples of Improving Identification

- User-friendly tools for LEAs, such as a script for front office staff
- Partnerships with housing and community development agencies and CoCs
- Centralized identification and referral protocol for housing agencies and local liaisons
- Comprehensive attestation document on which LEAs must list reasons for changes in identification rates
- Data dashboards, data analysis and evaluation, and data sharing
- Statewide public awareness campaigns



Providing Wraparound Support



Wraparound Services

- No official definition; “could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services”
- Expenditures must be
 - Reasonable and necessary (2 CFR 200.404)
 - Based on an assessment of the needs of homeless children and youth and the available resources to meet those needs
 - Targeted toward the student’s needs, not the parent or family
 - Examples: family reunification efforts to reunite unaccompanied youth with the family is an allowable use of funds, but counseling for parents is not; infrequently purchasing food for students such as snacks or a take-home meal is allowable but regularly purchasing groceries for the family is not

State Plans: Examples of Wraparound Services

- Focusing on mental health support for LEAs' multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) services for social-emotional support
- Adopting or expanding on the Communities in Schools model
- Creating hotel-based learning spaces
- Developing statewide community resources portal with contact information on wraparound services
- Forming a group of stakeholders to coordinate services and support children birth through transition to college or workforce



Building Capacity



State Plans: Examples of Building Capacity to Provide Wraparound Services

- State- and/or regional-level navigators (15 states) will
 - support LEAs to plan wraparound services
 - gather information in state and local resources for system mapping
 - establish community agency partnerships for services not delivered by state or districts
 - help with transportation, re-engagement of students, and early learning
 - focus on underserved youth
 - coordinate services between the SEA and other state/local agencies
 - partner with university homeless liaisons
 - link families with emotional support services

State Plans: Examples of Building Capacity to Provide Wraparound Services

- Hiring additional staff such as academic support tutors, bi-lingual outreach specialists, mental health consultants, social workers, and teacher mentors to support the LEAs' efforts
- Contracting with regional educational service centers to support LEAs
- Awarding grants directly to CBOs



Community-Based Organizations



Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

- LEAs can provide wraparound services directly or through partnerships with CBOs
- Faith-based agencies must not be treated any differently than other CBOs and may not discriminate against a beneficiary or prospective beneficiary based on religious beliefs or refusal to participate in a religious practice (34 CFR 76.52(e), 2 CFR 3474.15(f))
- More established or better-staffed or funded programs may already have established collaborations with CBOs
- Some states held competitive grant competitions for or awarded contracts to CBOs
- Regional education service centers

State Plans: Examples of Partnerships with CBOs

- SEAs are partnering with CBOs to
 - Provide training (in-person and virtual)
 - McKinney-Vento
 - Connecting and working with CBOs
 - Increasing awareness of historically underserved populations
 - Help students with transition to post-secondary education, vocational schools, apprenticeships, military, etc.
 - offer mentorship and academic and life skills in educational settings
 - afterschool enrichment opportunities and other wraparound services to students in historically underserved populations including English learners and low-income students



Historically Underserved Populations



Historically Underserved Populations

- Most states are looking for CBO partners with expertise with underserved populations
- Grants and contracts with
 - Charter school serving pregnant and parenting youth
 - Latin American youth-serving agencies
 - Rural LEAs
 - Tribal health agency
 - Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ+
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs

NCHE Resources

- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- State coordinator and local liaison contact information <https://nche.ed.gov/data/>.
Click on your state
- American Rescue Plan <https://nche.ed.gov/legislation/arp/>
- COVID-19 <https://nche.ed.gov/covid-19-coronavirus-information/>
- Identifying Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
<https://nche.ed.gov/identifying/>
- Collaboration <https://nche.ed.gov/collaboration/>
- Issue briefs: Best Practices in Interagency Collaboration series
<https://nche.ed.gov/resources/>



Questions?