

Errata #1 (December 13, 2023)

2021-2024 ARP Homeless I-TEHCY Supplemental Grant

Description of Change

The purpose of this errata notice is to address changes in Allowable and Unallowable Activities sections of the Program Guidelines due to the Dear Colleague Letter from the United States Department of Education (USDE) for ARP-HCY on September 12, 2023.

RFA Currently Reads

Allowable Activities and Use of Funds, Program Guidelines, pages 9-11 of 13:

See the [Administering a Grant](#) page for general guidance on allowable activities and use of funds.

Allowable activities and use of funds for this grant may include but are not limited to the following:

Field Trips

Field trips may be funded under the grant program.

Field Trips will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Field Trips Justification form, refer to the [Administering a Grant page](#).

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

- Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths.
- Expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).
- Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this subtitle, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
- Referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A), not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 722(g)(3).
- Developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.

- Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs, or services provided to non-homeless children and youths.
- Before-and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
- Payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
- Education and training for the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children and youths in the education of such children and youths.
- Coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5).
- Specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- Programs addressing the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
- Providing supplies to non-school facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.
- Providing school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
- Providing extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.
- Planning and implementation of supplemental academic activities to address learning loss due to the impact of COVID-19.
- Planning and implementation of student and family engagement activities.
- Providing transportation to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities. This may include transportation for student and family engagement activities, enrichment activities, and afterschool programs.
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning, afterschool programs, and enrichment activities.
- Provide programs, supplies, and materials that address the unique needs of homeless children and youth to support dropout recovery, credit recovery, or dual credit programs for secondary students.
- Provide supplies and materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.
- Providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices and mobile hotspots.

- Providing needed supplies (e.g., eyeglasses, school supplies, school uniforms, personal hygiene items, emergency clothing, and emergency grocery assistance).
- Nutritional snacks for students attending grant activities or field trips. Low-cost meals for students attending grant activities or field trips that are longer than six hours.
- Providing mental health services and support.
- Non-employee costs for conferences.
- Travel for students to in-state conferences.
- Payroll costs related to grant activities.
- Salaries and benefits for staff proportionate to the amount dedicated to grant activities.
- Activities to support the TEA requirements described above.
- Other uses as pre-approved by TEA program staff.

Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds, Program Guidelines, pages 11-12 of 13:

In general, refer to the Budgeting Cost Guidance Handbook on the [Administering a Grant](#) page for unallowable costs.

In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this grant may include but are not limited to the following:

- Advisory Council
- Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization
- Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences
- Out-of-State Travel
- Travel Costs for Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members
- Debt service (lease-purchase)
- Payment for items that are not in alignment with the intended goals and purpose of the grant
- Payment for childcare
- Payment for security deposits
- Payment for housing costs
- Payment for gift cards
- Payment for cell phones or cell phone plans (e.g., payment for students, parents, or staff)
- Payment for vehicles
- Stipends for non-employees

RFA Is Corrected to Read

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- Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this subtitle, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
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- Payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.

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- Coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5).
- Specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- Programs addressing the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
- Providing supplies to non-school facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.
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- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning, afterschool programs, and enrichment activities.
- Provide programs, supplies, and materials that address the unique needs of homeless children and youth to support dropout recovery, credit recovery, or dual credit programs for secondary students.
- Provide supplies and materials necessary for students to participate fully in school activities.
- ~~Providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices and mobile hotspots.~~ Providing access to educational technology (hardware and software) and reliable high-speed internet by purchasing educational technology, internet-connected devices or equipment, and/or mobile hotspots for students experiencing homelessness.
 - Related to the use of internet-connected equipment, the LEA must implement strong internal controls.
- Providing needed supplies (e.g., eyeglasses, school supplies, school uniforms, personal hygiene items, emergency clothing, and emergency grocery assistance).
- Nutritional snacks for students attending grant activities or field trips. Low-cost meals for students attending grant activities or field trips that are longer than six hours.
- Providing mental health services and support.

- Non-employee costs for conferences.
- Travel for students to in-state conferences.
- Payroll costs related to grant activities.
- Salaries and benefits for staff proportionate to the amount dedicated to grant activities.
- Activities to support the TEA requirements described above.
- Other uses as pre-approved by TEA program staff.
- Stipends for non-employees.
- Payment for cell phones or cell phone plans (e.g., payment for students, parents, or staff).
- Providing food assistance if it is reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational and extracurricular opportunities when food is not available to the student through other sources (e.g., free school meals).
- Payment for certain household items related to sleeping or household hygiene, including, air mattresses, bedding, sleeping bags, linens or cleaning solution, detergent, etc.
- Payment for gift cards with receipts for purchases and accountability measures that must be maintained by the LEA and aligned to goals in the program needs assessment. Strong internal controls such as collecting receipts for items purchased with prepaid debit and store cards, employing tracking methods (e.g., creating online forms for parents or youth to affirm the use of the card), and requiring parents or youth to sign for cards when received must also be implemented.
- Providing or coordinating wraparound services, which could be provided in collaboration with full-service community schools partners or through contracts with CBOs, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services.
- Training and collaborating with school social workers and counselors to better identify students experiencing homelessness, connect them to wraparound services, and provide additional counseling and other behavioral and mental health supports as needed.
- Providing early childhood education to young children age birth to five who are not formally enrolled in the LEA but who are experiencing homelessness in the LEA.
- Assisting youth and their parents/guardians with completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and other college readiness and college access activities, adding staff hours to provide such assistance, and providing transportation so that homeless youth may participate in these activities.
- Paying for college application expenses such as registration fees, preparation materials, entrance and placement exams, and other fees associated with college applications.
- Hiring graduation coaches or paying stipends to counselors to conduct transcript audits to help award partial credits and ensure students are on track for graduation.
 - Covering any additional fees to participate in early college/dual enrollment programs or career and technical education programs.

- Payment for vehicles for the specialized transportation of homeless children and youth, as well as re-imbursing parents and youth for gas costs, and purchasing prepaid gas cards:
 - When evaluating costs, the LEA should consider if the proposed uses are cost effective compared to other modes of transportation, such as rerouting school buses or hiring vehicles and drivers from private companies. Related to the use of prepaid gas cards, the LEA must implement strong internal controls to ensure funds are used for school of origin transportation.
- Payment for housing costs:
 - Paying for short-term, temporary housing (including a hotel or motel) on a case-by-case basis. While the timeframe for short-term housing is fact-specific and based on individual circumstances, the Department of Education and TEA recognizes that housing transitions can be complex and take time. A relevant consideration regarding “short-term” might include ensuring a student can complete a week of school before a housing change. LEAs should consider whether the cost is reasonable and necessary for the student to attend school (including in their school of origin), with the understanding that ARP-HCY funds should be used as a last resort when other funding sources are not available through collaboration and coordination with local housing providers, local government agencies, or nonprofits that support families and youth experiencing homelessness.

Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds, Program Guidelines, pages 11-12 of 13:

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In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this grant may include but are not limited to the following:

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- ~~Payment for housing costs~~
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