

Errata #1 (December 13, 2023)

2021-2024 ARP Homeless II Federal 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 11-13 of 16:

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 must be academic in nature and align with grade appropriate Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), be reasonable in cost, and be necessary to accomplish the objectives of the grant. Examples of education field trips include, but are not limited to:

- Organized visits to colleges, universities, or identified programs of study that lead to high wage, high skill, and in-demand occupations.
- To promote and explore a variety of college and career opportunities
- Academic activities that are focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)

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](#).

Out-of-State Travel

Out-of-state travel costs may be funded under this grant program.

- Attendance to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Annual Conference is the only approved out-of-state travel cost.

Out-of-state travel costs should be minimal. Travel costs are allowable as long as the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items are only incurred by employees on official business of the grantee and follow the grantee's regular business operations and written travel policy.

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

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

- LEA discretion for any activities authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Developing and implementing a data-driven plan to support identification and enrollment of students experiencing homelessness due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- Developing and implementing a data-driven plan to support wraparound services, academic engagement, and enrichment activities for students experiencing homelessness due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by planning and implementing dropout recovery activities, providing early academic interventions, and ongoing academic progress monitoring
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by planning and implementing summer learning program activities, providing support for dual credit programs, credit recovery and/or acceleration programs
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by planning and implementing supplemental academic activities or afterschool programs
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by tracking student attendance and improving student engagement
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by tracking student grades and credit accrual to ensure on-time promotion and graduation
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by providing academic and community wraparound support and assistance which could be provided in collaboration with or through community-based organizations (CBOs) (e.g., academic support, basic need referrals, trauma-informed care, mental health services, etc.)
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness who have been identified and are receiving other special program services (e.g., Special Education, English Learners, Gifted and Talented, etc.) by providing coordinated targeted academic interventions, support, and progress monitoring
- Planning and implementing family engagement activities to promote involvement of parents or guardians in the education of their children
- Providing access to educational technology (hardware and software) and reliable high-speed internet by purchasing educational technology, internet-connected devices, and/or mobile hotspots for students experiencing homelessness
- Developing and implementing McKinney-Vento professional development for LEA and ESC staff and community partners to increase awareness, enrollment, identification, and support for students experiencing homelessness
- Planning and implementing college and career activities for students experiencing homelessness
- Planning and implementing field trips that are academic in nature and aligned with grade appropriate TEKS. Examples of education field trips include, but are not limited to:

- Organized visits to colleges, universities, or identified programs of study that leads to high wage, high skill, and in-demand occupations
- To promote and explore a variety of college and career opportunities
- Academic activities that are focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
- Providing needed supplies and materials (e.g., school supplies, school uniforms, eyeglasses, personal hygiene items, emergency clothing, emergency grocery assistance, etc.) necessary for students to attend school, fully participate in school activities, and support academic outcomes
- Non-employee costs for conferences
- Travel for students to conferences (does not include field trips)

Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds, Program Guidelines, pages 13-14 of 16:

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:

- Debt service (lease-purchase)
- Advisory Council
- Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization
- Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences
- Travel Costs for Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members
- Lobbying or any activity that appears to be lobbying
- Stipends for non-employees
- 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 household items (e.g., appliances, mattresses, bedding, linens, etc.)
- Payment for gift cards
- Payment for cell phones or cell phone plans (e.g., payment for students, parents, or staff)
- Payment for furniture
- Payment for vehicles
- Expenditures related to students who are not McKinney-Vento eligible, identified, enrolled, or served by the program

RFA Is Corrected to Read

Allowable Activities and Use of Funds, Program Guidelines, pages 11-13 of 16:

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- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by tracking student grades and credit accrual to ensure on-time promotion and graduation
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness by providing academic and community wraparound support and assistance which could be provided in collaboration with or through community-based organizations (CBOs) (e.g., academic support, basic need referrals, trauma-informed care, mental health services, etc.)
- Addressing learning loss of students experiencing homelessness who have been identified and are receiving other special program services (e.g., Special Education, English Learners, Gifted and Talented, etc.) by providing coordinated targeted academic interventions, support, and progress monitoring
- Planning and implementing family engagement activities to promote involvement of parents or guardians in the education of their children
- 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.
- Developing and implementing McKinney-Vento professional development for LEA and ESC staff and community partners to increase awareness, enrollment, identification, and support for students experiencing homelessness
- Planning and implementing college and career activities for students experiencing homelessness
- Planning and implementing field trips that are academic in nature and aligned with grade appropriate TEKS. Examples of education field trips include, but are not limited to:
 - Organized visits to colleges, universities, or identified programs of study that leads to high wage, high skill, and in-demand occupations
 - To promote and explore a variety of college and career opportunities
 - Academic activities that are focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)

- Providing needed supplies and materials (e.g., school supplies, school uniforms, eyeglasses, personal hygiene items, emergency clothing, emergency grocery assistance, etc.) necessary for students to attend school, fully participate in school activities, and support academic outcomes
- Non-employee costs for conferences
- Travel for students to conferences (does not include field trips)
- 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

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- Payment for items that are not in alignment with the intended goals and purpose of the grant
- Payment for childcare
- Payment for security deposits
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