

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY)

RFA# 701-24-123

Posted: April 16, 2024

Section A: Eligibility Questions

Question A-1: A number of students have been identified and are receiving services under McKinney Vento; however, they have not been reported through PEIMS previously. Systems are in place now to ensure these students are captured through PEIMS, but since we do not have a projected allocation on the TEA eligibility list, does this mean we cannot apply until the next round of funding when those students' data have been captured or are we able to apply now? Is it accurate to state that if an LEA has a \$0 allocation, they are not eligible to apply?

Answer: The TEHCY program encourages all LEAs to apply for the grant and does not limit participation of LEAs that have a \$0 allocation. LEAs with \$0 allocation should participate through their ESC SSA. If continuation funds are available, awarded applicants will receive an updated allocation based on the per-pupil amount of identified students reported, which will be managed through the ESC-SSA. The included eligibility list is inclusive of all Texas LEAs. See Eligibility section (pages 5-6) of the [Program Guidelines](#).

Question A-2: When will the Eligibility List be available in eGrants for the TEHCY Competitive Grant? This list contained the amounts that LEAs were eligible to receive as a part of the grant.

Answer: The Eligibility List is available on the [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth').

Section B: Application-Related Questions

Question B-1: Where can I get the application for the 24-25 TEHCY program grant? Who do we send it to? Can we begin immediately, or do we need another application?

Answer: Please refer to [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth'). You will find all the needed resources, including the application, to apply. TEA will only accept grant application documents by email. Submit competitive grant applications, and any amendments if applicable, to: competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov. The due date is 11:59 p.m. CT, April 23, 2024.

Question B-2: Is the attached application on the TEA grants opportunity page the one that should be utilized even though the application states 2021-2022? There is not another electronic one in TEAL.

Answer: The application found in [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth') is the correct one and is appropriately titled "2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth".

Question B-3: Regarding the grant end date, the TEA grant opportunities page shows an end date of 9/30/24, but one of the training PowerPoints shows 08/31/24. Which date is correct?

Answer: The [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth') correctly identifies the grant end date as 9/30/24. Please check the grants opportunity page for additional resources and information.

Question B-4: Our ESC business office has a clarification question for the grant end date. Is there a location we could share with LEAs that this actually is extended through September 30, 2024? Where could we find this to be sure to allocate our funds correctly?

Answer: The [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth') correctly identifies the grant end date as 9/30/24. Please check the grants opportunity page for additional resources and information.

Question B-5: Regarding the TEHCY competitive grant: Is the Other Special Populations Self-Assessment for the entire SSA or each LEA in the SSA?

Answer: Each LEA, including all LEAs who are participating as a part of an ESC-SSA, would need to complete the McKinney Vento portion of the OSP Self-Assessment and submit the self-assessment activity by November 1, 2024, to the homelesseducation@tea.texas.gov. Your ESC-SSA may offer additional guidance and support related to the OSP self-assessment, that is provided in the grant period.

Question B-6: What forms do we as an ESC need to put to be the fiscal agent for LEA's?

Answer: Please refer to [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth') for required forms. For an ESC to be a fiscal agent, the ESC will need to check the box on page 2 of the [application](#) under section #3 (Shared Services Arrangements) and attach the completed TEHCY ESC SSA Member Chart ([Attachment #5](#)). Please refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Written SSA Agreement (page 10) for additional information, including SSA limitations for this grant.

Question B-7: When a district wants to join an ESC as an SSA, does the LEA have to fill out the whole application piece or does the ESC fill out the application as their fiscal agent?

Answer: The designated fiscal agent (i.e., ESC) of an SSA is the applicant that completes and submits a composite application with input from and on behalf of its members. Please refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Shared Services Arrangements (page 9) for more information.

Question B-8: Application Part 1 for the 2024-2025 TEHCY grant was initially downloaded but due to Errata 1, the application was downloaded again. What should be revision 1 almost completely reflects the 2021-2022 application (including grant title, deadline, grant period, RFA/SAS#, some dates in the assurances) and in question 9.3. The new assurances, numbers 24-26, are not on the currently posted document.

Answer: The [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth') houses the current resources and applications. The new assurances (24-26) are correctly posted in the documents.

Question B-9: Where might we find the TEHCY Program Implementation Levels of Service and Support referenced under Program Requirement 8 in the TEHCY Grant Application?

Answer: Please refer to the [TEA grants opportunities page](#) (Search: '2024-2025 Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth') for the [Program Guidelines](#) (page 12) and Errata 2, posted on 04/15/2024, to locate the TEHCY Program Implementation Levels of Service and Support diagram.

Section C: Program-Related Questions

Question C-1: Our greatest need in helping homeless students in our district is the very high cost of transportation – getting them from their shelter or other temporary living situation to their schools. The grant referenced seems to be looking for innovative ways to provide support services and foster overall academic success among this student population. Transportation is not very innovative or creative and the cost to our district every year is significant. Would it be worth applying since the cost is much more than we are eligible for through this grant?

Answer: TEA encourages interested LEAs to apply for the grant. LEAs who participate in the grant will likely expand their knowledge and know-how of the McKinney-Vento program and related requirements. Transportation is one of many requirements that can be supported with TEHCY sub-grant funds. Additionally, participants knowledge and understanding for how other state and federal fund sources can be used to support McKinney-Vento transportation requirements, could be helpful to your LEA's infrastructure and will likely be gained through participating in the grant.

Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

Question D-1: Can TEHCY funds be used to purchase caps and gowns for our homeless students?

Answer: Yes. TEHCY funds can be used to support MV students in obtaining graduation attire (e.g., caps and gowns) in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Question D-2: In the program guidelines, the purchase of office furniture, copiers, phones, etc. is unallowable. Does that include printer as well? The MV Coordinator at one of the districts does not have a desktop printer and wanted to know if she'd be able to purchase one under the TEHCY Grant?

Answer: In consideration of the purchase of a printer for the MV Coordinator, TEHCY funds may be allowable depending on local considerations. Please consult with your business office to ensure the cost is necessary, reasonable, and allocable per the Uniform Grant Guidance (2 CFR 200).

Question D-3: Allowable use of funds includes paying for an LEA to attend the TNOYS Conference. However, are we allowed to pay for individuals in the district who are not MV funded? Are we only allowed to pay for their registration? Can we pay for a hotel/flight/etc.?

Answer: Yes. TEHCY grant funds may be used to attend conferences for stakeholders (e.g., counselor, principal, etc.) who support the TEHCY program and students experiencing homelessness. However, travel costs for officials such as the executive director, superintendent, or board members may not be funded under the grant program ([Program Guidelines](#), page 18).

Question D-4: Related to Program Specific Assurances #24 (pg. 8) and Under General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds (pg. 16)- 42 U.S.C. Section 11433(a)(2)(B)(i). The wording in the law states on school grounds or other facilities under Section A. TEA states, if programming does not occur on school grounds, you cannot use MV grant funds to pay for services to at-risk housed students. If the ESC is the applicant and services are provided at the ESC, could this wording be corrected to match the citation so that ESCs can include at-risk housed students?

Answer: TEA has updated language in Errata #2, posted on 04/15/2024, to clarify that programming for at-risk housed students may occur on school grounds or another facility, in accordance with [42 U.S.C. Section 11433\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)\(i\)](#). Yes, in these instances, the ESC is operating in support of the LEA and can provide these support services.

Question D-5: Are gift cards allowable to support homeless students? If so, under what conditions? Are gas cards allowable? If so, under what conditions? If they are allowable, what about the fee that is paid for the gift card? In the Program Guidelines for TEHCY, gift cards are still shown as unallowable.

Answer: Yes. "Pre-paid cards" are an allowable use of funds. Please note additional steps are needed to ensure adherence to 'Payment for Strong internal controls' of prepaid cards, such as collecting receipts, tracking, and grant budget limitations. Please reference the 2024-25 [Program Guidelines](#) (page 18) and Errata 1 for further details.

Section E: Funding Questions

Question E-1: Are you using fall snapshot numbers and not end of year numbers (as in the past) for the new 3 year?

Answer: Yes. TEA is using Fall 2023 snapshot numbers to determine the funding allocations.

Question E-2: Regarding the TEHCY grant for 24-25 - This year it was determined that the grant amount eligibility would be based on fall snapshot data as "this was most favorable to LEAs with the award amounts and also aligns to processes used with other TEA grants." Our district experiences high mobility and routinely sees increases in our students who are experiencing

homelessness throughout the year. The concern about the decision to designate the fall snapshot to calculate the eligible amount of funding is that it fails to take into account the characteristics of certain populations and the experiences of the local community. Homelessness occurs all year long. Will there be a reconsideration or opportunity to allow districts with a history of data to show identification that surpasses the rate in the fall to submit budget requests for a higher amount?

Answer: Not at this time. The allocation for the 2024-25 school year is determined by Fall 2023 snapshot numbers. These are unduplicated counts and in alignment with other TEA grant processes. Final TEHCY Sub-grant 24-25 allocation amounts will be determined after all grant applications are received and reviewed.

Question E-3: Is there any way to advocate for our snapshot numbers to be re-evaluated?

Answer: Not at this time. TEA utilized PEIMS Fall 2023 data to determine allocations. Moreover, your LEA could pursue official processes for changing your PEIMS 2023 data collection, if permissible; however, this would likely not result in additional funding at this time.

Question E-4: Are there any plans to reconsider the funding allocations (based on actual numbers and not just Fall snapshot) in order for districts to serve their actual populations or is this a possibility?

Answer: Not at this time. Actual numbers vary day by day. In alignment with agency processes for other grants and fiscal analysis of Summer and Fall numbers, it was determined that Fall 2023 snapshot numbers were used to determine allocations.

Question E-5: Will last year's MV numbers be looked at in addition to the snapshot to help determine funding? Is there a possibility of TEA going back to using the June totals for determining how much schools receive for TEHCY? Will there be other grant opportunities available for serving displaced students?

Answer: Not at this time. The allocation for the 2024-25 school year is determined by Fall 2023 snapshot numbers. There are no new additional grant opportunities at this time. Please refer to [TEA grants opportunities page](#) for grant opportunities, as they become available.

Section F: Competitive Review Questions

No questions have been posed for this section of the FAQs.