

Greetings Homeless Liaisons:

In March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP Act), Public Law 117-2, into law. In addition to providing \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students, the United States Department of Education (USED) reserved \$800 million for Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY). This funding supports efforts to identify homeless children and youths, provides them with comprehensive, wrap-around services that address needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and allows them to attend school and participate fully in all school activities.

Based on the proportion states received under Title I, Part A for the most recent fiscal year, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) was awarded \$18,109,524. The Department followed USED's recommendation – as stated in its [April 23, 2021 letter](#) – and allocated 75% of the ARP Homeless I funding (\$3,395,536) for existing regional [McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth \(EHCY\) grantees](#). This enables regional grantees to award subgrants or contracts to community-based organizations that are well-positioned to identify children and youths experiencing homelessness and connect them to educationally related supports and wraparound services. Additionally, the Department allocated ARP Homeless II funding (\$12,196,097) for LEAs statewide based on a formula set forth by the USED.

ACTION REQUIRED: Specific [allocation information](#), along with important details regarding how LEAs receiving allocations less than \$5,000 join a consortium can be found on the [NJDOE's ARP-HCY website](#) under the Consortia link. It should be noted that an LEA with an ARP-HCY II allocation greater than \$5,000 also may elect to join a consortium, thereby, contributing its allocation to the consortium, and working cooperatively to provide programs and/or services for the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of children and youths experiencing homelessness. All LEAs are asked to complete the [ARP-HCY II Survey](#) no later than **Friday, February 11, 2022** to indicate whether they will:

- a) My LEA will ACCEPT its ARP-HCY II allocation (**Only Applies to Allocations Greater than \$5,000**);
- b) My LEA will JOIN its assigned regional consortium; or
- c) My LEA will DECLINE its ARP-HCY II allocation.

Both the USED and the NJDOE encourages all LEAs to assist in the effort to eradicate homelessness through the use of ARP-HCY funding.

The NJDOE continues to be committed to providing regular ARP-HCY updates to LEAs as additional information becomes available. Questions regarding the ARP-HCY funds should be directed to ESSER@doe.nj.gov.

Thank you,

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