

Indiana Education for Homeless Children & Youth (INEHCY)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Federal funding is available to help serve students who are homeless through the State Education Department's Homeless Education Program in the form of competitive grants to school districts. The program awards competitive, three-year grants to school districts to facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and academic success of homeless children and youth. Grants are needs-based, and take into account the number of children and youth who are homeless and enrolled in preschool, elementary school, and secondary schools within the school district. 42 U.S.C. § 11433 (c).

1. How can a school district apply for a McKinney-Vento grant?
 - ✓ A school district can apply for a McKinney-Vento grant from the Indiana Department of Education – McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youth.
2. What types of services may be provided using grant funds?
 - ✓ The following are some examples of services that may be provided using grant funds:
 - Tutoring;
 - Expedited evaluations;
 - Professional development to raise awareness and sensitivity to the needs of homeless children and youths;
 - Referral services for medical, dental, mental, and other health services;
 - Transportation;
 - Early childhood education programs;
 - Services to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youth in school;
 - Before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs;
 - Payment of fees associated with obtaining records;
 - Training for parents of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to their children;
 - Coordination activities between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths;
 - Violence prevention counseling and other pupil services;
 - Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence;
 - Adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any non-school facilities to provide services using sub-grant funds;
 - School supplies; and
 - Extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school.

3. Are charter schools eligible to receive McKinney-Vento grant funding?
 - ✓ Charter schools are considered LEAs and are therefore eligible to receive McKinney-Vento grant funding.
4. Can McKinney-Vento grant funds be used to pay for temporary housing (i.e. a hotel/motel) for a family whose home has recently become uninhabitable or to prevent an eviction?
 - ✓ McKinney-Vento grant funds should not be used to pay for rent or temporary housing for a family whose home has recently become uninhabitable. The family should contact the local department of social services for help securing temporary housing.

H-1. For what activities may an LEA use McKinney-Vento subgrant funds?

LEAs must use McKinney-Vento funds to assist homeless children and youths in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. (See, e.g., sections 722(g)(6), 723(d)). In particular, the funds may support the following activities:

- ✓ Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and other educational services that help homeless children and youths reach the same challenging State academic standards the State establishes for other children and youths. (Section 723(d)(1)). As clearly specified in the ESEA, all academic enrichment programs for disadvantaged students, including programs for homeless students, must be aligned with State standards and curricula. Additionally, when offering supplemental instruction, LEAs should focus on providing services for children and youths that reflect scientifically based research as the foundation for programs and strategies to ensure academic success.
- ✓ Expedited evaluations of eligible students to measure their strengths and needs. (Section 723(d)(2)). These evaluations should be done promptly in order to avoid a gap in the provision of necessary services to those children and youths. Evaluations may also determine a homeless child or youth's possible need or eligibility for other programs and services, including educational programs for gifted and talented students; special education and related services for children with disabilities under Part B of the IDEA; special education or related aids and services for qualified students with disabilities under Section 504; early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities under Part C of the IDEA; programs for English learners; career and technical education; meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program²²; and other appropriate programs or services under the ESEA. (Section 723(d)(2)).
- ✓ 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 the McKinney-Vento Act, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths. (Section 723(d)(3)).
- ✓ Referrals of eligible students to medical, dental, mental, and other health services. (Section 723(d)(4)).

- ✓ Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funds, to enable students to remain in their schools of origin. (Section 723(d)(5)).
- ✓ Developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs for preschool-aged homeless children that are not provided through other Federal, State, or local funds. (Section 723(d)(6)).
- ✓ 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 and services provided to non-homeless children and youths. (Section 723(d)(7)).
- ✓ Before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs for homeless children and youths in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities. (Section 723(d)(8)).
- ✓ Payment of fees and costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school. The records may include birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs and services. (Section 723(d)(9)).
- ✓ Education and training for 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 or youths in the education of such children or youths.
- ✓ Coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths in order to expand and enhance such services. Coordination with programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act must be included in this effort. (Section 722(g)(5)(A)(i)).
- ✓ Specialized instructional support services, including violence prevention counseling, and referrals for such services. (Section 723(d)(12)).
- ✓ Programs addressing the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems. (Section 723(d)(13)).
- ✓ Providing supplies to non-school facilities serving eligible students and adapting these facilities to enable them to provide services. (Section 723(d)(14)).
- ✓ Providing school supplies, including those to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations. (Section 723(d)(15)).
- ✓ Providing extraordinary or emergency services needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities. (Section 723(d)(16)).

For more information about approved uses of McKinney-Vento grant funding, please see pages 19-20 of the <H:\ESSA\EHCY Guidance\Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Non-Regulatory Guidance.pdf> Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program: Non-Regulatory Guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education or contact the State Education Department's Homeless Education Program at 317-233-3372.