

McKinney-Vento Homeless Subgrants to LEAs FAQ's

On what basis does an SEA award McKinney-Vento subgrants to LEAs?

An SEA awards McKinney-Vento subgrants to LEAs competitively on the basis of the need of the LEAs requesting assistance and the quality of their applications.

In determining need, the SEA must consider the needs of homeless children and youths and the ability of the LEA to meet such needs. The SEA *may* also consider: the number of homeless children and youths enrolled in early childhood education and other preschool programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools, within the area served by the LEA; the extent to which the proposed use of funds will facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youths; the extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youths; the extent to which the proposed use of funds will facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youths; the extent to which the application reflects coordination with other local and State agencies that serve homeless children and youths; the extent to which the applicant exhibits in the application and in current practice a commitment to education for all homeless children and youths; and such other criteria as the SEA deems appropriate.

In determining quality, the SEA must consider:

- The applicant's needs assessment and the likelihood that the program presented in the application will meet such needs; The types, intensity, and coordination of the services to be provided under the program;
- The extent to which the applicant will promote meaningful involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of their children;
- The extent to which homeless children and youths will be integrated into the regular education program;
- The quality of the applicant's evaluation plan for the program;
- The extent to which services provided will be coordinated with other services available to homeless children and youths and their families;
- The extent to which the LEA will use the subgrant to leverage other resources;
- How the LEA will use funds to serve homeless children and youths under section 1113(c)(3) of the ESEA; and
- The extent to which the LEA's program meets such other measures as the SEA considers indicative of a high-quality program, such as the extent to which the LEA will provide case management or related services to unaccompanied youths.

Local Uses of Funds

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. In particular, the funds may support the following activities:

1. 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. 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.

2. Expedited evaluations of eligible students to measure their strengths and needs. 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.
3. 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.
4. Referrals of eligible students to medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
5. 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.
6. Developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs for preschool-aged homeless children that are not provided through other Federal, State, or local funds.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths in order to expand and enhance such services.

12. Specialized instructional support services, including violence prevention counseling, and referrals for such services.

13. Programs addressing the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.

14. Providing supplies to non-school facilities serving eligible students and adapting these facilities to enable them to provide services.

15. Providing school supplies, including those to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.

16. Providing extraordinary or emergency services needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

Where may an LEA provide services for homeless children and youths?

To the maximum extent practicable, an LEA must provide McKinney-Vento services through existing programs and mechanisms that integrate homeless and non-homeless children and youths. LEAs may provide subgrant services through programs on school grounds or at other facilities. If services are provided on school grounds, the schools may use McKinney-Vento funds to provide the same services to other children and youths who are determined by the LEA to be at risk of failing in, or dropping out of, school.

As discussed in Part B of this guidance, LEAs and schools may not provide services in settings within a school that segregate homeless children and youths from other children and youths, except as necessary for short periods of time for health and safety emergencies, or to provide temporary, special, and additional services to meet the unique needs of homeless children and youths

May a district or school provide an after-school program that exclusively serves homeless children and youths with McKinney-Vento funds?

Homeless children and youths are entitled to participate in the regular after-school program provided by the school, and schools must address all barriers to their full participation in these programs. (See section 722(g)(1)(F)(iii)). If no after-school programs are provided by the school, or the programs provided do not meet the needs of homeless children and youths, McKinney-Vento funds may be used for after-school services for homeless children and youths and for non-homeless children and youths who are at risk of failing in, or dropping out of, school. (Sections 723(d)(8), 723(a)(2)(B)(i)).

May subgrant funds be used to improve the identification of homeless students?

Yes, subgrant funds may be used to improve the identification of homeless students. In addition to data that must be collected as a result of the McKinney-Vento Act, other data sources that may be used to identify homeless students might include:

- Needs assessments conducted as a part of school improvement plans or other State and Federal education requirements;
- Community assessments that indicate levels of poverty among families, student mobility, trends in foreclosures, evictions, and the availability of affordable housing, or data on homelessness within the community.