

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the 2018 Hurricane Education  
Recovery Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth Program  
CFDA Number: 84.938B**



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## **Purpose of this Document**

The purpose of this document is to provide general information about the Hurricane Education Recovery Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth Program, as authorized by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, P.L. 115-123 (February 9, 2018). This document provides basic information about the program, including the award process and allowable uses of funds, and does not impose any requirements beyond those included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and other applicable laws and regulations. In addition, it does not create or confer any rights for or on any person.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) will provide additional or updated information as necessary on the Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth Program page, accessible at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/ahy/index.html> and the ED Disaster Relief page, accessible at <https://www.ed.gov/disasterrelief>. If you have questions that are not answered in this document, please e-mail [HurricaneHomeless@ed.gov](mailto:HurricaneHomeless@ed.gov).

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## **A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A-1. What is the purpose of the Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program?**

The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) serving homeless children and youth displaced by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, or the 2017 California wildfires for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under sections 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5190) (covered disaster or emergency) to address the educational and related needs of these students consistent with section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) and section 106 of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148 (the Hurricane Education Recovery Act).

### **A-2. What is the authority for this program?**

This program is authorized under Division B, Subdivision 1, Title VIII of P.L. 115-123, the “Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.”

### **A-3. What is the relationship between the Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program authorized under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program authorized under the McKinney-Vento Act?**

The Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program is a new, temporary program authorized as part of the Hurricane Education Recovery section of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. It provides a separate source of funding for LEAs to address the needs of homeless students displaced by a covered disaster or emergency. Although this is a separate source of funding, LEAs must use the funds awarded under the Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program to support activities that are allowable under section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Act.

## **B. SEA AWARDS**

### **B.1. How will the U.S. Department of Education (Department) award funds under the program?**

The Department will award funds to State educational agencies (SEAs) based on demonstrated need, as described below, and the number of homeless children and youth enrolled as a result of displacement by a covered disaster or emergency. SEAs, in turn, will award subgrants to LEAs on the basis of demonstrated need and the number of homeless children and youth enrolled as a result of displacement by a covered disaster or emergency.

### **B-2. How will an SEA apply for funding under the program?**

The SEA will submit a separate application for funding under the Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program. **Applications were due June 4, 2018.**

The Notice Announcing Availability of Funds and Application Deadlines and application materials are available online at <https://www.ed.gov/disasterrelief>. These documents contain important information and should be reviewed carefully. The Notice includes information on how to submit an application with a reference and weblink to the instructions published in the *Federal Register* on April 25, 2018 (83 FR 18015).

### **B-3. What information must be included in the SEA application?**

The application requests information on:

Displaced and Homeless Student Counts:

- 1) The total number of displaced students, as reported in the SEA's application for funding under the Emergency Impact Aid program,<sup>1</sup> who were enrolled in public schools in the State during the 2017-18 school year.
- 2) Of the total number of displaced students enrolled in public schools in the State during the 2017-18 school year, the total number who were homeless children and youth, as defined by section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act.

Demonstrated Need:

- 1) The total number of homeless children and youth, as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act:
  - a) who were enrolled in public schools in the State during the 2017-18 school year;
  - b) whose primary nighttime residence changed as a result of the covered disaster or emergency; and
  - c) who do not meet the definition of displaced student.
- 2) (Optional) Additional information on, or description of, demonstrated need for funding.

### **B-4. What is a displaced student?**

A displaced student is a student who:

- On the date that is one week prior to the date that the major disaster or emergency was declared for the area, resided in that area; and
- As a result of displacement by a covered disaster or emergency, is enrolled in an elementary school or secondary school other than the school that the student was enrolled in, or was eligible to be enrolled in, on the date that is one week prior to the date that the major disaster or emergency was declared for the area.

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<sup>1</sup> The Emergency Impact Aid program is also described in the *Federal Register* notice dated April 25, 2018.

Note that the definition includes students who, on the date a count is taken, are enrolled in a school in their original LEA but, because of the impact of one of the covered disasters or emergencies, are not in their original school. For more information on the definition of displaced student, please see the Emergency Impact Aid FAQs, available at:

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/eia/faq.html>.

#### **B-5. May preschool students be included in the displaced student or demonstrated need counts?**

Preschool students may only be included in the displaced student counts if preschool education is included as a part of elementary education by State law. If State law defines elementary education as beginning with kindergarten, preschool students may not be included in the displaced student counts from that State.

Preschool students may, however, be included in a State's demonstrated need count (i.e., the number of homeless students whose primary nighttime changed as a result of the covered disaster or emergency and who do not meet the definition of displaced, as described in question B-4) if the LEA in which the student resides offers a public education to preschool children.<sup>2</sup>

#### **B-6. What is a homeless child or youth?**

Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

The term includes—

- Children and youth who are:
  - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”);
  - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
  - abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

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<sup>2</sup> This is consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, which authorizes LEAs to provide services to preschool students attending a public preschool.

- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

**B-7. What data should an SEA use to obtain the number of displaced homeless students for purposes of this application?**

In providing data on the number of displaced students for purposes of the Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program, an SEA should use the number of displaced public school students, as reported in its Emergency Impact Aid program application. Of the number of displaced public school students, the SEA must also report the number of such students who are also homeless, as defined above.

**B-8. What information can be included under the optional section “Additional information on, or description of, demonstrated need for funding”?**

This optional section gives an SEA the opportunity to provide any additional information on its need for funding to serve homeless children and youth displaced by a covered disaster or emergency. An SEA is not required to complete this section but may wish to do so if it believes that the data submitted does not completely reflect all of its funding needs related to serving homeless displaced children and youth. We encourage each SEA to be as specific and data-driven as possible in its response.

**B-9. May an SEA reserve any portion of its allocation for State-level activities?**

An SEA may reserve an amount that is reasonable and necessary to effectively administer the program. Administrative costs include costs (direct and indirect) involved in the proper and efficient performance and administration of this Federal grant.

This use of funds, as well as indirect costs and rates, must comply with 2 CFR part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards) and the Department’s administrative regulations. (See 34 CFR §§ 76.560-76.569 on indirect costs.)

The authorizing statute does not provide for any other State-level activities.

**C. LEA AWARDS**

**C-1. How will an SEA award funds to LEAs under the program?**

An SEA will award funds to LEAs based on (1) the number of displaced homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools and (2) demonstrated need, as reported on the SEA’s application for funding.

The specific LEA application and subgrant requirements in sections 723(b) and (c) of the McKinney-Vento Act do not apply to subgrants that an SEA makes under the Assistance for Homeless Children Youth program.

**C-2. Is there a statutory deadline by which LEAs must submit applications to SEA?**

No, each SEA that receives funding under the Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program should set a reasonable deadline for the submission of LEA applications.

**C-3. May a non-public school receive funds under this program?**

No. The authorizing statute requires SEAs to award funds to LEAs.

**C-4. May LEAs use funds received under this program to provide services to homeless displaced students attending non-public schools?**

No. An LEA must use funds under this program consistent with section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act does not authorize the provision of services to students in non-public schools.

**C-5. What types of activities may an LEA support with funds awarded under Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth program?**

An LEA may use funds received under this program on any activity authorized under section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Act (see below).

Under section 723(d), an LEA may use funds awarded under this section for activities that carry out the purpose of the McKinney-Vento Act, including the following:

- (1) Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth.
- (2) Expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youth, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.] or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).<sup>3</sup>
- (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 youth, the rights of such children and youths under this part, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
- (4) Referral services to homeless children and youth for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
- (5) Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 722(g)(4)(A) of the McKinney-Vento Act, not otherwise provided through Federal,

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on this activity, please refer to question H-1 in the Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance (see link on following page), which discusses the use of evaluations to determine a homeless student's possible need or eligibility for other programs and services.



State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 722(g)(3) of this title.

- (6) Developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.
- (7) Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youth, particularly homeless children and youth who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youth.
- (8) Before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs for homeless children and youth in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
- (9) If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youth in school, including birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.
- (10) Education and training to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youth about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youth, 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 youth.
- (11) The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youth, as described in section 722(g)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- (12) Specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
- (13) Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youth that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
- (14) The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under section 723(a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.
- (15) School supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
- (16) Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.

For more information on local uses of funds, please refer to section H of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Non-Regulatory Guidance, available at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716updated0317.pdf>.