



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 23, 2022

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

Route To: District Registrars, District Homeless Liaisons, Building Principals, Business Administrators, Directors of Special Education Services

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

## **American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Funding**

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.

In November 2021 USED approved the [New Jersey Department of Education \(NJDOE\) ARP-HCY State Plan](#). The plan, together with the funding available under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, will help support districts and schools in New Jersey in identifying homeless children and youth, providing wraparound services in light of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), providing assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, and address the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students due to the impact of COVID-19.

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 NJDOE 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.

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

Questions regarding the ARP-HCY funds should be directed to [ESSER@doe.nj.gov](mailto:ESSER@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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EHCY/ARP-HCY Regional Grantees  
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