



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 11, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency 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

### **New Federal Guidance Urges Expediting ARP-HCY Funds**

The United States Department of Education (USED) recently released a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) to Chief School Officers urging states to expedite obligating American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds by September 30, 2024. These funds provide critical wraparound supports for students experiencing homelessness who have been especially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. USED updated the ARP-HCY allowable uses to meet additional urgent needs.

#### **Maximizing ARP-HCY Funds**

It should be noted that any activity allowable under the [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#), is also allowable under the ARP-HCY program. ARP-HCY funds, however, are uniquely flexible to support the identification, enrollment, and school participation of children and youth experiencing homelessness, including wrap-around services. The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) has provided a [Use of Funds Tip Sheet](#) as additional guidance for local educational agencies to determine whether a proposed use of funds for ARP-HCY grants may be allowable. The Tip Sheet clarifies that ARP-HCY funds may be used for emergency motel stays, transportation needs including the purchase of vehicles, food assistance, early childhood education, among many other uses.

#### **Spending Timeline**

ARP-HCY funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024 and liquidated by October 15, 2024.

For questions or clarification, please visit the NJDOE's McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth [webpage](#) or email [McKinney.Vento@doe.nj.gov](mailto:McKinney.Vento@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group