

**ARP HOMELESS II FUNDS  
Application**

Please complete this application and provide the requested information to apply for ARP Homeless II funds. Follow all instructions and have the application signed by the appropriate authority at the local education agency (LEA). Return the application by email to [Jessica.Hickman@ade.arkansas.gov](mailto:Jessica.Hickman@ade.arkansas.gov) by 5:00 pm on January 11, 2022.

A completed application is required to allow for reimbursement of funds.

**Applicant LEA information or Consortium Lead LEA:**

LEA name:	BENTONVILLE SCHOOLS
Superintendent/Director Name	Dr. Debbie Jones/Dr. Christie Jay
Superintendent/Director Cell Phone Number	479.254.5000/479.254.5026
Superintendent/Director Email Address	djones@bentonvillek12.org/cjay@bentonvillek12.org
Homeless Liaison/Consortium Lead	Dr. Christie Jay
Homeless Liaison/Consortium Lead Cell Phone Number	479.254.5026
Homeless Liaison/Consortium Lead Email Address	cjay@bentonvillek12.org

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** (If the application includes more than one LEA, the information above should reflect the LEA that will take responsibility for the budget and for reporting. The information below should reflect the needs, plan for implementation, evaluation and budget for the consortium)

Please answer the following questions:

**1. Need**

1a. Provide the total number of identified children and youth experiencing homelessness in the LEA(s), preschool through high school as reported as of Oct. 1 (Find reports [here](#)) :

LEAs	
Bentonville Schools	362

Total	Total 362

1b. Briefly describe how the needs assessment process was implemented to determine the needs of students experiencing homelessness. (Liaisons are likely to be able to establish basic needs through simple descriptions and data such as attendance, academic, and social/emotional)

Administrators took a survey of student services personnel, including the Director of Student Services, Social Workers, Director of Federal Programs, and Counselors to determine current needs not being fulfilled by programs such as bright futures/supplemental programs. The current homeless list, attendance records and other academic and social-emotional data were also reviewed. It was determined that the primary need lies in the area of transportation, specifically in the interim period between a student enrolling and the student transportation being set-up by the district. Although this may only take a day or two at the least, it is sometimes an interruption in formal schooling that could possibly be avoided.

Bentonville Schools has an enrollment of around 19,000 students with an identified homeless population that fluctuates between 300-400 annually. Although this number comprises only 2% of the population, they are among the most needy in the district. It would follow that their student service needs lie above the norm and require supplemental services that require a quicker turnaround time than the norm. Bentonville Schools has supplemental personnel and services above every state and federal requirement to assist families experiencing homelessness and poverty; however the resources remain limited. Obtaining transportation routes outside the norm sometimes require extra time and effort, and this could result in interrupted education for our students. In addition to transportation needs, there is also need for basic resources, like clean clothing and laundry facility access. The identified homeless students also frequently have a higher need for supplemental special services from the district, such as special services, alternative learning, poverty related services and sometimes ESL.

1c. Describe the priorities for meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness. (Priorities should match 4a. Evaluation)

The priority needs for students experiencing homelessness are supplemental transportation, laundry services, food and clothing. Although our transportation department is able to complete ridership setup in a period of one, two, and sometimes three days, this delay could mean an educational delay if families are unable to transport during the interim

time period. There is also a shortage of drivers in the district and state at this time. When you couple these facts together with need of families at off-contract times before and after school hours, it puts the district at a disadvantage to meet family needs in a timely manner. Because of these reasons, the district would like to use a portion of Homeless ESSER II funding to purchase .50 cost of a SUV vehicle that does not require a CDL license. We would also like to collect a list of willing employees who can drive students to and from home and school on a quick-notice basis. The drivers would be current employees paid on a timesheet and approved by the Director of Federal Programs prior to incurring cost. The drivers would often be working off contract time and would be compensated at their hourly rate.

In addition to transportation costs, the district has identified need areas of clean clothing and laundry facilities. The district would like to partner with the DEB project for clothing purchases and Sugar Creek Laundry for laundry services. Vouchers would be distributed to families in need to use at their discretion at these two businesses. Social workers will obtain a list of needed items and shop exclusively for their food and clothing needs.

The Director of Federal Programs and the Director of Student Services for Bentonville would have access to approve vehicle use and maintain a calendar and schedule for use. Availability for homeless families would be prioritized, with availability to poverty families, alternative learning families and ESL families up to 50% of the time. A complete list of pre-approved drivers is maintained and detailed.

## 2. Coordination

2a. List the state or local agencies that the LEA(s) will coordinate with to meet identified needs of students.

Bentonville Schools Transportation  
Bentonville Schools Student Services  
Bentonville Schools Bright Futures  
Bentonville Schools Federal Programs  
Bentonville Schools Social Workers  
Bentonville Schools Counselors  
Bentonville Schools Food Services  
Bentonville Schools (23 Schools)  
Bentonville Schools Alternative Education  
Bentonville Schools ESL

2b. Does the LEA(s) plan to award contracts to community-based organizations to identify historically underserved populations such as rural children and youth, Tribal children and youth, students of color, children and youth with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ+ youth, and pregnant or parenting youth, and connect them to educationally related support and

wraparound services? If so, describe those plans in 3-5 sentences and include the name of the community-based organization(s).

Name of Community-based organization	Description of support and services
Sugar Creek Laundry	Laundry Services by Voucher
DEB Project	Clean gently used clothing for students K-12
Walmart	Food and Clothing

### 3. Quality

3a. How will the LEA(s) use ARP Homeless II funds to identify and provide outreach to children and youth experiencing homelessness?

When there is an immediate need for transportation, food, clothing and laundry services, social workers and counselors will have the discretion to request these services coordinated by the Director of Federal Programs and the Director of Federal Programs. The vehicle is accessible and kept at the Childhood Enrichment Services Center for Bentonville Schools. This is the primary location for social work in the district. It is located in a central location near Washington Junior High School and gives the most ready access to all concerned.

3b. How will the LEA(s) use ARP Homeless II funds to connect students experiencing homelessness and their families to enrollment of summer learning and enrichment programs, and to engage students and their families in on-site learning during the school year?

Supplemental transportation will be provided to all families in need upon registration. Students will be able to attend either the day of registration or the following day with this service without the requirement of their families providing transportation or the regular district ridership transportation. Student access to ongoing grade level curriculum is of extreme importance and must happen immediately upon enrollment. Our staff members and faculty members want our students on campus for in-person learning immediately upon enrollment.

3c. How will the LEA(s) use ARP Homeless II funds to retain students experiencing homelessness? NOTE: In the context of the McKinney-Vento Act, the term retention does not mean grade retention. Rather, it refers to keeping students connected to school, attending, and progressing forward toward high school graduation.

This service will insure a smooth transition for students enrolling in the district. Families experiencing homelessness often enroll at unconventional times and are highly mobile. These families require more immediate response times than the average family and require a more prescribed approach to services. We have no other means of upgrading our responses to homeless families than providing an additional vehicle and available drivers. Regular attendance with our faculty members is one of the most important ways to keep our students on track to graduation. The availability of clothing and laundry services also gives students dignity in the process of attending school without obvious scrutiny.

3d. How will the LEA(s) use ARP Homeless II funds to promote educational success of students experiencing homelessness?

Educational success depends upon our students attending at every opportunity possible. The students cannot learn our standards if they are not in attendance.

3e. Does the LEA(s) plan to provide services specifically for preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness and their families? If yes, please describe services.

Our preschool campuses, like Tennie Russell Preschool, help us identify homeless families. We also ask questions about siblings in our pre-K system to identify students prior to them actually enrolling in our K-12 schools. Some of our locally provided programs are not restricted to providing for the needs of primary school families, and can serve them immediately.

3f. Does the LEA(s) plan to provide services specifically for unaccompanied youth? If yes, please describe services. The McKinney-Vento Act defines *unaccompanied youth* as "a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian" [42 USC § 11434a(6)].

Yes, we provide supplemental academic enrichment services through our high school advocates and tutors. Our counselors often recommend students for these services. We also employ therapists to meet the social-emotional needs of our secondary students.

3g. Provide a description of policies and procedures that the LEA will implement to ensure that activities carried out by the LEA will not isolate or stigmatize homeless children and youth.

4.47—HOMELESS STUDENTS The District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to homeless children as are afforded to non-homeless children. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational agency (LEA) liaison for homeless children and youth whose responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to: • Receiving the appropriate time and training necessary to carry out the duties required by law and this policy; • Coordinating and collaborating with the State Coordinator, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths; • Ensuring

that school personnel receive professional development and other support regarding their duties and responsibilities for homeless youths; • Ensuring that unaccompanied homeless youths: o Are enrolled in school; o Have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths; and o Are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that they may obtain assistance from the LEA liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; and • Ensuring that public notice of the educational rights of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youth, and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable. To the extent possible, the LEA liaison and the building principal shall work together to ensure no homeless child or youth is harmed due to conflicts with District policies solely because of the homeless child or youth's living situation; this is especially true for District policies governing fees, fines, and absences. Notwithstanding Policy 4.1, homeless students living in the district are entitled to enroll in the district's school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. If there is a question concerning the enrollment of a homeless child due to a conflict with Policy 4.1 or 4.2, the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute, including all appeals. It is the responsibility of the District's LEA liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the dispute resolution process. For the purposes of this policy "school of origin" means: • The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool; and • The designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools when the child completes the final grade provided by the school of origin. The District shall do one of the following according to what is in the best interests of a homeless child: 1. Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness: o In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; and o For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or 2. Enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend. In determining the best interest of the child or youth, the District shall: • Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth; • Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth. If the District determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, the District shall provide the child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal. For an unaccompanied youth, the District shall ensure that the LEA liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions, gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal. The homeless child or youth must be immediately enrolled in the

selected school regardless of whether application or enrollment deadlines were missed during the period of homelessness. The District shall be responsible for providing transportation for a homeless child, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the LEA liaison), to and from the child's school of origin. For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and: A. Are: a. Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; b. Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; c. Living in emergency or transitional shelters; d. Abandoned in hospitals; or e. Awaiting foster care placement; B. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for a regularly used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; C. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and D. Are migratory children who are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c). In accordance with Federal Law, information on homeless child or youth's living situation is part of the student's education record and shall not be considered, or added, to the list of directory information in Policy 4.13. Legal References: 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431 et seq. 42 U.S.C. § 11431(2) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (1) (H) (I) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (1) (J) (i), (ii), (iii), (iii) (I), (iii) (II) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (3) (A), (A) (i), (A) (i) (I), (A) (i) (II), (A) (ii) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (3) (B) (i), (ii), (iii) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (3) (C) (i), (ii), (iii) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (3) (E) (i), (ii), (iii) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (3) (G) 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g) (4) (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) 42 U.S.C. § 11434a Additional Reference: ASBA Model Policies Date Adopted: 06-20-16 Date Revised: 11-14-16

3h. How will the LEA(s) promote meaningful involvement of parents, guardians, or caregivers in the activities and services proposed?

Bentonville Schools provides educational services in partnership with families to give the very best educational opportunity possible for our students. We offer with a servant heart and do our very best not to single-out our families in need or give any undue attention or unwelcome scrutiny in the process of providing services. We do not use the words homeless, except internally to describe need. We seek to maintain the dignity of our families.

#### 4. Evaluation

4a. How will the district/consortium evaluate the impact of the subgrant funds?  
(Evaluation should align with 1c. Priorities)

Select all that apply:	Evaluation Topics	Method for Evaluation
X	Data showing increases in the number of identified McKinney-Vento students	The Director of Federal Programs will compare the number of identified students for McKinney Vento purposes

		and compare the total to pre-pandemic levels.
X	Data showing increases in the attendance rates of identified McKinney-Vento students	The Director of Federal Programs will compare the attendance rates of identified students pre and post grant.
X	Data showing increases in academic achievement of identified McKinney-Vento students	The academic achievement levels of identified students will be compared pre and post grant to show an increase.
	Data showing increases in the graduation rates of identified McKinney-Vento students	
	Data showing decreases in school discipline rates of identified McKinney-Vento students	
	Data showing increases in the number of identified McKinney-Vento children under age six enrolled in early childhood education	
	Data showing increases in the number of identified McKinney-Vento students transitioning to post-secondary education	
	Data showing increased parent/guardian/caregiver involvement	
	Other (please describe)	

## 5. Budget

5a. What other federal funds will the LEA(s) use to support the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness specifically?



Select all that apply:	Funding Source	Funding Amount
	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds (signed into law March 2020)	
	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act (December 2020)	
	American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds (March 2021)	
X	Title I, Part A funds reserved for children and youth experiencing homelessness	\$3000 Title I Set-Aside
X	Other funds and services available to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness (please describe)	50% of the cost of the vehicle up to \$15K -\$20K in district funding to pay for 50% of the cost of the vehicle.
	None of the above	

#### 5b. Budget

The district/consortium business manager will pull the budget worksheets from Cognos and upload in excel format per the instructions below:

- Current Path Public Folders > EFP > Fund Accounting Manager > 2. Federal Program Reports for Budgets and Budget Adjustments>Budget Worksheet
  - Click on Budget Worksheet
  - Select the current year
  - Choose the SOF 6767
  - Click finish

The Budget worksheets shall have descriptions listed, elaborating as to what will be done with the budgeted amount and how it relates to indicated category. In the next column, add the Activity Codes 1-16 from the Authorized Activities.


- Include a description of items to be purchased, including FTE, name and position of salaries/benefits
- Material/supplies

Please upload the ARP Homeless II budget into the Indistar folder labeled ARP Homeless II.

**Confirm Assurances**

Select all that apply:	Assurances
<u>X</u>	The LEA(s) assures that the combined fiscal effort per student, or the aggregate expenditures of that agency and the state with respect to the provision of free public education by such agency for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made, was not less than 90 percent of such combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made.
<u>X</u>	The LEA(s) assures that the applicant complies with, or will use requested funds to comply with, paragraphs (3) through (7) of 42 U.S.C.A. § 11432(g).
<u>X</u>	The LEA(s) assures that it will collect and promptly provide data requested by the State Coordinator pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) of 42 U.S.C.A. § 11432(f).
<u>X</u>	The LEA(s) assures that it will meet the requirements of 42 U.S.C.A. § 11432(g)(3).

I, the undersigned Superintendent/Director for the above named Local Education Agency (LEA), hereby, assure the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education that this application is accurate to the best of my ability.

	<u>1/10/22</u>
SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR SIGNATURE	DATE

Please upload the completed application into the Indistar folder labeled ARP Homeless II by January 11, 2022.