



LEAs USE OF ARP I/II FUNDS—SUCCESS STORIES

Direct services for students

- Provided summer educational opportunities for students identified as homeless with transportation. This helps ensure older students stay on the graduation track or prepare for the HiSET and younger students are able to focus on academic areas of need.
- Extending summer school for an additional week
- Paying the fee for a student to participate in a week-long medical course during summer
- Participation/uniform costs and transportation to participate in after school/co-curricular activities.
- Purchasing of school supplies, backpacks, clothing, personal hygiene products, emergency food.
- Purchasing of hotspots for school-provided technology (laptops/tablets)
- Use of gift cards to local grocery stores, gas cards, and as rewards for attendance/reenrollment—use of gift cards provided students and families with immediate resources, but it also provided the school an opportunity to check-in with a family and see if additional services are needed
- Purchasing of sleeping pads

Hiring Additional Staff to support/family-student outreach

- Hiring of additional homeless liaison/family outreach staff
- Extending hours of Family School Services (FSS) Coordinator to begin earlier in the summer, prior to school starting, to identify and support homeless youth and families
- Creating a team of people who are “looking out for” the students’ best interests: talking to transportation about bus behaviors, counseling services due to challenges at home, students experiencing homelessness frequently have complex situations that require complex solutions

Professional Development/Awareness

- Professional development focused on homelessness for school staff



Community-Based Partnerships

- Partnered with Montana Campus Compact to hire two AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers for the 2022-23 school year. AmeriCorps VISTAs will work on capacity building which will include expanding their donation/volunteer programs, decreasing registration barriers, and developing a summer program
- Expanded their partnership with Community Health Partners who have 1.5 Parent Liaisons in the schools to support students and families and connect them with resources in the community. They have created dedicated times where the District Homeless Liaison and the Parent Liaisons (if appropriate) would meet with students and families to support navigating school and the community.

Repurposing/expanding projects

- Expanding the space in a food/supply closet, adding more shelves for storing food and a place to store/hang clothing and backpacks
- Increasing the school-based laundry facility by adding another donated washer and dryer for homeless families to utilize, including laundry soap
- Expanding the shower area in the locker room for students/families to use, including personal hygiene items and soap

OPI ADMIN FUNDS AND PLAN

- Learning Hub Courses-Professor from Montana State University is in the process of creating a Learning Hub Course Modules to include a 3-hour introduction to Homelessness and McKinney-Vento Act, followed by several, we are at six-seven right now, 1-hour modules with numerous homeless topics. All staff will have access to the information in these modules which will increase awareness. Information can also be added/modified. The courses will also serve as a resource for staff. The courses are projected to be completed in January 2023.
- 2-year partnership with Reach Higher Montana to work directly with high school students and staff at up to 25 different high schools state-wide. Their focus will be on outreach and identifying homeless, unaccompanied youth. They will work with between 740-1400 students to set a future plan/goal, help them fill out the FAFSA, and/or connect them with community-based groups for work experience.
- Professional Development contract (in-progress) with the National Center for Homeless Education, the Technical Assistance center for the U.S. Department of Education. We have numerous new liaisons that need immediate professional development in addition to experienced liaisons who need additional programmatic support, coordination with other districts. The professional development will be held in the morning and repeated in the afternoon for the smaller districts where the district liaison may have teaching or other duties during the school day. The topics will include:
 - McKinney Vento 101 (new liaisons) and 102 (experienced liaisons)

- Determining eligibility and understanding doubled-up/unaccompanied youth
- Planning your program: needs assessment, reviewing data, processes, forms, and MOUs, collaboration outside of the LEA
- Use of funds for subgrantees