

Request for Application for Local Educational Agency Frequently Asked Questions Application Webinar 11/10/2020 California Department of Education

Important Events	Important Dates
Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Request for Application (RFA) Webinar (Not recorded)	Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 9 a.m.
EHCY Letter of Intent (Attachment 1) Due to the California Department of Education (CDE)	Friday, December 4, 2020, by 5 p.m.
EHCY Application Due to the CDE	Thursday, February 4, 2021, by 4 p.m.
EHCY Readers' Conference Conducted by the CDE	Week of March 1, 2021
Grant Award Notification Letters Mailed to the Subgrantees	After July 16, 2021

General Questions

Question: Where can the RFA PowerPoint presentation, specific to the local educational agency (LEA) application, be found?

Answer: The CDE's Request for Application website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fq/fo/r8/homeless21learfa.asp>.

Question: Where can information and support related to the federal McKinney-Vento Act be found?

Answer: Please utilize the following links to legislation:

- <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter119/subchapter6/partB&edition=prelim>
- <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento/>

Letter of Intent Questions

Question: Is Attachment 1 required to be completed and submitted to the CDE in order to be eligible to apply for the EHCY funds?

Answer: Yes, only LEAs and county offices of education (COEs) that submit a Letter of Intent by the Friday, December 4, 2020, 5 p.m. deadline will have their application read to be eligible for funding.

Question: How is the Letter of Intent to be submitted?

Answer: Complete the document, scan, and email the Letter of Intent to Shoshannah Fuentes at sfuentes@cde.ca.gov by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2020. Please keep a record of the submission of the Letter of Intent.

Question: Does the Letter of Intent require an original signature in blue ink?

Answer: No, the Letter of Intent is to be emailed to the CDE, and there is no need to follow-up with a hardcopy.

Letter of Support Questions

Question: Are the Letters of Support included in the 17-page maximum narrative?

Answer: No, only the responses to the Narrative Questions, numbers 1–6 on both the COE and LEA application, are included in the 17-page maximum.

Question: If we are applying as a single LEA and not a consortium, are Letters of Support required?

Answer: Yes, Letters of Support are required for any and all applications.

Question: Would more Letters of Support improve our odds?

Answer: No, only three are required and if more are submitted, only the first three are read.

Question: Who will need to sign the Letters of Support?

Answer: A representative from the agency, parent, or originator of the letter.

Question: Is it alright to submit Letters of Support from students and parents/families?

Answer: Letters of Support from actual students experiencing homelessness or families are allowable. If they are in another language, please also provide a translation.

Question: Can the Letter of Support be faxed, or do they need to be submitted with the original application packet?

Answer: They need to be submitted with the application but do not need original signatures.

Question: Can we submit a Letter of Support from a parent?

Answer: Yes, and if Letters of Support are in another language, please provide a translation.

Application Fact Sheet/Eligibility Questions

Question: Does there have to be a minimum or specific period of "time" for being displaced for a student to be considered and identified as homeless?

Answer: There is not a time limit on homelessness. However, it is a case by case situation.

Question: Are homeless preschoolers given priority such as Head Start and State preschool?

Answer: Yes, they do have priority due to their homelessness.

Funding and Allowable Expenses Questions

Question: Where are the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) numbers for preschool students found?

Answer: Preschool-age children counts are only found in CALPADS if they are connected to an LEA due to special education.

Question: Would substance abuse programs be considered?

Answer: Yes, any barriers that exist for children experiencing homelessness are allowable funding. The McKinney-Vento Act can be found at <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter119/subchapter6/partB&edition=prelim>.

Question: Can a school district provide clothing for students experiencing homelessness?

Answer: Yes; however, it would be beneficial to first reach out to the community for donations and/or vouchers.

Question: Can we fund transportation to community-based organizations for students experiencing homelessness?

Answer: Yes, any barriers that exist to educational access for children experiencing homelessness are allowable funding, other than housing. The McKinney-Vento Act can be found at

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter119/subchapter6/partB&edition=prelim.>

Question: Can the purchase of a washer or dryer be considered an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes; however, it should be multi-funded in coordination with other programs for students who would benefit from such a purchase.

Question: Can the funds be used to pay for copies of birth certificates and social security cards, deposits for college housing, college orientation, transportation to college orientation, and hotel stays for orientations?

Answer: Yes, any barriers that exist to educational access for children experiencing homelessness are allowable funding, other than housing.

Question: Will unspent funds be rolled over from year to year?

Answer: No, EHCY funds must be spent each year of the three years.

Question: Can Early Childhood Education be considered to be funded by this grant?

Answer: Yes, if it is addressed in your narrative and supported by your needs assessment, you can build your budget and activities around that population.

Question: How is our funding level determined and is eligibility limited to the 2018–19 CALPADS number?

Answer: The 2018–19 number identifies what funding the LEA qualifies to apply for based on the table in the RFA.

Application Questions

Question: Can school districts work with the Department of Rehabilitation for children and youth experiencing homelessness?

Answer: Yes, the Department of Rehabilitation would be a community-based agency.

Question: Is there a rule of thumb related to the use of Title I, Part A funds related to homelessness compared to EHCY grant monies?

Answer: The CDE has a website that identifies allowable expenses with Title I, Part A funds. It can be found at

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/allowableexpenses.docx>.

Question: Where in the application can the increased number of students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth due to COVID-19 be addressed?

Answer: The responses in your narrative should reflect and address the changes in your enrollment numbers from the 2018–19 school year to present. Also, the results from your needs assessment, the program design and elements, and activities can address an increase in your homeless counts.

Question: When appropriate, how necessary is it to address the impact COVID-19 on this population?

Answer: Addressing the issues related to COVID-19 can benefit the application. The responses in your narrative should reflect and address the identified needs resulting from your needs assessment and can include COVID-19 related needs.

Question: What about certified mail, and who do we address it to ensure it was received on time?

Answer: Make sure that the application is received by mail to the CDE's Integrated Student Support and Programs Office at:

1430 N Street, Suite 6208
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
Attn: Homeless Education Program

on or before (not postmarked by) Thursday, February 4, 2021, by 4 p.m.

Question: Does the real number of preschool-age children get added to the CALPADS number if they are not enrolled?

Answer: No, we are only using the cumulative enrollment found in the 2018–19 Cumulative DataQuest reports. You can address preschool-age children in your application.

Question: Are staff job descriptions or job duties considered attachments and are they allowed to be submitted?

Answer: Yes, job descriptions are attachments and should be submitted with your application; however, they are not to be included or counted in the 17-page narrative.

Question: Can we participate in the readers conference if we are applying?

Answer: Yes, you can read applications during the readers conference if you are applying.

Question: Do we need to include charter schools in our district even if we don't work them much?

Answer: If the charter schools are part of the LEA, then you need to include them.

Question: Our 2018–19 school year numbers did not accurately show homelessness as defined by McKinney-Vento. As I began this year I have helped the district understand doubling up and sheltered, not just unsheltered. How could we address that?

Answer: In the narrative, you will relay this information. The responses in your narrative should reflect and address the changes in your enrollment numbers from the 2018–19 school year to present. Also, the results from your needs assessment, the program design and elements, and activities can address an increase in your homeless counts.

Question: Can the application address children experiencing homelessness who are zero- to two-years old?

Answer: Yes, children experiencing homelessness who are zero- to two-years old can be addressed in your application; however, there is no additional funding.

Question: Are direct-funded charter school districts eligible for funding?

Answer: Yes, direct-funded charters are LEAs and can apply, as long as they had 50 cumulative enrolled students experiencing homelessness in the 2018-19 school year.

Question: What is the difference between an education and academic program?

Answer: Academic refers to reading, math, and other academic areas. Education is related to program activities provided by the LEA such as after-school programs, nutrition programs, and parent programs for families and/or students experiencing homelessness.

Question: Is there a form for the Budget Narrative? Is there a page limit on the Budget Narrative?

Answer: No, there is not a Budget Narrative form provided and there is not a page limit to the budget narrative that you submit.