

## **A. Introduction to McKinney-Vento**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) (McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act was originally authorized in 1987 and most recently re-authorized in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. This particularly vulnerable population of children has been increasing; from the 2006-2007 school year to the 2013-2014 school year, the total number of homeless children and youths approximately doubled from 679,724 to 1,301,239 students, according to EHCY program data.

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths. Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment.

Local Educational Authorities (LEA) are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

## **B. Requirements for the Application to receive McKinney-Vento Funds**

McKinney-Vento funds are awarded on an application basis every 3 years. An LEA that seeks a McKinney-Vento award must submit to its SEA an application that contains the following information:

- An assessment of the educational and related needs of homeless children and youths in the area served by the LEA;
- A description of the services and programs that the LEA will provide to address these needs;
- An assurance that the LEA meets the fiscal effort requirement;
- An assurance that the LEA will use sub-grant funds in compliance with section 722(g)(3) through (7) of the McKinney-Vento Act;
- A description of policies and procedures that the LEA will implement to ensure that its activities would not isolate or stigmatize homeless children and youths;
- An assurance that the LEA will collect and promptly provide data requested by the State Coordinator pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 722(f); and
- An assurance that the LEA will meet the requirements of section 722(g)(3) regarding LEA requirements.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(b)

### C. Overview of Activities under ESSA Title I, Homeless Set-Aside and McKinney-Vento Funds

LEAs must use McKinney-Vento funds to assist homeless children and youths in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.<sup>2</sup> In particular, the funds may support the following activities:

1. Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and other educational services that help homeless children and youths reach the same challenging State academic standards the State establishes for other children and youths.<sup>3</sup> As clearly specified in the ESEA, all academic enrichment programs for disadvantaged students, including programs for 21 homeless students, must be aligned with State standards and curricula. Additionally, when offering supplemental instruction, LEAs should focus on providing services for children and youths that reflect scientifically based research as the foundation for programs and strategies to ensure academic success.
2. Expedited evaluations of eligible students to measure their strengths and needs.<sup>4</sup> These evaluations should be done promptly in order to avoid a gap in the provision of necessary services to those children and youths. Evaluations may also determine a homeless child or youth's possible need or eligibility for other programs and services, including educational programs for gifted and talented students; special education and related services for children with disabilities under Part B of the IDEA; special education or related aids and services for qualified students with disabilities under Section 504; early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities under Part C of the IDEA; programs for English learners; career and technical education; meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program<sup>22</sup>; and other appropriate programs or services under the ESEA.<sup>5</sup>
3. Professional development and other activities for educators and specialized instructional support personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under the McKinney-Vento Act, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.<sup>6</sup>
4. Referrals of eligible students to medical, dental, mental, and other health services.<sup>7</sup>
5. Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funds, to enable students to remain in their schools of origin.<sup>8</sup>
6. Developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs for preschool-aged homeless children that are not provided through other Federal, State, or local funds.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, 722(g)(6), 723(d)

<sup>3</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(1)

<sup>4</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(2)

<sup>5</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(2)

<sup>6</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(3)

<sup>7</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(4)

<sup>8</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(5)

<sup>9</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(6)

7. Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, particularly homeless children and youths who are not enrolled in school, in public school programs and services provided to non-homeless children and youths.<sup>10</sup>
8. Before- and after-school mentoring and summer programs for homeless children and youths in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.<sup>11</sup>
9. Payment of fees and costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school. The records may include birth certificates, immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs and services.<sup>12</sup> For more information on ensuring access to free or reduced-price school meals, please see the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) TA product Access to food for Homeless and Highly Mobile Students (<https://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/nutrition.pdf>).
10. Education and training for parents and guardians of homeless children and youths about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths, and other activities designed to increase the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians of homeless children or youths in the education of such children or youths.
11. Coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths in order to expand and enhance such services. Coordination with programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act must be included in this effort.<sup>13</sup>
12. Specialized instructional support services, including violence prevention counseling, and referrals for such services.<sup>14</sup>
13. Programs addressing the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.<sup>15</sup>
14. Providing supplies to non-school facilities serving eligible students and adapting these facilities to enable them to provide services.<sup>16</sup>
15. Providing school supplies, including those to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.<sup>17</sup>
16. Providing extraordinary or emergency services needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(7)

<sup>11</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(8)

<sup>12</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(9)

<sup>13</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 722(g)(5)(A)(i)

<sup>14</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(12)

<sup>15</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(13)

<sup>16</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(14)

<sup>17</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(15)

<sup>18</sup> McKinney-Vento Act, Section 723(d)(16)

## A. Glossary

1. **ESSA: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** represents the latest Congressional reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act. The ESSA was signed into law on December 10, 2015, by President Barack Obama.
2. **EHCY:** Education for Homeless Children and Youth
3. **LEA:** Local Education Agency represents a local school district, a charter school that operates multiple campuses, or a single campus charter school.
4. **NCHE:** National Center for Homeless Education
5. **SEA:** State Education Agency, i.e., in Utah this is the office of the Utah State Board of Education.
6. **Title VII, Part B:** McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act