

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:	Gentry School District
Superintendent/Director Name	Terrie Metz
Superintendent/Director Cell Phone Number	479-736-2253
Superintendent/Director Email Address	tmetz@gentrypioneers.com
Homeless Liaison/Consortium Lead	Christie Toland/Brian Little
Homeless Liaison/Consortium Lead Cell Phone Number	479-736-2253
Homeless Liaison/Consortium Lead Email Address	ctoland@gentrypioneers.com

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	2021-2022 Oct. 1 Count
Gentry Primary	
Gentry Intermediate	

Gentry Middle School	
Gentry High School	
Total	Total 35

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)

Gentry School District implemented the needs assessment process by conducting a data analysis that included attendance, academic achievement, and discipline. A survey was sent out to those who work directly with our homeless students to assess prevailing needs directly observed in their work. This included liaisons, administrators, and counseling staff. Specific needs indicated by parents and students on school paperwork were also assessed in the process.

After reviewing the data and information gleaned from the needs assessment process, the committee determined that there are four main areas of concern that need to be addressed immediately: identification of homeless students, access to goods and services for basic needs, academic achievement, and attendance. Discipline data was reviewed, and it was determined that there have been only two instances of discipline for homeless students in grades K-5. There were two instances of disciplinary action in grades 6-8 and three in grades 9-12. It was determined by the committee that this is not a priority to be addressed at this time; however, we will continue to monitor it. A description of the committee's findings for each area of concern is below.

**Identification of Those Qualifying as Homeless Students**

A review of the number of students identified as homeless over the past ten years was reviewed by the committee to discover any trends that may exist. After a review of data, the committee determined that our number of students identified as homeless is in decline although our enrollment is trending upward since the 16-17 school year. A summary of the data reviewed can be found [here](#).

**Access to Basic Needs**

This is an ongoing struggle for our families. The inability to access and meet the basic needs of our students directly impacts every data point that we reviewed. 36 families requested food support for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. An additional 10 families have directly requested additional weekly food boxes and 5-10 students in each building are receiving backpacks with food for the weekend. Counselor observations indicate that cleanliness of clothing and personal hygiene, especially at the middle and high school levels, are a problem and often impact students' decisions on whether or not they will attend school that day.

### **Academic Achievement**

For the academic needs assessment, data from NWEA MAP and ACT Aspire scores were reviewed. A summary of the data reviewed can be found [here](#). The overall impressions from the data review are as follows:

1. Student achievement is higher in math than reading on both assessments.
2. The majority of our homeless students scored in the “In Need of Services” category for Reading (51.02%).
3. The majority of our homeless students scored in the “Close” category in math (38.78%).
4. As our homeless students get older, their achievement generally decreases.

Additionally, observations by our Counseling Department indicate that our homeless students are struggling with completing homework. They are unable to complete the work in class and are not able to complete the work at home for a variety of reasons that include a lack of understanding to sufficiently complete the work independently, lack of support at home to complete the work, having to care for siblings or adults in the home in the evenings, and/or having to work a job to help with bills at home. The Counseling Department indicated that a cycle has been created by the lag in academic achievement and circumstances created due to their homelessness that is directly impacting achievement.

### **Attendance**

The needs assessment process indicated that overall, our homeless students' attendance is average in the elementary schools and below average in the secondary schools. Eschool individual and schoolwide attendance reports were reviewed for this portion of the needs assessment. Although homeless student attendance was considered average at the elementary level, an issue of early check outs and tardies was discovered for 90% of our homeless students. Middle and high school student attendance was below average with tardies also discovered as an issue.

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

The following priorities were determined after a review of multiple sources of data through the needs assessment process. Although it is not listed as a specific priority below, addressing the basic needs of students is a priority that will support improvement in all of the measurable and evaluated priority areas below.

1. Increase the number of students identified as qualifying for services under the McKenny Vento Act (MV). As of October 1, 2021, only 35 students were identified as homeless. This is a significant decrease in the number of students identified although our population has increased by approximately 100 students since 20-21.
2. Increase in attendance rate by improving parent/guardian/caregiver involvement and ensuring that students are brought to school on time and kept in school for the entire

day.

3. Increase academic achievement of homeless students by providing support for students with homework and tutoring for learning loss.

## 2. Coordination

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

City of Gentry, Gentry Youth Organization, Gentry Chamber of Commerce, March of Dimes, Benton County Continuum of Care, Gentry Police and Fire Departments, Gentry First Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Gentry Food Pantry, Community Clothes Closet, Mannah House of Siloam Springs, Ozark Guidance Counseling

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). [We do not plan to award subcontracts to community based organizations at this time.](#)

Name of Community-based organization	Description of support and services
N/A	N/A

## 3. Quality

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

Gentry School District will use a portion of funds for the purchase of posters, pamphlets, and informational materials that will be distributed in high traffic locations in our community to help identify and share contact information to those who need help. We will also host quarterly events districtwide for the purpose of sharing information, providing services on-site, and discreetly identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness. The quarterly events will provide services including dental, health, vision screenings, grooming services, access to laundry facilities, food and clothing pantry, and services awareness and support. Transportation will be provided to and from the event for homeless families.

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?

We will connect families to summer learning and enrichment programs by communicating and informing families at our quarterly events, direct contact by phone, in person, or Talking Points. We will employ a translator to ensure meaningful communication with our non-English speaking families. We will further connect families to summer events by providing transportation to and from summer events, translators as needed, and materials/supplies for participation in events.

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.

We believe that relationships and meaningful communication are essential for retention of families in our district. The quarterly events that we will host are a key strategy that we will employ to develop relationships with our students and families experiencing homelessness. We will also provide transportation services and translation services to our non-English speaking families to support involvement and meaningful communication in an effort to strengthen relationships and retain students in our district.

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

Gentry School District will use ARP Homeless II funds to implement the following:

1. Host quarterly events as described in 3a.
2. Employ tutors to assist students with homework before, during lunch and encore, and after school.
3. Provide transportation and materials/supplies needed to participate in Gentry School District summer school and academic summer programs, quarterly events, and tutoring services.
4. Provide hygiene packs, clothing, and a food pantry to discreetly meet the basic needs of our homeless students so that learning can occur.
5. Provide access to a laundry facility will be provided for homeless students so that they can come to school with clean clothes and hygiene will not be a problem that distracts them from learning. This will also support attendance which is critical for academic success.

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

No

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. Gentry School District will specifically target this group in identification and support efforts for homeless status. We will provide translated materials for identification and at our proposed community events in a language that is understood by families. We will also contract translators for the events and for outreach to ensure that all are receiving information so that participation can increase. All of the projects described in the application and budget will place additional focus on this group of 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.

We will continue to implement student information privacy policies that are currently in place as stated in our handbook.

**Identification**

We will purchase informational packets and posters to distribute at events and in high traffic areas within our community. This does not bring specific attention to any individual student who is or may be identified as homeless.

**Laundry Facilities**

We will set up laundry facilities and food/clothing closets in central locations where there is no regular student traffic.

**Clothing and Food Pantry**

Counselors or other authorized personnel will access the food and clothing closets directly to ensure discretion. Backpacks and unmarked containers will be used for food and clothing distribution from the closets or families can come onsite and pick it up themselves at a scheduled time.

**Quarterly Events/Summer Learning**

Quarterly events and summer school/learning camps will be advertised to all students in the district. Although the focus of the quarterly events will be homeless support, services, and awareness, all students will be invited to participate. This will prevent homeless students from being identified or targeted.

**Tutoring Services/Homework Help**

Tutoring services will be offered to homeless students privately and communicated directly to the student and parents to ensure privacy. Students will receive services in a private location designated in each building where there is low traffic and discretion can be exercised. Transportation will be provided for the students who stay after school to receive

services. There are many programs and events already being implemented after school such as the Boys and Girls Club and sports. It is not uncommon for students to stay after school and this will not cause a homeless student to stand out or be identified as homeless openly to others.

**Hygiene Care Packs**

Hygiene care packs will be provided by a counselor or other authorized personnel. These will be distributed in unmarked, discrete packaging privately in an office. It is not uncommon for students to receive items from the office. This will not cause a student to be identified as homeless or to stand out from other students.

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

Gentry School District will provide transportation to and from FACE, quarterly support events, and summer learning opportunities. We will hold quarterly support events as described above and provide communication and informational materials in a language that can be understood by all families. We will also provide a translator at events so that meaningful communication can be achieved that will result in increased involvement.

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 number of MV students identified and reported on the Cycle 2 report each year will be used to evaluate this priority. Data will be reviewed quarterly at the ADE Data Center by the District Liaison to assess trends and ensure accuracy of the information.
X	Data showing increases in the attendance rates of identified McKinney-Vento students	Attendance data from eSchool, the laundry facilities usage log, and the food/clothing pantry usage log will be used to monitor attendance and evaluate this priority.

<b>X</b>	Data showing increases in academic achievement of identified McKinney-Vento students	NWEA Map, ACT Aspire, classroom formative assessments, report cards, attendance data collected from tutors, observation data collected from counseling staff and teachers
	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	
<b>X</b>	Data showing increased parent/guardian/caregiver involvement	Sign in sheets for FACE events and quarterly events held specifically targeted to support families experiencing homelessness and transportation log records will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of our projects.
	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	Funding Source	Funding Amount
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that apply:		
	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds (signed into law March 2020)	
	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act (December 2020)	
x	American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds (March 2021)	\$30,000
X	Title I, Part A funds reserved for children and youth experiencing homelessness	\$2,000
X	Other funds and services available to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness (please describe)	\$3000-Donations from local organizations and the community
	None of the above	

**5b. Budget -This is a temporary link to the proposed budget breakdown by project. The information requested for the application will be submitted in Indistar for DESE review.**

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
<b>X</b>	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.
<b>X</b>	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).
<b>X</b>	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).
<b>X</b>	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.

SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR SIGNATURE	DATE

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