

# McKinney-Vento Guidance

## Education for Homeless Children and Youth Subgrants

### Introduction

In 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, which reauthorized the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act) (42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.) Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program under Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The program addresses barriers to enrollment, attendance, and success in school for children and youths experiencing homelessness.

### Homeless Children and Youths Defined

The McKinney-Vento Act defines “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

- Children and youths who are:
  - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”);
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters; or
  - Abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above (42 U.S.C. § 11434a).

### Competitive Subgrants

Every three years, the Iowa Department of Education (Department) awards subgrants, for a duration of three years, to local education agencies (LEAs) to facilitate the “identification, enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youths” (42 U.S.C. § 11433(a)(1)). These subgrants are competitive and awarded based on need and quality of the application. Iowa awarded 18 McKinney-Vento subgrants for the 2024-2027 subgrant cycle.

### Subgrant Requirements

To receive a McKinney-Vento subgrant, each LEA must complete a list of requirements in the [Consolidated Application for ESEA Title Programs](#), which is located in the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA). Among these requirements, the LEA must submit a competitive application every three years, which includes conducting a needs assessment and completing a program budget and action plan. If awarded, the LEA must complete and submit a program application by October 15 of each year and reimbursement claims each quarter. For a list of the subgrant requirements, please see the following table.

Citation	Action
11433(b)	<b>Complete and submit the competitive application</b> , which includes conducting a needs assessment and completing a program budget and action plan. For requirements pertaining to McKinney-Vento subgrant implementation in Iowa, see the <a href="#">McKinney-Vento Subgrant Application guidance</a> .
11433(b)	<b>Complete and submit the program application in the CASA system by October 15, including program assurances, a budget, and program questions.</b>
11433(b)	<b>Complete and submit the first quarter reimbursement claim in the CASA system between November 1 and November 30.</b>
11433(b)	<b>Complete and submit the second quarter reimbursement claim in the CASA system between January 1 and January 31.</b>
11433(b)	<b>Complete and submit the third quarter reimbursement claim in the CASA system between April 1 and April 30.</b>
11433(b)	<b>Complete and submit the fourth quarter reimbursement claim in the CASA system between June 1 and July 15.</b>
11432(e)(2)(F)(ii)	<b>Complete and submit the McKinney-Vento – End of Year Report in July.</b>

## Allowable Activities

The McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the ESSA, authorizes the following uses of funds under section 11433(d):

1. The provision of tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youths.
2. The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.] or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).
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 this part, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.
4. The provision of referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.
5. The provision of assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students under section 11432(g)(4)(A) of this title, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under section 11432(g)(3) of this title.
6. The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.
7. The provision of 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.
8. The provision for homeless children and youths of before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.
9. If necessary, the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates,

immunization or other required health records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.

10. The provision of education and training to the 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. The development of coordination between schools and agencies providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 11432(g)(5) of this title.
12. The provision of specialized instructional support services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services.
13. Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence and parental mental health or substance abuse problems.
14. The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any non-school facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.
15. The provision of school supplies, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.
16. The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities. The provision of expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and English learners, services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.] or similar State or local programs, programs in career and technical education, and school nutrition programs).

## Questions and Additional Guidance

For program contact information and resources, please see the Department's [ESSA Guidance and Allocations](#) and [Consolidated Application for ESEA Title Programs Requirements and Deadlines](#) pages.