

**FAQs: Assistance for Homeless Youth Program under the  
Hurricane Education Recovery Act  
January 10, 2006**

**What is the purpose of the Assistance for Homeless Youth program?**

The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) serving homeless children and youth displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita to address the educational and related needs of these students consistent with section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act).

**What is the relationship between the Assistance for Homeless Youth program authorized under the Hurricane Education Recovery Act and the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program authorized under the McKinney-Vento Act?**

The Assistance for Homeless Youth program is a new, temporary program that is authorized as part of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act. It provides a separate, one-time source of funding to address the needs of homeless students displaced by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

Under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) will award funds to State educational agencies (SEAs) on the basis of demonstrated need. SEAs, in turn, will award subgrants to LEAs on the basis of demonstrated need. LEAs must use the funds awarded under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program to support activities that are allowable under the McKinney-Vento Act.

**How will ED award funds under the program?**

ED will award grants to SEAs based on demonstrated need. The need determination will be based on a formula that takes into consideration the number of displaced students who are being served by LEAs in each State. ED will use data on displaced public school students that the Department is collecting under the Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students program to make allocations under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program.

**How will an SEA apply for funding under the program?**

The SEA will submit a single application that covers both the Assistance for Homeless Youth program and the Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students program. The application deadline will be 21 days after the date that ED publishes in the Federal Register a notice concerning funding available under these programs. We intend to publish the Federal Register notice on or about January 12, 2006.

**For what purposes may an SEA use its allocation under the program?**

An SEA must use its allocation under this program to provide subgrants to LEAs on the basis of demonstrated need for the purposes of carrying out activities authorized by section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Act.

**How may an SEA award funds to LEAs under the program?**

An SEA may award funds to LEAs on either a competitive or formula basis. The competition or formula must take into account the needs of the LEAs. In making awards, the SEA may consider factors such as the numbers of displaced homeless students that are being served by an LEA and the educational and related needs of those students.

The specific LEA application and subgrant requirements in sections 723(b) and (c) of the McKinney-Vento Act do not apply to subgrants that an SEA makes under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program.

**May an SEA reserve a portion of its allocation to help defray the costs of administering the program?**

Yes. An SEA may charge as an expense to the Assistance for Homeless Youth program an amount that is reasonable and necessary to effectively administer the program. Administrative costs include costs (direct and indirect) involved in the proper and efficient performance and administration of this Federal grant.

This use of funds, as well as indirect costs and rates, must comply with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87 (Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments) and the Department's administrative regulations. (See 34 CFR 76.560-76.569 on indirect costs.)

**May a non-public school receive funds under this program?**

No. Under this program, an SEA may only award funds to LEAs.

**May LEAs use funds received under this program to provide services to homeless students who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita and are attending non-public schools?**

No. An LEA must use funds under this program consistent with section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Act. Students in private schools do not receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

**What types of activities may an LEA support with funds awarded under Assistance for Homeless Youth program?**

An LEA may expend funds received under this program on any activity that is authorized under section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Act. Authorized uses of funds include the identification of displaced students, enrollment assistance, assessment and school placement assistance, transportation, coordination of school services, supplies, referrals for health and mental health, and other activities to carry out the purposes of the McKinney-Vento Act.