

How can schools and districts use ESSER II funds for students experiencing homelessness?

- 1. Increase liaison capacity for outreach, identification, and services, by augmenting their hours dedicated to McKinney-Vento duties and/or hiring additional staff.**
 - For example, LEAs in other states are using ESSER II money to hire additional staff to assist liaisons with identifying homeless students since homeless numbers are so low across the nation in SEAs and LEAs.
 - Districts can use funds for work/contracts with outside agencies like Boys and Girls Clubs, community service agencies, etc. which could be a good way to identify students, add value to the existing supports, and increase community collaboration.
- 2. Provide academic coaching and in-person learning opportunities.**
 - Offer teachers extra paid hours to provide individual academic support to their students, to do weekly check-ins by text or other platforms outside of class.
 - Provide small, socially distanced on-site academic opportunities at school buildings and/or in the community.
 - Offer transportation to in-person learning opportunities.
- 3. Offer early childhood education services for young children experiencing homelessness.**
 - Provide transportation to existing in-person options.
 - Increase capacity in preschool, Head Start, and early intervention programs.
- 4. Enhance communication options with students and families.**
 - Provide prepaid cell phones for youth and parents. For example, some LEAs in other states have purchased phones with one- and two-year contracts for McKinney-Vento high school students.
 - Facilitate “affinity groups” for students to connect on platforms they use.
 - Send small care packages to students weekly or monthly to keep them engaged.
 - Increase posters, flyers, and other outreach throughout the community.
- 5. Increase counseling and social work services by augmenting existing staff hours and/or hiring additional staff.**
 - Ensure counselors can assist McKinney-Vento students with credit accrual and recovery, FAFSA completion, and college transition.
 - Help students and families meet basic needs like food, health care, masks, hygiene items, and laundry.

6. Make systems and processes more “McKinney-Vento friendly”

- Upgrade online enrollment systems to ensure they are fully and easily accessible to families and students experiencing homelessness.
- Increase professional development to teachers, registrars, social workers, counselors, early childhood education staff, special education teams, and all school staff.

7. Help meet rising mental health needs.

- Screen for trauma, either in person or online.
- Invite community mental health providers to support students virtually and/or on-site at schools.
- Implement trauma-informed training and practices.