

Providing Services to Homeless Students with LEA's Title I, Part A Reservation

Homeless children and youths are automatically eligible for services under Title I, Part A of the ESEA, whether or not they live in a Title I school attendance area or meet the academic standards required of other children for eligibility. (ESEA section 1115(c)(2)(E)). For example, homeless children and youths may receive Title I educational or support services from schoolwide and targeted assistance school programs.¹

Under section 1113(c)(3)(A) of the ESEA, an LEA must reserve sufficient Title I funds to provide services to homeless students who attend non-Title I schools that are comparable to those provided to students in Title I schools. These services may include providing educationally related support services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children live. Services should be provided to assist homeless students to effectively take advantage of educational opportunities. In addition to serving homeless children and youths who attend non-Title I schools, the homeless set-aside may be used to provide services to homeless students in Title I schools that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I students.²

Title I, Part A funds may be used to provide a wide variety of services to homeless students. In addition to providing services to assist homeless students in meeting the State's challenging academic standards, Title I, Part A funds may be used to provide services to homeless children and youths, including those in Title I schools, that may not ordinarily be provided to other Title I students. (ESEA section 1113(c)(3)(C)(ii)). For example, to help homeless students effectively take advantage of educational opportunities, an LEA may use Title I, Part A funds to provide, where appropriate, items or services including, but not limited to—

- Items of clothing, particularly if necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement;
- Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes;
- Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general education program;
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks;
- Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school;
- Immunizations;
- Food;
- Medical and dental services;
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids;
- Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning;
- Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences;
- Extended learning time (before and after school, Saturday classes, summer school) to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions;

¹ US Department of Education, *Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance*, 2018, 39.

² US Department of Education, *Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance*, 2018, 41

- Tutoring services, especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live;
- Parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students;
- Fees for AP and IB testing;
- Fees for college entrance exams such as SAT or ACT; and
- GED testing for school-age students.

Two principles govern the use of Title I, Part A funds to provide such services to homeless students. First, the services must be reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students to take advantage of educational opportunities. (ESEA section 1113(c)(3)(A); 2 CFR § 200.403(a)). Second, Title I, Part A funds must be used only as a last resort when funds or services are not available from other public or private sources, such as the USDA's National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program, public health clinics, or local discretionary funds (sometimes provided by the PTA) used to provide similar services for economically disadvantaged students generally. (See ESEA section 1115(e)(2)).³

The worksheet on the following page is provided for LEAs to use as part of their needs assessment to assist in determining an appropriate amount of Title I, Part A funds to reserve at the LEA level for services to homeless students.

Resources:

[*Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance*](#)

[Title I, Part A Use of Funds Guidance Document](#)

[Title I, Part A Program Guide](#)

[Title I, Part A Frequently Asked Questions](#)

³ US Department of Education, *Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance*, 2018, pp 40-41

Worksheet for Determining Title I, Part A Homeless Reservation

The following services are allowable uses of the Title I, Part A Homeless Reservation, if reasonable and necessary to assist students experiencing homelessness and if the funds or services are not available from other public or private sources. The LEA may determine which of these items to include in its needs assessment.

LEA Name: _____

County-District # _____

School Year: _____

| Service | Other Fund Sources the LEA has researched | Estimated Amount Per Homeless Student |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Items of clothing, particularly if necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement; | | |
| Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes; | | |
| Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general education program; | | |
| Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks; | | |
| Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school; | | |
| Immunizations; | | |
| Food; | | |
| Medical and dental services; | | |
| Eyeglasses and hearing aids; | | |
| Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning; | | |

| Service | Other Fund Sources the LEA has researched | Estimated Amount Per Homeless Student |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences; | | |
| Extended learning time (before and after school, Saturday classes, summer school) to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions; | | |
| Tutoring services, especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live; | | |
| Parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students; | | |
| Fees for AP and IB testing; | | |
| Fees for college entrance exams such as SAT or ACT; and | | |
| GED testing for school-age students. | | |
| Other (specify): | | |
| TOTAL (per student experiencing homelessness): | | |

How many students experiencing homelessness does the LEA anticipate serving during the school year?

Total per student experiencing homelessness x Number of homeless students = _____
 Amount of LEA's Homeless Reservation