

Education of Homeless Children and Youth State Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can we access the official grant application and accompanying guidelines?

The [FY 2027 Education of Homeless Children and Youth State Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) and [FY 2027 Education of Homeless Children and Youth State Grant Program Attachments](#) can be found on [ISBE's Education for Homeless Children webpage](#).

2. Is there a direct application link or specific online portal through which applications must be submitted?

Page 9 of the NOFO states, "Submit complete proposals via email to homeless@isbe.net no later than 4 p.m. on November 23, 2026."

3. Are there any required registrations or preliminary steps that must be completed before applying?

Refer to Section C (Eligibility Information) of the NOFO for information about eligibility and GATA Grantee Portal registration and prequalification requirements, and Section D (Application and Submission Information) for additional information on SAM.gov registration.

4. What are the specific eligibility requirements for organizations seeking funding under this program?

Refer to Section C (Eligibility Information) and Section D (Application and Submission Information) of the NOFO for full eligibility requirements.

5. Are nonprofit organizations, such as EDUServe for All, eligible to apply directly, or is funding restricted to school districts, Local Education Agencies, or other designated entities?

Page 4 of the NOFO indicates eligible applicants are "Public school districts, public university laboratory schools as defined in Section 18-8.15 of the School Code, charter schools, and Regional Offices of Education. An eligible applicant shall only participate in one proposal for a State-funded homeless education program." Nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply.

6. Are there any minimum organizational qualifications, required partnerships, or additional criteria that applicants must satisfy?

Refer to Section D (Application and Submission Information), Section E (Application Review Information), and Section F (Award Administration Information) for complete information about the application submission requirements, review criteria, and required reporting and deliverables for the grant.

7. What percentage awarded can be used for salary and/or employee benefits?

A set percentage is not specified in the NOFO. Refer to Section 5 of the review criteria regarding the budget on Page 12. Budgeted expenditures must be aligned to the allowable activities specified in Section B (Funding Information) and reflect the needs assessment and program description in the applicant's program narrative (Attachment 2).

8. We wanted to clarify whether children experiencing homelessness who attend nonpublic schools, including private Jewish schools, would be eligible to receive services funded through this grant, as the notice does not seem to clearly address this. If so, would these services need to be coordinated through a public school district, or is there a way for community organizations to partner in providing assistance?

Nonpublic schools are not eligible to apply directly for this program under [105 ILCS 45/1-50](#). Refer to Page 4 of the NOFO, which indicates eligible applicants are "Public school districts, public university laboratory schools as defined in Section 18-8.15 of the School Code, charter schools, and Regional Offices of Education. An eligible applicant shall only participate in one proposal for a State-funded homeless education program."

Nonpublic schools can coordinate services and collaborate with eligible applicants as part of a proposal. Refer to Page 8 of the NOFO under Section 3 (Coordination of Services) #5, which states, "Demonstrate that effective coordination with private, nonprofit entities, social services agencies, and others serving homeless children and youth and their families will occur, as necessary, so that the applicant is able to provide services that are appropriate and comprehensive."

9. Can individual school districts apply for this grant, or is this the grant that our regional office applies for, and we go through them for funding?

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Eligible applicants can apply individually or jointly with other eligible applicants if a lead applicant is identified. Refer to Section C (Eligibility Information) and Section D (Application and Submission Information) of the NOFO for full eligibility requirements.

10. Is this the application that requires sign-off by the Continuum of Care administrator, or is that a different NOFO?

No. Refer to Section 3 of the Evaluation Rubric (Coordination of Services) in the NOFO and optional Attachment 5 (Collaboration Documentation) for further guidance on coordination of services between Local Education Agencies and local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to such children or youth and their families.