

FY 2027 Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Technical Assistance Webinar

Important Dates

- Any changes to the NOFO will be made by Monday, Nov. 16.
- The last day to ask a question and have it included in the FAQ is Monday, Nov. 16.
- Proposals are due by **4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23, 2026.**

FAQ Document

- Email questions to homeless@isbe.net.
- Questions will be answered utilizing an FAQ document on the [ISBE Homeless webpage](#).
- Please allow up to two business days for your question(s) and answer(s) to appear.

Purpose of Funds

The Education of Homeless Children and Youth State Grant Program is a state grant program that parallels and supplements, but operates independently of, the federal grant program allocating funds for assistance under Subtitle B of Title VII of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) and supports school districts throughout Illinois in facilitating the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth.

Eligible Applicants

- Public school districts
- Public university laboratory schools
- State-authorized charter schools
- Regional Offices of Education

Joint Applicants

- A consortium of two or more applicants may apply as co-applicants.
- The co-applicant is equally responsible for implementation of the grant and will sign off on all certifications and assurances.
- All joint applications must have a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Allowable Uses of Funds (slide 1 of 3)

- Rental assistance, which shall include utilities, security and utility deposits, first and last month's rent, rental application fees, moving expenses, and any other eligible expenses to be determined by the State Board
- Transportation assistance, including school bus transportation, public transportation passes, and gasoline assistance for a student or family with a vehicle or to a family member with a vehicle who can transport the student

Allowable Uses of Funds (slide 2 of 3)

- Emergency shelter, including temporary hotel stays
- Housing stability case management and housing locator services
- Other collaborative housing strategies, including, but not limited to, prevention and strength-based safety and housing approaches

Allowable Uses of Funds (slide 3 of 3)

- Allowable activities set forth in Section 723(d) of Subtitle B of Title VII of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11433(d))
- See full list on Pages 3 and 4 of the NOFO.

Funding Information

- Tiered funding structure based on the number of students identified as homeless for a school district in the most recent Illinois Report Card published by ISBE as of the application deadline.
 - Maximum award for fewer than 10 identified homeless students: \$10,000
 - Maximum award for 10 to 35 identified homeless students: \$15,000
 - Maximum award for 36 to 100 identified homeless students: \$25,000
 - Maximum award for 101 to 500 identified homeless students: \$50,000
 - Maximum award for 501 to 10,000 identified homeless students: \$100,000
 - Maximum award for 10,001 or more identified homeless students: \$500,000
- See Pages 2 and 3 of the NOFO for additional details.

Performance Measures

- Provide services for at least 10 children and youth identified as homeless and provide at least one professional development opportunity for staff to better identify and support homeless students.

Performance Standards

- Provide services for at least five children and youth identified as homeless.

Deliverables

- Quarterly progress reports
- Quarterly expenditure reports
- Annual Grant Periodic Reporting System (GPRS) Report
- Final program evaluation described in application

Applications Will Be Ineligible If: (slide 1 of 2)

- The application is not signed by an authorized representative on Page 3 of Attachment 1.
- The application is submitted prior to the applicant obtaining a Region County District Type (RCDT) code.
- The applicant does not complete Steps 1-3 of the State of Illinois [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act \(GATA\) prequalification process](#) prior to application submission.

Applications Will Be Ineligible If: (slide 2 of 2)

- The application is submitted after the deadline of **4 p.m. on Nov. 23, 2026.**
- A joint application is submitted without:
 - **Attachment 1A:** List of Participating Districts
 - **Attachment 6:** MOU for Joint Grant Application signed by an authorized representative for each co-applicant
- The application is submitted without:
 - **Attachment 1:** Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance
 - **Attachment 2:** Program Narrative
 - **Attachment 3:** Need, Activity, Outcome, and Measurable Objective
 - **Attachment 4:** State Budget Summary
 - **Attachment 4A:** Budget Summary Breakdown

Priority Points

- Only applications that receive a base score of 61 or higher will be eligible for priority points.
- Priority points will be given for the following conditions:
 - Comprehensive, Intensive, or Targeted eligible school(s)
 - Tier 1 or Tier 2 school district(s) served
 - Rural school district(s)
 - Districts with a high percentage of homeless students

Attachments

- Mandatory for all applications:
 - **Attachment 1:** Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance
 - **Attachment 2:** Program Narrative
 - **Attachment 3:** Need, Activity, Outcome, and Measurable Objective
 - **Attachment 4:** State Budget Summary
 - **Attachment 4A:** Budget Summary Breakdown
- Encouraged for all applications:
 - **Attachment 5:** Collaboration Documentation
- Mandatory for joint applications:
 - **Attachment 1A:** Participating Districts
 - **Attachment 6:** MOU for Joint Grant Application

Attachment 1

- **Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance**
 - The Application page must be complete.
 - Must be signed by the official authorized to submit proposals.
 - Mandatory for all applicants.

Attachment 1A

- **Participating Districts**

- List requested information for all participating districts if a joint proposal is submitted.
- Required for joint proposals.

Attachment 2

- **Program Narrative**

- Section 1: Needs Assessment
- Section 2: Program Description, Objectives, and Activities
- Section 3: Coordination of Services
- Section 4: Evaluation Plan

Attachment 3

- **Objectives and Activities**

- Every identified need should include an activity, expected outcome, and measurable objective.
- An example can be found on Page 8 of the NOFO.

Attachment 4

- **State Budget Summary**
 - Must be submitted on the provided form.
 - Must be signed by the district superintendent or authorized official.

Attachment 4A

- **Budget Summary Breakdown**
 - Include descriptions of anticipated expenditures correlated to the line items set forth in Attachment 4.

Attachment 5

- **Collaboration Documentation**

- LEAs are encouraged to collaborate with at least one community-based organization, public agency, other nonprofit organization, or other agency that provides services for homeless children and youth.
- For this application, collaboration means that the community agencies participate with the LEA in the preparation of the NOFO and that the LEA and the collaborating agency/agencies participate in the implementation of the plan contained.

Attachment 6

- **MOU for Joint Grant Application**

- Required for joint proposals.
- All joint applications must include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the administrative agent and each joint applicant listed in attachment 1A
- All MOUs must be signed by each district superintendent or official authorized to submit the proposal, indicating agreement to participate in the joint application.
- Joint applicants in a consortium may not submit multiple proposals in response to this NOFO.

Application Submission

- Submit complete proposals via email to homeless@isbe.net no later than 4 p.m. on Nov. 23, 2026.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.

Technical Issues with Application Submission

- All applications must be submitted according to the required procedures in the NOFO.
- If ISBE experiences systematic or technical failures and is unable to accept applications on the date of the NOFO submission deadline due to no fault of the applicant, the applicant must:
 - Document any evidence of the systematic/technical failure via screenshots or, if available, system logs;
 - Email homeless@isbe.net notice of the failure, and include any evidence that was documented; and
 - Request instructions for alternate submission.
- Systematic or technical failures do not include issues that the applicant may experience on their personal computer, tablet, or other device, including but not limited to internet failure, applicant user error, and/or an applicant's failure to complete all required application information.

Evaluation of Grants

- All eligible proposals will be read, reviewed, and scored by readers who have been selected for their expertise and experience with homeless education programs.
- Please refer to the [Merit-Based Review Policy](#) for more information.

Thank you for attending.

homeless@isbe.net