



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Homeless Students

1. **Purpose:**

The Homeless Student Stability education Program (HSSEP) provides grants to school districts to strengthen educational services to students experiencing homelessness in Washington State.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Services provided by Homeless Student Stability Education Program (HSSEP) funding include increased identification of students experiencing homelessness, tutoring, housing advocacy and navigation services, tangible resources to meet basic needs, graduation success support, interpretation/translation support, mental health counseling, mentoring, academic coaching, connection to community resources, preschool transportation, transportation routing services, increased supports for Unaccompanied Youth, before and after school programs, and contracts with housing providers to improve service delivery and collaboration. This is not an exhaustive list.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Grant award criteria for state fiscal year 2023 included:

- District compliance with all federal McKinney-Vento Act requirements.
- Demonstrated need of the school district based on the percentage of students experiencing homelessness, and the percentage of unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Quality of the grant application and the ability of the district to meet student needs.
- Representation of geographic diversity across the state.
- Proposed grant activities that complement existing supports for students experiencing homelessness, and do not supplant federal, state, or local funding.
- Giving greater weight to districts that demonstrate a commitment to:
 - o Partnering with local housing and community-based organizations with experience in serving the needs of students experiencing homelessness or students of color;
 - o Serving the needs of unaccompanied youth; and
 - o Implementing evidence-informed strategies to address the opportunity gap and other systemic inequities that negatively impact students experiencing homelessness and students of color.
- Reporting on academic and non-academic outcomes for students served by the grants. These outcomes include but are not limited to:
 - o Services accessed by students experiencing homelessness.
 - o Academic outcomes of students experiencing homelessness.
 - o Review of activities implemented including successes and challenges.
 - o Number of families and unaccompanied youth placed in stable housing.



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Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	17
Number of Schools:	Funds awarded at the district level
Number of Students:	4250
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	0

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$1,200,000	\$1,198,924
2022	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
2021	\$1,200,000	\$1,164,730
2020	\$1,000,000	\$997,495
2019	\$1,000,000	\$990,628

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

N/A

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

In 2019 the authorizing legislation (RCW 28A.300.542) was revised to include the option of providing two-year grants, to require geographic diversity as a factor for grantee selection, and to provide greater weight to grant applications that include local partnerships and strategies to address opportunity gaps for students of color experiencing homelessness.

In 2023, the authorizing legislation (RCW 28A.300.542) was again revised to clarify the goals of the program, expand on the allowable use of funds, require the development of shared goals and outcomes in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, and then jointly produce, with Commerce, a publicly available biennium report on those goals and outcomes.



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8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

The majority of districts used their HSSEP funding to support increases in staffing, By increasing staff capacity and providing tangible support, districts reported improved:

- identification of students experiencing homelessness
- access to basic needs, mental health supports and referrals for other support services
- training delivery for school district staff and community partners
- ability to coordinate transportation for highly mobile students
- ability to help students and families obtain stable housing
- attendance
- academic performance and high school graduation rates

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

Increases in HSSEP one time funding for FY24 and FY25, will address the underfunded issue that existed in previous years, however unless these increases are permanent, the program will once again be underfunded in FY26. Two other major challenges were identified. The first was that several districts were unable to expend funds they had been granted for proposed staffing increases due to hiring freezes and a lack of qualified applicants. The second was that most districts receiving funding do not have a housing partner receiving HSSP funds through the Department of Commerce. As a result, those districts often did not see comparable levels of success in housing stability for their students and families.

10. Future opportunities:

In the 2023 legislative session, HSSEP saw an increase of \$1.3 million in one time funding available for the 2024 school year and \$1.3 million in one time funding available for the 2025 school year. This will allow OSPI to dramatically increase the number of districts being served by this grant, and as a result, increase supports and services to more students experiencing homelessness. In addition, new requirements for OSPI to develop a shared report on the goals and outcomes on the HSSEP/HSSP programs with their collaborative partner, the Department of Commerce, will increase the public's understanding of how these collaborations are improving housing stability and academic outcomes for students experiencing homelessness.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

\$1,200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$1,200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 157, Laws of 2016 (homeless students).

12. Other relevant information:

N/A



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13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

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14. Program Contact Information:

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