



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:**

The Homeless Student Stability education Program (HSSeP) awards state-funded competitive grants to increase the capacity of school districts to identify and provide support for students experiencing homelessness. Services 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, before and after school programs. This is not an exhaustive list.

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

Grant award criteria for state fiscal year 2022 included:

- District compliance with all federal McKinney-Vento Act requirements.
- Demonstrated need of the school district including 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:
 - Partnering with local housing and community-based organizations with experience in serving the needs of students experiencing homelessness or students of color;
 - Serving the needs of unaccompanied youth; and

- 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:
 - Services accessed by students experiencing homelessness.
 - Academic outcomes of students experiencing homelessness.
 - Review of activities implemented including successes and challenges.
 - Number of families and unaccompanied youth placed in stable housing.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	13
Number of Schools:	Funds Awarded at District Level
Number of Students:	3,487
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	N/A

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 1.72

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$1,200,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0
	Other Fund Sources:	\$0
	TOTAL (FY22)	\$1,200,000

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

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
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
2018	\$1,000,000	\$988,664

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
22	13 districts – 3487 Students
21	13 districts - 2658 Students
20	12 districts
19	12 districts

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.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

Each school district tailors supports to the specific needs of the local community. By increasing staffing capacity to support students experiencing homelessness, reported outcomes included:

- Increased identification of, and referrals to services for, students experiencing homelessness
- Increased access to basic needs and remote learning access during the pandemic
- Increased access to mental health services
- Increased training for school district staff and community partners
- Increased ability to coordinate transportation for highly mobile students
- Increased placements in stable housing
- Improved attendance
- Improved grades or academic performance
- Improved high school graduation rates

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

HSSeP continues to be underfunded. During state fiscal year 2022, the second year of a two year grant cycle, \$876,000.00 was awarded to 13 districts through a competitive grant process, although 26 districts applied and requested \$1.7 million, leaving \$824,000 in unmet need. Most districts without a housing partner receiving HSSeP funds through the department of commerce did not report the same successes with housing stability.

10. Future opportunities:

As district become aware of the HSSeP grant program and the program matures, the potential for improving academic outcomes improves significantly. From different program designs, we learn how to best improve outcomes for students experiencing homelessness, and this learning provides an opportunity for improved systems, collaborations, and direct service.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(7)(a) - \$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

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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