

RFP 82 – McKinney-Vento Subgrant – Questions & Answers Summary

UPDATE 6/13/25 – NYSED has updated the link in the response to the following question on Page 2: “Is there a form or template that should be used for the budget narrative?” The previous link opened to a form that was locked and tailored to a different program.

Q: Just checking in to see if RFP 52 is the same as the RFP 82 listed on NYSED's website (RFP 82)?

A: The RFP number in the NYSED Weekly email announcement was incorrect. It should have been RFP 82, not RFP 52.

Q: Are you using duplicated or unduplicated numbers? Page 2 paragraph 3 says that duplicated data is used but the links provided are to NYSTEACHS that lists unduplicated data.

A: Please use the 3-year duplicated data averages to plan the RFP response, available [here](#). The NYSTEACHS website has been updated to provide data averages. Duplicated data are used to better reflect the fluid movement of students within and between LEAs.

Q: Do the signatures for key stakeholders need to be original or can they be scanned in or from a zoom webinar form?

A: The signatures of stakeholders on the McKinney-Vento Team form do not need to be original. However, the applicant should maintain any and all records related to each stakeholder's engagement, including invitations, agendas, meeting minutes, and sign-in sheets.

Q: Are we anticipating that this funding will still be available in the new Federal budget and with all the changes to the Department of Education?

A: The New York State Education Department cannot comment on the future availability of federal funding.

Q: We would like to implement a workforce development program for high school McKinney Vento students, who would receive career exploration services, resume and interview preparation, coaching and mentoring. As part of the project, we would like to provide students with stipends for paid internships--\$16.50 hr. minimum wage. Is this allowable?

A: Federal funds cannot be used to pay student stipends. Funds could be used to support transportation for students to internships, for work-appropriate clothing, and for paying coaches or mentors.

Q: Are we able to use grant funds to purchase lice kits for children? Could this be considered "basic needs"?

A: Yes, lice kits are an allowable expense under basic needs.

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Q: Can more than one application (for different LEAs) be submitted using the same SFS Vendor ID Number? For example, our charter school network uses a singular SFS Vendor ID Number, and operates 5 unique LEAs, many of which are independently eligible to apply for this opportunity.

A: Each LEA must either apply as a single applicant, or a specified LEA can serve as the lead of a consortium. In other words, each charter school in the network could apply as a single applicant, or one of the charter schools in the network can serve as the consortium lead for a group of charter schools in the network. As long as each charter school is its own entity, each is an eligible applicant and can apply independently or as part of a consortium.

Q: Is there a form or template that should be used for the budget narrative?

A: The preferred format for the budget narrative is the same template that is used for all ESSA Funded Program Title grants. The Budget Narrative form is posted on the [NYSED website](#).

Q: Academic Needs vs. Unique Needs - It is a bit confusing in the RFP as to which need (academic or unique) incorporating mental health counseling pertains to. On page 26, Academic needs refers to addressing "social-emotional areas." On page 31, the Unique Needs checklist includes "Trauma Impacted Students". I want mental health counseling to be a part of my two after school tutoring/connection programs. I am unclear as to which type of need it falls under. I deferred to it being a Unique Need.

A: The identification of mental health counseling as either academic or unique needs within the RFP response is up to the applicant and should be based on the definition of each category provided within the RFP. Given that the description of mental health counseling could fall under either category, the applicant should choose the category where the activity fits best for its purpose.

Q: On page 6 of the RFP, it states that allowable activities for the grant include "Supplemental food programs such as after-school snacks or weekend food programs." I run 2 food programs in my school district: 1. Backpack Snack Attack weekend food program for 130+ needy students (many of which are homeless) and 2. An in-house food pantry for needy families (many of which are homeless). We work with our local church who holds the account for Backpack Snack Attack. We have an account with the Regional Food Bank for the in-house food pantry. Both programs require a great deal of fundraising on my part. Am I allowed to apply MV grant funds towards both or one of these programs? What budget code would I use?

A: The applicant may use McKinney-Vento grant funds to support both of the food programs described in the question. The applicant should use the budget category that is most appropriate for the activity. For example, if the applicant is purchasing food or supplies, the code would be supplies and materials. More information about budget codes can be found on the [NYSED website](#).

Q: The RFP states that only excess transportation costs will be covered by the grant. What exactly does this entail?

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A: Excess transportation costs are costs that the LEA has that are beyond what is reimbursable through transportation aid. For example, if the LEA is reimbursed 80% of the cost of transportation through state aid, the LEA could charge the remaining 20% of the cost to the grant. Applicants can charge transportation costs for extra-curricular activities, before and after school programs, and summer programs for McKinney-Vento students to the grant.

Q: Can we assign a portion to provide transportation through a local taxi company for homeless students to attend non-school district sponsored experiential activities and /or non-extracurricular?

A: Contracting taxi services to provide transportation to homeless students should not be used as a general practice. However, where LEAs have no other choice, they may arrange for such services on an individual, one-time basis to meet the requirements of 8 NYCRR 100.2 (x), which requires the “school district of attendance [to] immediately provide or arrange in the most cost-effective manner for transportation to and from the child’s temporary housing location and the school the child legally attends....” When there are no other choices, if the lack of transportation serves as a barrier to a homeless student’s attendance in a summer educational program, the LEA may also arrange for such services. The use of rideshare services for any student transportation is not allowed.

When proposing to use these funds for taxi services, LEAs must ensure ALL of the following:

- There are no other options. The lack of options is described in the budget narrative.
- Transportation is limited to emergency situations or situations where the lack of transportation options serves as a barrier to a homeless student’s participation in a summer educational program. The description of the cost in the budget narrative should align with emergency use situations.
- The LEA has, using its own internal processes and policies, vetted the transportation companies. This includes making sure the company has insurance and conducts criminal background checks on all drivers. The LEA should make this assertion within the budget narrative.

Q: If a district had zero students in each of the three years or less than 1 student as the three year average, are they still eligible to apply as part of a consortium?

A: There is no required minimum number of homeless students to be eligible to apply as a consortium member. However, the program activities that are implemented for each consortium member must connect to the needs of the LEA. For example, a consortium member without students might use grant funding to pay for training on how staff can identify students experiencing homelessness.

Q: How can I access the webinar? I don't see it on the NYS Teach website.

A: The webinar is available on the [NYSTEACHS website](#).

Q: Is there a limit to the number of LEA's that can join a consortium application?

A: There is no limit to the number of LEAs that can participate in a consortium.

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Q: If a district currently has a McKinney Vento Liaison funded for basic services under other sources, and /or the position could be expanded to better meet the needs of students and families to include both basic requirements AND the proposed under the auspices of the subgrant, is this allowable, or would this be considered supplanting since a liaison is currently funded to provide essential services only?

A: To charge a portion of the grant to the liaison salary, the applicant must provide evidence that the remaining portion of the liaison salary is being funded through other means, AND that the activities that the liaison is engaging in are NOT those listed within the required liaison duties found [here](#). The burden will be on the applicant to show that grant funds are supplemental and only being used to pay the liaison for duties that go beyond what is required by Federal and State Laws.

Q: I am acting as the liaison for our regional BOCES, in hopes of supporting a consortium with component districts in our region to reach the threshold number of students. With this in mind, does EVERY LEA have to complete Section B (MVGrant Team, Needs Summary/narrative questions, Program Activity plan) as individual LEA's or should this be done as a collective group, discussing the team, needs, program plan as a larger consortium?

A: Section B of the RFP should be completed by the lead applicant, with information and collaboration from all of the members of the consortium. The McKinney-Vento Grant Team should include representation from a range of stakeholders from consortium members and the lead applicant.

Q: If an LEA participating in a consortium application has "S" listed on the three year data for a given year, is that what is to be entered on the application?

A: The "s" listed on the three-year average data chart means that data has been suppressed because the LEA had 5 or fewer students identified as homeless. This is done for privacy purposes. If an LEA with an "s" listed would like to know the exact number, New York State TEACHs will provide it upon request. NYSTEACH's can be contacted at info@nysteachs.org.

Q: Grant Budget Cap: Based on our projection of 152 McKinney-Vento eligible students, how do we determine the maximum allowable amount we can request in our grant budget?

A: The maximum allowable amount for the grant, per year, is found in the section titled "Structure" located on pages 5-6 of the [RFP](#). The applicant can apply for the full amount they are eligible for based on the funding structure.

Q: Minimum Participation Threshold: Is there a minimum number of students required for an activity or program to be considered eligible for funding under this grant?

A: There is no minimum required participation threshold for an activity under the grant. However, as this is a competitive grant, applicants should carefully consider which activities will have the greatest impact and meet the greatest needs.

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Q: Staff Time Allocation: For positions such as the McKinney-Vento Liaison or other staff supporting grant-funded activities, can we allocate a percentage of their salary based on the time dedicated to the grant, or must they be 100% assigned to McKinney-Vento-funded work?

A: Any grant funds used to pay for the MV liaison must be for activities that go above and beyond the required liaison activities, listed [here](#). An applicant would have to describe how the liaison met these requirements, then how they would complete the additional duties without being considered 100% assigned to McKinney-Vento.

Q: Funding Consistency Over Time: Will the awarded grant amount remain the same for each year of the three-year grant cycle, or is it subject to change annually?

A: The same amount is provided to applicants each year, subject to approval by the Division of Budget and availability of funding.

Q: If an LEA joins a consortium and they are awarded, must they remain committed to the terms for the entire 3 year period or can they opt-out if they no longer wish to participate?

A: The LEA is expected to remain committed to the terms of the grant for the entire 3-year grant period.

Q: Can you please share where on your website (or elsewhere) we can find: For a full list of mandated responsibilities, please see Sections 722(g)(3) & 732(g)(6) of the McKinney-Vento Act on the NYSTEACHS website?

A: A list of the mandated roles and responsibilities of the homeless liaison can be found [here](#), on pages two and three.

Q: Can some services for our homeless children, i.e. after-school and summer programming, be folded into after-school and summer programming available to the whole school? Or do we need to create separate sections/opportunities exclusively for our homeless population to include it as an activity in our activity chart?

A: Services for homeless children such as afterschool and summer programming can be provided as part of the same activities provided to all students in the LEA. However, the applicant must use funds in a way that is proportional to the expected number of homeless students that will participate. Further, the applicant must describe how the participation of homeless students will be encouraged, how the applicant believes the activity will specifically impact the homeless student population or meet a need, and how the applicant will review data to ensure that the activity is meeting the need.

Q: If we intend to apply/bid for this opportunity, how do we answer this question on the form? "Do you wish to indicate a "No Bid" response?" Do we mark "no" meaning, yes we intend to apply? (double negative makes it confusing)

A: You do not need to provide a response to the No Bid question.

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Q: The Applicant Information form that follows the Application Cover Page includes space for 4 M-V Team members to be listed. If the team is larger than 4, should ALL members of the M-V grant team be listed on that form, or only 4 of the members?

A: The applicant should list all of the members of the McKinney-Vento team on the Applicant Information form (RFP, page 23). If the applicant cannot fit all the members in that area, the remaining members can be listed in Attachment A: McKinney-Vento Program Team”.

Q: If an activity could fall under more than one focus area –Ex. Academic Needs and Unique Needs. Do you need to select one focus area to list on program planning chart or should the activity be listed on both the Academic and Unique Needs chart?

A: Please choose one focus area for each activity. Do not list the activity in more than one category. There is no penalty for “incorrect” categorization. The application will be reviewed on how well the applicant determined the needs of its students experiencing homelessness and selected appropriate activities to best meet those needs.

Q: In defining what is a “Unique Needs”. Would a social worker that provides counseling to MV students and workshops for parents/families on available services/referrals including legal services, foodbanks, mental health services and city and school resources meet the criteria of what is deemed “unique needs”?

A: As stated in the RFP, “Unique LEA Needs are defined as those needs that do not fall into the above definitions of basic needs or academic needs. Unique LEA needs are identified through an assessment that includes feedback from families, teachers, and other stakeholders within the LEA. These needs may be specific to the region, demographics of the LEA, or recent events. Examples include: an increase of newly arrived families, recent natural disasters within the geographic region, or specific transportation needs.”

Counseling services provided to MV students and the facilitation of workshops to families could be activities that meet “unique needs” if the applicant has identified these as needs through a needs assessment that includes feedback from families, teachers, and other stakeholders within the LEA.

Q: In defining what can be considered an activity under “Academic Needs” would a before school /morning program that operates as well as a safe program by allowing students accessibility to the school before opening in addressing high crime neighborhoods, improving attendance rates and homework assistance and physical activity. Or would this be more accurately listed under “Unique Needs” or both areas of focus.?

A: Academic Needs are defined as those needs that ensure that the student in temporary housing is receiving academic support to be successful in school. Academic needs have been determined by teachers or through the analysis of achievement data. Data must be reviewed to determine areas of strength and weakness in specific academic or social-emotional areas. Anecdotal data should also be reviewed to identify graduation, attendance, and retention needs of students in temporary housing.

A before-school/morning program could be categorized as meeting “academic needs” or as “unique needs”. Please choose one focus area for each activity. Do not list the activity in more than one

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category. There is no penalty for “incorrect” categorization. The application will be reviewed on how well the applicant determined the needs of its students experiencing homelessness and selected appropriate activities to best meet those needs. If academic data were used to determine the need and structure of the program, then the applicant could consider placing it in the academic needs category.

Q: The unique needs chart on page 31 of the RFP states to check all that apply? So do you check all categories that the activity that is being proposed would cover? If none that are listed is applicable?

A: The applicant should check all the categories that apply to the activities that are being proposed in the Unique Needs section. There is a checkbox for “other”, so if none of the listed categories match the planned activities, please describe the type of unique need in the space behind the “other” box.

Q: Under Basic Needs focus area, if Title I Part A is being used to cover some of the costs associated with example: uniforms, could grants funds be used for balance of costs for uniforms not being covered from Title I monies and /or to increase the number of students that can receive uniforms?

A: If the applicant is using Title I, Part A funds to cover a portion of the basic needs described (e.g. uniforms), it is allowable for the applicant to propose using grant funds to cover the remaining portion and/or increase the number of uniforms.

Q: We are a LEA consortium which our new HS would like to join. The HS doesn't have student data for 20-21, but does have it for 22-23 and 23-24. Are they still considered not eligible if the remaining schools in the consortium have all 3 years?

A: A charter school network consortium can make a determination to include the charter network high school as a member, even if they do not have data for the 20-21 school year. However, the total number of homeless students (as calculated by adding each member's three-year average together) for the consortium must be 100 or more.

MWBE Questions

Q: In the M-WBE requirements when it states, "goal for this grant is 30% of each applicant's total discretionary non-personal service budget each year of the grant. Discretionary non-personal service budget is defined as total annual budget" - is the annual budget referring to the grant annual budget or the organization's annual budget?

A: Enter the annual budget for the grant on the Goal Calculation Worksheet.

Q: Under Basic Needs could schools provide weekly/monthly “Laundry Cards” and laundry supplies for families to have access to local laundromats? Would this meet the criteria for allowable expenses. How would this meet MWBE compliance if at all?

A: Yes. Weekly/monthly laundry cards and laundry supplies are allowable expenses and can be categorized as meeting basic needs. M/WBE participation includes services, materials, or supplies

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purchased from minority- and women-owned firms certified with the NYS Division of Minority and Women Business Development. Not-for-profit agencies are not eligible for this certification. For additional information and a listing of currently certified M/WBEs, see the [NYS MWBE Directory](#).