

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds

Albemarle County Public Schools

Albemarle County Public Schools is experiencing a significant increase in homeless students being enrolled, leading to an increase in the amount of services being provided. The ARRA funds will allow an increase in the number of hours the new Homeless Social Worker and Support Specialist are able to work with the Homeless Liaison, students, families and teachers. The Homeless Social Worker will work in schools to arrange tutoring services and provide awareness training for teachers. In addition, a strong tutoring program will also be initiated to meet students academic needs. This program will be established using volunteers as well as paid teachers and will include a training component that will include information regarding support for homeless students and their families as well as special education support.

Alexandria City Public Schools

Alexandria City Public Schools is utilizing the ARRA funds awarded to support the provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education for four (4) homeless children ages 3-5. While in the past, school division resources have been dedicated to school age children, the need at this time is with the Head Start program and younger children. In addition, ACPS continues to support the educational needs of homeless students through intervention services, supplemental education services, social work services, emergency social services and transportation. Finally, continued training will be provided to the Homeless Student Liaison by attending the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) conference in Denver, Colorado.

Arlington Public Schools

Arlington Public Schools will continue to provide transportation, tutoring services, and staff development services as well as develop a manual of procedures regarding provision of homeless services. With the additional ARRA funds, Arlington Public Schools will supplement administrative costs for 1.5 days of the homeless program coordinator's salary and benefits. This money will also be used to partially cover the administrative costs beyond the 10-month contract to develop instructional materials for staff. With additional monies and administrative support, the goal is to increase staff awareness and effectiveness in delivering services to students experiencing homelessness.

Caroline County Public Schools

Caroline County Public Schools continues to support the needs of homeless students through transportation, identification and referral to outside agencies for resources and services. In addition, tutors will provide remediation, supplemental and enrichment activities and will collaborate with classroom teachers to provide and receive feedback on specific skills or content areas to be addressed and reinforced. Informational meetings and training will be held for parents regarding the various resources and

programs that the school division has to offer for students that have been identified as experiencing homelessness.

Charlottesville City Schools

Charlottesville City Schools continue to identify and service the specialized needs of McKinney-Vento students. This done through various education programs (general, special education, gifted, technical, etc.), transportation, tutoring services for remediation or intervention, monthly parent meetings at a homeless shelter as well as before and after care for eligible students. With the increased money from ARRA, one addition will be more tutoring for students whose learning deficits are partially due to frequent moves and other economic conditions. Charlottesville City Schools often has families that move between the city and Albemarle County, creating specialized transportation needs to meet the school of origin requests. The ARRA funds will allow for these special transportation needs to be met. Finally, supplemental materials or access to events to enhance or improve students' educational programs and experiences will be available. This would include additional school supplies, assistance with glasses, payment of graduation robes, instrument rentals, field trips, etc.

Cumberland County Public Schools

Cumberland County Public Schools works in partnership with other local agencies to serve students experiencing homelessness. Collaborating agencies include the Health Department, Department of Social Services, Family Preservation Services, FACES, Cumberland County Christmas Mother and other community organizations. This collaboration provides mentoring, tutoring, clothing, school materials and fees. With the additional ARRA funds, instructional materials and supplies, medical supplies, costs of screenings, evaluations, school physicals, tutoring, school based fees and other services will be provided. Finally, professional development for instructional staff will be implemented to bring awareness regarding the needs of students that are experiencing homelessness.

Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax County continues to provide outreach to families that are experiencing homelessness by distributing information about student's rights under McKinney-Vento as well as resource and referral information. Generally students experiencing homelessness receive immediate enrollment in their school of origin as well as transportation assistance; however, each student's needs are addressed on a case-by-case basis. In addition, students may receive tutoring services provided at various shelter locations. The vast size of Fairfax County provides unique transportation challenges that require creative analysis of options including school bus, public transportation (Metro) and taxi cabs.

Unique ARRA Initiatives:

In light of this challenge, the additional ARRA funds are used for one transportation operations technician to provide seamless transportation support and to coordinate services. Funds are also used for gas reimbursement for parents to drive children to school and the purchase of Metro fare cards.

Hampton City Public Schools

Through Hampton City Public School's Children's Homeless Intervention Project (CHIP), students experiencing homelessness receive transportation services, educational services, free and reduced meals and referrals to before and after school tutorial programs, community shelters, health, mental health, dental and other appropriate services. Finally, CHIP trains school division personnel to identify and enroll homeless students. The ARRA funds will strengthen these measures to reach more families experiencing homelessness.

Harrisonburg City Public Schools

As the number students experiencing homelessness continues to rise in Harrisonburg, the Office of Student Support Services is working toward the development of educational policies and procedures which will assure successful completion of k-12 schooling. Therefore, the additional ARRA funds will be used to extend educational and enrichment programming hours for homeless students through full participation in the local Boys & Girls Clubs after-school programming. Resources available include tutoring, supplemental instruction, mentoring, after school and summer programming and payment of fees to cover extra-curricular programming.

Henrico County Public Schools

Henrico continues to provide homeless children and youth with enrichment and remedial programs in reading, math and SOL remediation. Local community programs provide tutoring, summer enrichment, museum experiences and physical activities. Additional initiatives tailored to meet the unique needs of children experiencing homelessness include a weekend-long camping trip with SOL-based enrichment activities and a pilot program to prevent summer learning loss. This pilot includes a five week long half-day summer program with two hours of individualized instruction and two hours of enrichment activities that include music, art, science and physical movement. Assessment measures are given at the beginning as well as at the end of the program to measure academic progress. Additional ARRA funds will allow the focus to shift towards 3- and 4- year olds that are in need of quality preschool programs. These funds would allow training and technical assistance to preschool teachers to insure proper identification and eligibility of McKinney-Vento preschool children. Increased hours of academic assistance during out-of-school time for school age children and youth will be provided through the coordination and support of multiple agencies serving homeless children. Finally, parents of homeless children and youth will be made aware of the educational rights of their children and what they can do to mitigate the impact of homelessness.

Isle of Wight County Public Schools

Isle of Wight County Public Schools is utilizing their ARRA funds to establish identification and referral procedures, transportation, inter-agency collaboration and provide school supplies and clothing on a case-by-case basis. As with many school divisions, Isle of Wight is experiencing increasing numbers of children that are experiencing homelessness. Without shelter support within their county, the school works with local churches and social services agencies to provide support for children

and their families. This support is provided through the dissemination of information regarding homeless programs, referral forms, identification of health/medical service providers, transportation for medical services and the purchase of school supplies and clothing where appropriate. Finally, staff development will be initiated to increase the number of school division personnel and social services staff who are aware of and sensitive to the needs of homeless children.

King George County Public Schools

King George County currently provides students experiencing homelessness with services to meet their housing, clothing, food and transportation needs. This is done through the collaboration of the Department of Social Services, faith based community, Community Services Board and the School Division. However, there is little to no established procedure or protocol for delivery of services or follow-up to insure services are received. With the ARRA funds, the development of a formal protocol for identification of needs within the community will be established. Other guidelines will be established to allow direct access to student assistance services as well as prevention of attendance problems and intervention in decreasing barriers to school attendance (tutoring, supplemental instruction, skill building, peer to peer support groups, and family counseling. Referrals to medical, dental, and mental health services can be made).

Loudoun County Public Schools

Loudoun County has established a collaborative process for identifying homeless children and insuring that there are no barriers to enrollment. These procedures include an enrollment specialist at each school that works closely with the Homeless Liaison and a school nurse that works with the Public Health Department to insure immunizations and physicals are completed. Transportation, free meals, tutoring and remediation are also provided when necessary. As the number of homeless children has increased and spread across Loudoun's school division, the needs of students and families experiencing homelessness have increased. The ARRA funds will allow for the development and implementation of an after-school tutoring and child care program for students and families living in a local shelter. A referral process will be established to insure that dental, medical, counseling and other basic needs can be addressed by the appropriate agency. Staff development training will be provided on a continuous basis to increase awareness and sensitivity to the needs of homeless children and youth.

Unique ARRA Initiative:

Finally, Loudoun County Public Schools will initiate a pilot program that will provide one-on-one counseling and group sessions that will focus on domestic violence and violence prevention (as defined by the needs of the students).

Manassas City Public Schools

Manassas City Public Schools continues to support their children experiencing homelessness through collaborations among staff, school registrars, coordinators of special programs, guidance counselors and the local liaison for homeless students. Transportation, educational materials, and supplies are provided to children living in one local shelter and two outlying shelters. Other areas of support include ESOL assessment, Pre-K Head Start, SOL curriculum K through 12, expedited evaluation of homeless

students to determine eligibility for special services. With the ARRA funds, computers and software will be purchased to support school aged residents that are living at a local shelter. These computers will help strengthen the level of academic readiness for homeless students, particularly in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Montgomery County Public Schools

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), in coordination with the Women's Resource Center, sponsors the Project Hope New River Valley (PHNRV) program that services students in Montgomery County, Giles County, Pulaski County, Floyd County and the City of Radford. Services provided include school enrollment and transfers, free school supplies, free lunch classification, retrieval of necessary documents and advocacy and support for unaccompanied youth. Referrals for food, clothing, health care, furniture, housing, counseling, legal assistance and adult education programs are made on a case-by-case basis. Transportation is coordinated to the school of origin from shelters, motels, campgrounds, and doubled-up settings. After-school programs for school-aged children include after-school snack, homework assistance, direct instruction in reading, mentoring and organized recreational activities. On-going training and technical support is provided to local school divisions. With the increased funds, PHNRV hopes to increase the number of hours at the beginning and end of the school year for identifying families in need and provide services before school begins. In addition, the increase in the number of days worked will allow for flexibility to accommodate for the varied schedules of five school districts and insure that students experiencing homelessness are registered and prepared for the first day of school.

Northampton County Public Schools

Northampton County Public Schools is utilizing their ARRA funds to support an increasing population of migrant/homeless students who are lacking English skills and need additional support to help them earn verified credits for graduation. Additional tutoring during the school day or after school in the high school will support these students in increasing their skills. Other support measures include medical, dental and health evaluations, parent education regarding rights and resources, transportation and parent information sessions or workshops. Coordination between the school and local agencies will be established and one additional social worker will be hired to assist in enrollment and coordination of available services.

Portsmouth City Public Schools

Portsmouth City Public Schools currently provides after-school tutoring services that focus on effective test taking, study skills, SOL preparation, time management and organization. School supplies, clothing, medical services, counseling assessments and transportation are also provided with the goal of providing for equal educational access for homeless students. With the ARRA funds, Portsmouth City Public Schools will request more tutors in more schools.

Unique ARRA Initiative:

In addition, Portsmouth City Public Schools will establish structured summer activities to mobile students that focus on academic and social skills to provide some

stability in their learning. These activities will also act as a monitoring tool for those that move and change districts during the summer months.

Prince William County Public Schools

In addition to providing qualified and experienced tutors for four hours of tutoring services a day for students, Prince William County Public Schools (PWCPS) also provides parent education classes to families residing in one of the eight area shelters. These classes provide information and instruction on how to best support their child's academic success. School supplies as well as laptops and color printers for homework completion and school projects are also provided in shelters where needed. With the McKinney-Vento funds a summer enrichment program is provided to avoid cumulative losses and books, children's music CD's, mathematics software and multicultural books and music have been purchased. Other services provided to students experiencing homelessness are transportation to school of origin, expedited approval for free lunch and continuous training for tutors, school staff, and central office staff on the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness. With the ARRA funds, PWCPS will hire qualified tutors to provide after-school tutoring for school-age children and youth that are residing at Good Shepherd transitional housing, provide age-appropriate books and study materials to be used during the tutoring sessions, homework supplies and continue parent education programs for parents in transitional shelters.

Richmond City Public Schools

Richmond Regional Homeless Education Program (RRHEP) provides services to children, youth and their families that are experiencing homelessness in the school divisions of Chesterfield, Petersburg and Richmond. Services provided in these divisions include: on-site homework assistance, remediation in language arts and math in five shelters, transportation to the school of origin, school supplies and educational materials for students, parent training, summer education and enrichment experiences and preschool opportunities for infants and toddlers. With the ARRA funds, RRHEP will be more efficient in meeting transportation needs by hiring one driver to transport homeless students to their school of origin in Chesterfield. In addition, gas vouchers will be available to families who may be transporting their children from Petersburg to another school district. Other portions of the ARRA funds will be allocated to continue to provide summer enrichment programs for children within three Richmond shelters.

Unique ARRA Initiative:

Finally, funding is needed to support a 20 hour part-time position for a Social Worker/Case Manager in Chesterfield to monitor and manage services and referrals for educational program development.

Roanoke City Public Schools

Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS) are currently providing children, youth and their families experiencing homelessness with transportation to school of origin, case management, parent advocacy and support, shelter staff training, coordination of tutoring and professional development for local educators. Referrals for various community services are made, however there is often a waiting list. In addition to the waiting list, these particular students often do not have transportation and experience reoccurring

moves, making it difficult to receive the necessary services. Due to these barriers the Homeless Student Program in Roanoke City Public Schools, the local Community Services Board and the Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Care have negotiated twelve revolving openings specifically for RCPS homeless students. This coordination between service providers expedites the services needed for students. With the ARRA funds, RCPS is working to create a more collaborative environment to coordinate services and assistance that will attract, engage and retain homeless children and youth in public school programs. In addition they are expanding their tutoring , supplemental instruction and enriched educational services by expediting evaluations, expanding before- and after-school, mentoring and summer programs with a teacher or other qualified individual.

Rockingham County Public Schools

Rockingham County Public Schools currently supports students experiencing homelessness through transportation services, school supplies, referrals to local agencies and organizations, vouchers for clothing and preschool students are referred to participate in the Preschool program. Using the ARRA funds, Rockingham will be able to provide homework and tutorial materials or supplies to students that are residing in shelters and assume fees for continued participation in after school tutorial programs provided in their schools by the Boys & Girls Club and Rockingham Recreation Department.

Stafford County Public Schools

Stafford and Spotsylvania County Schools have established programming to ensure transportation, nutrition services, education and training to school system personnel and have initiated community outreach programs to build collaborative relationships with allied professionals/agencies. Additional services provided to students experiencing homelessness are free school supplies, clothing, referrals to community resources for nutritional, medical, clothing and/or safety needs. A Coordinator of Social Work Services works to facilitate collaboration with surrounding school jurisdictions for the purpose of identifying, tracking and serving children experiencing homelessness.

Unique ARRA Initiatives:

With the additional ARRA money the current Regional Case Manager that was hired to provide services to identified McKinney-Vento families would increase in hours from 18 a week as well as hire an additional Case Manager. These two case managers would be able to improve tracking, revise current forms and practices, monitor attendance, follow academic and behavioral progress, and provide additional staff development and training for school staff.

Suffolk City Public Schools

Suffolk City Public Schools continues to assist students experiencing homelessness through school remediation, tutoring, material allocations, transportation, free and reduced meals, research based instructional materials and instructional resources and serviced for a local community-based outreach shelter. Using the ARRA funds, Suffolk will be able to continue to assist the growing population of students experiencing homelessness. Funds will be used for cognitive development through tutoring programs after school three days a week as well as the purchase of tutorial supplies, extra

textbooks, materials for the resource library and enrichment activities provided to students and families living in the shelter.

Unique ARRA Initiative:

Finally, ARRA funds will be utilized in a homeless transitional program and will focus on literacy development and empowering students with the appropriate literature within their home libraries.

Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Virginia Beach City Public Schools has forged multiple partnerships with area churches, Parks and Recreation, the Food Bank and transportation services to support the programs they have established for students in need. These programs include an after-school program for elementary students that are residing in the resort area motels, a tutoring and homework assistance program for unaccompanied secondary students residing in a shelter and an after-school program for children and youth residing in emergency and transitional housing. With the addition of the ARRA funds, transportation services will be provided to allow children and youth residing in Samaritan House emergency and transitional shelters to participate in after-school programs. With the after school program being held at the Outreach Office, transportation services will be extremely beneficial in getting students from school to the individual shelter sites and to the Outreach Office for the after-school program.

Warren County Public Schools

Warren County is currently collaborating with Harmony Place and the Department of Social Services through the Warren Coalition to provide support for educational programs for young children in the Women's shelter. In addition, transportation services are provided to children experiencing homelessness to insure attendance at their school of origin. With the ARRA funds a tutoring program for students in the Harmony Place Shelter will be established to provide educational support in addition to what the students are receiving at school.

Washington County Public Schools

Washington County traditionally works to meet the needs of all of their students within the school environment through collaboration with the school communities and through networking with churches, agencies, civic organizations and individuals. Enrichment, tutoring and/or remediation activities are available before and after school to students that are experiencing homelessness. These services are provided by volunteers during the school day, students from the Student Assistance Program as well as individual tutors that are hired by the school division. Historically there has been a low number of homeless children identified within Washington County Public Schools which allowed individual schools to provided identified students with paper, clothes, notebooks, etc. With the additional ARRA funds, this support could continue and individual schools would be able to meet the direct educational needs as well as other essential needs of the homeless children within their building. In addition, training and outreach will occur to increase homeless families and educational stakeholder's awareness of children's needs, rights and available services. Professional development will be conducted for enrollment

personnel, guidance counselors, teachers, nurses and principals to establish a knowledge base of the unique needs of children experiencing homelessness.

Waynesboro City Public Schools

In addition to providing appropriate educational services through Title 1, ESL, Special Education, and Food Services, Waynesboro City Schools is also provides referrals to community organizations to assist students and families experiencing homelessness. These community organizations include the Department of Social Services, Salvation Army, and Office on Youth and the Health Department. The additional ARRA funds will assist with the cost of transportation to the school of origin within the school division as well as to neighboring divisions. School supplies will be purchased where needed, while clothing and medical assistance will be provided to identified students so that they may attend school.

Williamsburg/JCC Public Schools

Currently Williamsburg James City County Schools (WJCC) are providing general education and special education services to identified students as well as access to preschool programs, Title 1 services, and referrals from the school nurse for needed services, education, and assistance with medical insurance. Community agencies that assist the school division include Child Development Resources, Avalon (a shelter located within the WJCC school district), Youth and Family Services Department , the Williamsburg Department of Social Services Youth Achievement Program, an after school program entitled Beyond the Bell by the Department of Parks and Recreation, The College of William and Mary, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. These community groups provide tutoring services, attendance support, monitoring, transportation, classroom support, and parental support.

Unique ARRA Initiatives:

Currently, the ARRA funds are needed to provide training and professional development to stakeholders that will lead to the production of resources and guidance materials available beyond the length of the grant. This training and development will be done with staff at all levels to create an awareness and understanding of the unique needs of homeless students. Information sessions will also be held with parents to inform of their rights under McKinney-Vento and provide contact information for resources within the school division and community. Finally, coordination and collaboration of school staff and community agencies will grow through continued dialogue and collaborative efforts in providing for this group of students and families.

Winchester City Public Schools

Children, youth and families experiencing homelessness in Winchester City Public Schools are provided support through a school-based social worker. Having this social worker in the school building provides for one-on-one services and this person is able to make referrals to other community resources and services. This social worker is also a member of the revitalized Homeless Advisory Network, a regional consortium that allows the social worker to have immediate information about the changing community resources. Professional development has been expanded to include front office staff and bus drivers and collaborations are occurring with a variety of community and faith

organizations to provide food and clothing where needed. Due to the geographic location of Winchester, families frequently move across the boundary suddenly or without notice, causing a need for transportation, school supplies, and information about family's rights under McKinney-Vento. The ARRA funds will assist with transportation costs to allow children/youth to remain at their school of origin, educate parents/families on their rights through McKinney-Vento and community resources, purchase additional books, resources and homework supplies for the public libraries and shelters, and school supplies will be purchased and distributed directly to children/youth experiencing homelessness.

Wise County Public Schools

Wise County Public Schools is currently providing educational materials to their homeless children and families both at school and in the shelters. With recent budget cuts, mentors and tutors that have been hired in the past to work with identified homeless children and youth are not available. With the additional ARRA funds some of these mentors and tutors could be hired to work in the schools with the greatest population of homeless children.

York County Public Schools

Students experiencing homelessness in York County are provided with appropriate and equitable educational services that are in the best interest of the student. Transportation to and from school is provided to the student's school of origin as well as immediate enrollment. With the ARRA funds several additional needs will be addressed. For example, staff development sessions for educators and other school personnel will be conducted to inform and create an awareness of the rights of students experiencing homelessness. Transportation assistance will be provided for students as well as referrals for medical, dental, or other health services. Before and after school tutorial, student mentorship's and summer academy programs as well as the purchase of resource materials will be possible with the additional funds.