



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Homeless Student Stability Program

1. **Purpose:**

The Homeless Student Stability Program ([HSSP](#)) makes grants to school districts to strengthen services to students experiencing homelessness in Washington State.

2. **Description of services provided:**

The Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP) awards state-funded competitive grants to increase the capacity of school districts to identify and provide support for students experiencing homelessness.

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

Grant award criteria for state fiscal year 2021 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 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 13
Number of Schools: Funds awarded at district level
Number of Students: 2665
Number of Educators: 0
Other: 0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 2.0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0.0

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation: \$1.2 million

Federal Appropriation: \$0

Other fund sources: \$0

TOTAL (FY21) \$1.2 million

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

☒ No

☐ Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$1,200,000	\$1,164,730
FY20	\$1,000,000	\$997,495
FY19	\$1,000,000	\$990,628
FY18	\$1,000,000	\$988,664

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts
FY21	13
FY20	12
FY19	12
FY18	12

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:**

HSSP continues to be underfunded. For state fiscal year 2021, \$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.

10. **Future opportunities:**

The 2019 revisions made by the legislature to RCW 28A.300.542 now allow OSPI to issue two-year grants. Providing more than one year of funding to the next group of grantees is likely to increase staff retention and to allow for increased continuity of supports for students experiencing homelessness.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092 Sec. 518 (8)(a) - \$1,000,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$1,200,000 of the general fund --state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 157, Laws of 2016 (homeless students).

12. **Other relevant information:**

Nothing further to report at this time.

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's 2021 Grantee List](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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