

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

May 24, 2022

SUBJECT:

Submission of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund – Homeless Children and Youth ARP Homeless II Subgrant – FY23

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 included \$800 million to support the specific and urgent needs of homeless children and youth in recognition of the extraordinary impact of the pandemic on students experiencing homelessness. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students experiencing homelessness are increasingly under-identified, as learning outside of school building settings impeded the critical role of educators and staff in schools and districts to properly identify students, and these students have remained underserved by schools, districts, and states.

The ARP Homeless II funds are to be used for the purpose of supporting the work of the designated Homeless Liaison, identifying students experiencing homelessness by increasing program capacity to provide wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19, and providing the assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities. LEAs may use funds to address the urgent needs of homeless children and youth, including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. LEAs also may use funds to increase capacity by providing salary and fringe for staff, dedicating resources, and/or planning partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs).

The Aiken County School District is proposing to submit a grant for \$286,347.46 to assist the homeless children and youth in our community and schools by using funds to pay for seven student service workers. Using ARP funds allows the Title I funds that we typically used for this purpose to be allocated to schools. These student service workers assist the Homeless Liaison with the identification of and wrap around services for homeless children and youth in Aiken County.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The Division of Instruction has evaluated the goals and objectives and finds them to be consistent with district goals.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund – Homeless Children and Youth ARP Homeless II Subgrant \$286,347.46 and receipt of funds, if awarded.

PREPARED BY:

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