

McKinney-Vento Technical Assistance Questions

1. I have a question regarding the budget requirements in the FY18 grant. From the RFA: *Not less than fifty (50) percent of amounts provided under a grant to local districts shall be used to provide primary services of tutoring, remedial education services, or other education services to homeless children or homeless youths. Not less than thirty-five (35) nor more than fifty (50) percent of amounts provided to local districts shall be used for related activities including expedited evaluations, professional development for school personnel, referrals for medical, dental, mental and other health services, transportation, before- and after-school care, and school supplies.*

Do these percentages apply to only the funds requested through the FY18 Homeless grant, or do they apply to the entire program costs, including the Title 1 set-aside and other collaborative funds?

Answer: Although applicants are required to submit a budget for the first year of the grant cycle, grant recipients will be required to submit a budget narrative/expenditures for approval each grant year. Those percentages only apply to each grant year of McKinney-Vento.

2. If we use the grant to fund a homeless coordinator that truly coordinates educational services (e.g. coordinates expedited enrollment at all schools, coordinates school counseling services for students, works with FRYSC to eliminate barriers for school success [food, clothing, shelter, vision needs, etc.], coordinates transportation to and from school, tracks academic/behavior/attendance/intervention data, etc....) Can this person's salary be covered by 50% of the grant?

Answer: Yes, the coordinator's salary can be covered by portion of the grant designated for primary services. This portion of the grant can be no less than 50% of the budget.

As a follow-up to aforementioned question, could this person be the only one hired for the grant (i.e. they are the one running all facets of the program and the district is providing in-kind personnel)?

Answer: Yes.

3. Please provide examples of all the services that may be counted towards the 50% educational services. For example, would educational counseling and educational case management count in the 50% for educational activities?

Answer: KDE cannot provide specific examples of services that may be counted towards the 50% educational services. Items in this category would have to be educational in nature and must be allowable as expenditures in the McKinney-Vento program.

4. So, the grant period is only 15 months, correct? If the average grant award is \$65,000, then we basically request \$65,000 --no matter if we are asking for/including a coordinator salary plus student services expense, etc... I'm asking because in the past, I thought the grant was a 3-year grant. If that were the case, we'd be writing for a total of \$195,000.

Answer: Fiscal year funds are available for 15 months. Those funds must be spent in the fiscal year for which they are received. If awarded, grantees are eligible to receive up to three years of funding. Your budget request should be based on your needs for the McKinney-Vento program. The ultimate decision of how much funding to be awarded depends on funding available to the Department of Education. You may request larger amounts with evidence showing that the amount is reasonable and fits the needs of your program. For example, your first year you may be eligible to receive \$65,000 and the following fiscal year, you may receive more or less funding depending upon available funding and/or your budget narrative.

5. Can funds be used for transportation?

Answer: Yes, transportation is an allowable cost under McKinney-Vento.

6. Should the blind copy include the entire application or just the narrative?

Answer: The blind copy must include the entire application and any identifying factors (school name, district, etc....) must be removed.

7. Page 16 of the RFA references Title I, Part A homeless set-asides. Should the amount reported here be the Title I, Part A "homeless set-aside" or the McKinney-Vento set-aside?

Answer: The amount recorded in this section should reflect the McKinney-Vento line item as detailed on the District Set-aside page of the Title I, Part A application. This is an amount the awarded district will guarantee to provide from its Title I, Part A allocation for direct supplementation of the McKinney-Vento award.

8. Should budgets reflect one year's worth or three years' worth?

Answer: Budgets should reflect one year's worth of funding for services.

9. Is KDE expecting the districts to pay the entire salary for the coordinator from Title I? On page 4, number 7 it mentions that Title I funds can pay for the coordinator's salary.

Answer: Payment of the coordinator's salary must be proportionate to his/her responsibilities in the McKinney-Vento program.

10. The RFA states *[n]ot less than thirty-five (35) nor more than fifty (50) percent of amounts provided to local districts shall be used for related activities including expedited evaluations, professional development for school personnel, referrals for medical, dental, mental and other health services, transportation, before-and after-school care, and school supplies*. Must 35% the grant funds be used to provide these direct services (actually pay for evaluations, transportation, etc.) or can it pay a person's salary that would facilitate a homeless student receiving these services?

Answer: Not less than 35% or more than 50% of the grant can be used for direct service. It can pay for a designee to facilitate these services.

11. The grant application states *[n]ot less than fifty (50) percent of amounts provided under a grant to local districts shall be used to provide primary services of tutoring, remedial education services, or other education services to homeless children or homeless youths*. How do you define primary services?

Answer: Primary services include tutoring, remedial education services, or other education services to homeless children or homeless youths. KDE cannot provide a more specific definition or example.

12. Must the grant funds be used to directly pay the person who is providing the tutoring or remedial education services?

Answer: Not necessarily, if services are available from other sources.

13. If a project coordinator facilitates provision of educational services (50% of the job) and facilitates support services (35-50% of the job), can the grant pay the salary and fringe benefits for the coordinator?

Answer: The coordinator's salary and fringe benefits are allowable costs.