

## 9/6/18 Webinar - Questions Answered

On Thursday, September 6, 2018, John Burton Advocates for Youth hosted a web seminar, “Homeless Emergency Aid Program: California’s Newest Strategy to Address Youth Homelessness.” This document includes questions that were submitted by attendees and answered by panelists during the web seminar.

Download the webinar slides [HERE](#)

Listen & watch the presentation [HERE](#)

For more information on the Homeless Emergency Aid Program, visit the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council’s [HEAP webpage](#), or John Burton Advocates for Youth’s [HEAP webpage](#) focused on the 5% minimum youth set-aside.

### **GENERAL HEAP FUNDING**

**Q: Can HEAP funds be used for emergency housing (i.e. Hotel Vouchers)? What about one-time costs, such as move-in fees or furniture?**

**A:** Yes. Anything that can be directly linked to providing assistance to individuals or families who are homeless is an eligible use.

**Q: Can HEAP funding be paired with existing funding streams to expand existing projects that address youth homelessness?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Can HEAP funding be used for homeless youth food insecurities and other basic needs provision?**

**A:** Yes. If your area’s COC determines that basic needs provision such as food is a priority for serving the homeless population in your area, strategies to address food insecurity may be funded through HEAP.

**Q: How much funding is available in the first funding round versus the second funding round?**

**A:** That is currently unknown. Round two will consist of the funding that has not been allocated in Round 1. We recommend applying in Round 1.

### **THE 5% MINIMUM SET-ASIDE TO ADDRESS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS**

**Q: Is the youth set-aside intended for youth under age 18? What is the age bracket for the 5% minimum of HEAP funding allotted to address youth homelessness?**

**A:** Yes, the definition of “homeless youth” includes youth under age 18, as long as they are unaccompanied.

Senate Bill 850 requires that a minimum of 5% of the administrative entity's total allocation be used to establish or expand services meeting the needs of homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness. There is no definition of "at risk of homelessness" included or referenced in the legislation. However, the definition of homelessness referenced in SB 850 includes homeless youth. Under this definition, homelessness means:

- (3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
  - (i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act ( 42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act ( 42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 ( 42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act ( 42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 ( 7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 ( 42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ( 42 U.S.C. 11434a);
  - (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
  - (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities; chronic physical health or mental health conditions; substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment

**Q: What about youth experiencing homelessness with their parents or families?**

**A:** The minimum 5% of HEAP funding to be used for youth experiencing homelessness is to be directed toward unaccompanied youth, and those included in the definition outlined above. Funding for family homelessness is also an eligible use of HEAP funding but is different than funding for services directed towards unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.

**ACCESSING FUNDS**

**Q: Can you clarify who can apply for the funding? Does the application have to come from a city department? Where do you find the application?**

**A:** Funding will be allocated to the Continuum of Care (CoC) at the local level. The entities that apply for HEAP funding, CoCs, manage and oversee the use of funding from HUD. In some communities, CoCs take the form of a non-profit organization, a city office, or a county department. The organization and processes of these entities look slightly different across the state's 43 CoCs. Find the contact information for your local CoC here: <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/AE-CoC-List.pdf>.

**Q: As a community college, we are interested in supporting our students experiencing homelessness. How can HEAP funding help me do this?**

**A:** Contact your local Continuum of Care and ask how much funding their HEAP application earmarks for youth homelessness. Ask about providers they are engaging in your community that serve homeless youth. Contact those providers to discuss referral processes and partnership so that homeless students can access services and housing provided under HEAP.

**Q: As a provider, I want to access HEAP funding but am not currently involved in my area's Continuum of Care. What do I do?**

**A:** Follow this link to find contact information for your local CoC and ask about their planning process or upcoming input meetings. <http://www.jbaforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/AE-CoC-List.pdf>.

### **COLLEGE-FOCUSED RAPID REHOUSING**

**Q: What is College Focused Rapid Rehousing?**

**A:** In addition to the main elements that scaffold the Rapid Rehousing Model (i.e. housing location and landlord recruitment, rental subsidies, case management and a housing first approach), College-Focused Rapid Rehousing implements flexible time limits for college students, Peer Navigators conducting outreach on campus, academic case management and strong college partnerships to ensure that students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity are given the support they need to graduate and move out of homelessness. Jovenes, Inc. is successfully instituting this model across Southeastern Los Angeles. More information about their services is available here: <http://www.jovenesinc.org/college-housing/>