



Homeless Children's Education Fund Homeless Education Network (HEN) Collaborative Impact Grant APPLICATION – 2026

The **HEN Collaborative Impact Grant** is a **\$15,000 grant**, awarded annually to an agency seeking to develop or expand upon an educational project that meets the needs of students experiencing homelessness as [defined by the McKinney Vento Act](#) (i.e. including those living doubled up, couch surfing, etc.). HCEF accepts and reviews applications for the annual award starting in February, until the **application deadline on Friday, April 3, 2026**. For the 2026 grant cycle, eligible applicants must:

- Actively participate in HCEF's Homeless Education Network (HEN), or be willing to commit to active participation in the coming year;
- Have an annual operating budget under \$2 million as of their most recent fiscal year;
- Include a plan to collaborate or build partnership with another agency or group.

HCEF will review all applications received by the application deadline, then notify the recipient of the grant **on May 1, 2026**. HCEF will **present the check to the awardee at our bi-annual gala, taking place this year on June 13, 2026 at the Westin in downtown Pittsburgh**. Awardee should appropriately acknowledge HCEF in any public announcements, press, or promotional materials related to the project, digital or physical.

The grant period is one year. Awardee must spend all funds and **submit a final report to HCEF by June 1, 2027**.

Examples of projects that can be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Programming
 - Host or run educational programming
 - Efforts to improve school attendance, whether through incentives, prioritization of before or after school care, or emergency transportation support
 - Targeted mental health services
 - Outreach, systems navigation, and wraparound supports
- Capital Projects
 - Create a basic needs pantry at your school or agency
 - Develop or update a learning space at a shelter facility

Funding may benefit other students in addition to those experiencing homelessness, but **applicants will be evaluated based solely on their project's impact on students experiencing homelessness**, not impact to other students. As unstably housed students are often left behind or

To apply, please email this completed application form as a PDF attachment to bknight@homelesfund.org.

Agency Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Cell _____

Name of Staff Person Supervising Grant _____

Title _____ Email _____

Name of Other Contact Person, if Applicable _____

Title _____ Email _____

If needed, feel free to answer questions in a separate document, but **please use no more than 200 words to answer each question**. Also, with the exception of question 1, **all answers should focus on what you will accomplish with only this specific \$15,000 and only for students experiencing homelessness**. For example, under Expected Participation (question 8), don't include your organization's total number of students served; only count students both (1) served by materials or programs funded by this grant and (2) experiencing homelessness. If you plan to use funding to supplement/expand existing organizational activities, please focus answers on the value-added from this grant.

1. **Organization info:** Briefly describe your organization's mission and current activities/programs. Please include some basic info about organizational size/scope/reach.

2. **Project Name:**

3. **Statement of Problem:** Please summarize the overarching issue affecting students experiencing homelessness that your organization will attempt to address through this grant. (Be specific; reviewers will be familiar with general educational challenges associated with homelessness.)

4. **Project Goals:** Please describe what you hope to accomplish with your proposed project. What are your anticipated outcomes?

5. **Community Collaboration:** Describe how the proposed project would incorporate a collaborative effort between your agency and one or more other agencies. What new opportunities to remove barriers across systems will this project create? Projects that substantially deepen existing relationships or create new/innovative partnerships will receive priority.

a. **Letter of Support:** Include a letter of support from at least one outside agency who will collaborate with you on this project. This letter should demonstrate that the partner understands the specific initiative you describe here and is committed to participating actively.

6. **Strategy/implementation:** Describe the strategies and actions that your organization will undertake to achieve these goals. Please include information about personnel who will oversee the project, timelines, and sustainability (will this project continue after the grant period?).

7. **Evaluation Plan:** How will you measure and document the success of this project? Your outcomes should reflect the goals established in question #4 above.

8. **Expected Participation:** Estimate the unduplicated number of children, youth and/or parents experiencing homelessness to be served by this project. If your project will serve stably housed students as well, do not include those students in this estimate.

- ___ Children age 0-4 (pre-school)
- ___ Children age 5-11 (elementary)
- ___ Children age 12-14 (middle school)
- ___ Youth age 15-18 (high school)
- ___ Youth age 18-24 (young adult)
- ___ Caregivers

9. **Proposed Budget:** Please provide a budget showing how you plan to allocate the requested funds. *Modifications of the budget should be communicated to HCEF as soon as possible.*

Authorized Signatures:

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Organization's Chief Executive Officer

Date

HCEF use only

Received By _____ **Date** _____

