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## **Serving Homeless Children and Youth**

May 2013 Technical Assistance Alert

Serving homeless children and youth has long been an integral part of the Title I, Part A program. All LEAs have been required to set aside funds to provide Title I services to homeless students in non-Title I schools as well as educationally related services to all homeless children in the LEA. With the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, LEAs received a new authority to use Title I, Part A funds to pay for services not ordinarily provided to other students to allow homeless students to fully access the curriculum. This includes paying for the services of a homeless liaison and for transportation to and from the school of origin for homeless students. For transportation, the costs that may be charged to Title I are the incremental costs to transport a homeless child or youth to his or her school of origin that are above what the LEA would otherwise provide to transport the student to his or her assigned school.

This new authority starts July 1, 2014 (our FY 15) and LEAs may use FY 15 funds as well as any funds the LEA is carrying forward from FY14. Please keep in mind that while the Title I reservation is mandatory, these new provisions are optional.

Schools must enroll homeless students, arrange for transportation to and from their school of origin if practicable, and if needed, provide Title I services to homeless students in non-Title I schools. It is the LEA's option if they choose to use Title I funds to pay for a homeless liaison or the above described transportation costs.

If a LEA wishes to use the new authority, please include those costs in the *Title I Worksheet* in the Consolidated Federal Programs Application in the *Services to Homeless Students* line. In the *Investments* section, the LEA must have separate investments – one for the mandatory reservation and then one or more for a liaison and transportation.