

Info Session



Head Start Referral App for Children Experiencing Homelessness



A woman with dark hair, wearing a pink jacket, is sitting on the floor and reading a book to a young child with blonde hair. The child is wearing a white shirt and blue pants. They are in a classroom setting with a wooden floor. There are various toys and books around them, including a green book with a squirrel illustration, a yellow book with a dog illustration, and a wooden bowl. The text "In this Webinar :" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

In this Webinar :

- **Overview & Purpose** of the App
- **When** to Use the App
- **How** to Use the App
- Participating in the **Pilot**
- **Questions & Contacts**

10%

of children experiencing homelessness are enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start, or MV-funded early childhood programs.

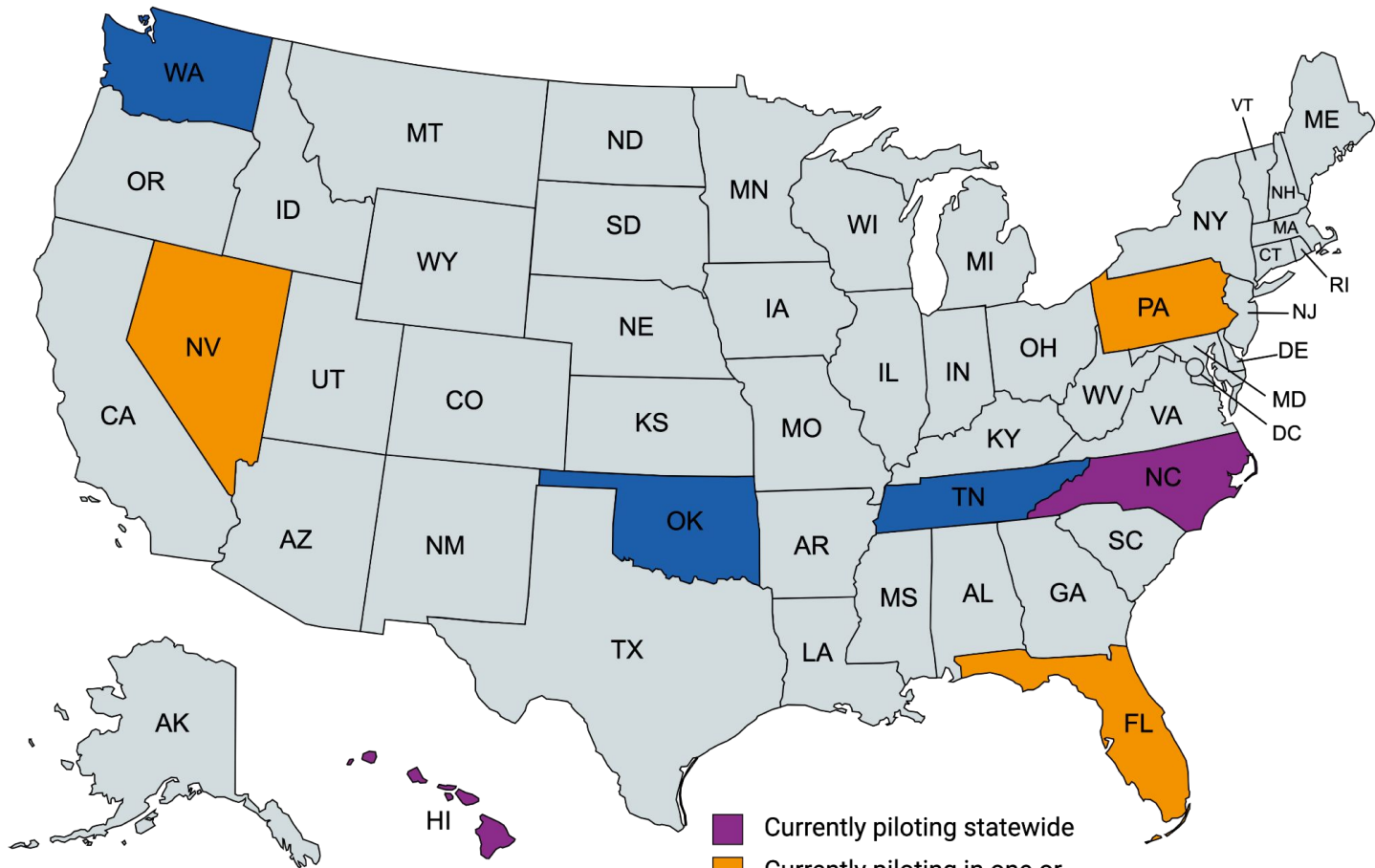
Overview & Purpose of the App

- Low enrollment rates of children experiencing homelessness
- Mechanism for referral BY LEA liaisons TO Head Start programs

When to Use the App



Olivia is a third grader at Cherry Blossom Elementary School who is eligible for McKinney-Vento services because her family is doubled-up at a friend's home. As the liaison is explaining information about McKinney-Vento to Olivia's parent, the liaison learns that Olivia has a four-year old brother, Marcus. The liaison asks if Marcus is enrolled in a preschool program like Head Start, but he is not. The liaison explains the benefits and importance of enrolling in Head Start, and asks if they can create a referral for Marcus to the Head Start program.



- Currently piloting statewide
- Currently piloting in one or more districts
- Will begin piloting in Fall 2022

How to Use the App

Step 1: Go to

<https://www.mvcertify.org/>

Step 2: Click the “Login” tab

Username: your email address

Password: MVProject2020!



There are approximately 1.4 million children under the age of six who experience homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Act requires LEAs to designate a homeless education liaisons, whose role is to “ensure that...homeless families and homeless children and youths have access to and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs)...” The law also requires liaisons to “ensure that... homeless families and homeless children and youths receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services....” 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A). Based on this statutory mandate, liaisons should refer families with eligible children to Head Start as a means to ensure they receive those services.

Having a LEA designate a child as homeless opens up an array of services to them that require no further documentation. This goal of this app in to both facilitate and streamline this referral process.



Participating in the Pilot



Pre-Launch

- Email list of each K12 liaison and each Head Start program contact who will be using the app
(if you do not know your K12 liaison or Head Start program counterpart, we can help!)
- Joint training for both K12 liaisons and Head Start programs
- Determine a firm launch date



Post-Launch

- **Check-ins throughout the school year** (once per quarter) to assess how the app is operating, answer questions that arise, and make any necessary adjustments.
- An **end-of-year analysis** and feedback session.
- Ad hoc **troubleshooting and consultation** calls with the NHSA and SHC teams

Questions?

View the [Head Start Referral App Info Sheet and FAQs](#)

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