

McKinney-Vento Identification

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Agenda

- Program Purpose & Definitions
- Types of Homelessness
- Local Liaison Responsibilities
- McKinney-Vento Identification
- Monitoring
- Program Updates, Questions, & Resources





Program Purpose & Definitions Under McKinney-Vento



Purpose of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

- The purpose of the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) Program is to ensure that each homeless child or youth **has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education**, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

42 U.S.C.A. § 11431

Defining Homelessness

- Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**:
 - sharing the housing of other persons;
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals;
 - living in a public or private place not designed for regular sleeping accommodation;
 - living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - who are migratory children living in the above circumstances.

Key Definitions

- **Fixed**: stationary, permanent, not subject to change
- **Regular**: used on a nightly basis
- **Adequate**: sufficient for meeting the physical, psychological, and safety needs typically met in a home environment

Eligibility Questions to Ask

- Why did the family or youth move in with another family?
- Is this a long-term arrangement?
- Is it a situation of mutual benefit or convenience to both parties or was it precipitated by a crisis?
- Where would the doubled-up family or youth live if unable to stay with the host family or friend?



Process for Determining Eligibility

- Establish an LEA protocol incorporating the principles of determining a student's living arrangement.
- Gather as much information about the family's or youth's living situation as can be accomplished reasonably and lawfully.
- Analyze the information.
 - Determine if the living situation fits one of the specific living situations in the definition.
 - If not, use “fixed, regular, and adequate” as guiding principles.
- Make a determination.
 - If unsure, discuss the situation with your support team.
 - Speak with the State McKinney-Vento Coordinator.



Best Practices to Determine Eligibility

- Re-evaluate prior homeless situations before the beginning of each school year
- After each move, the liaison should determine:
 1. Whether the new living situation meets the MV criteria for homeless; and if so,
 2. If it is still in the student's best interest to remain in the school of origin.
- No limit on how long a student can be eligible
- Temporary situations often become permanent over time

Types of Homelessness

Hidden Homelessness

- Hidden homelessness refers to individuals or families who do not have a permanent place to live but are not visibly living on the streets or in shelters.
- Instead, they may temporarily stay with friends or family (doubled-up) or live in inadequate and overcrowded conditions.

Sheltered Homelessness

- Sheltered Homelessness refers to individuals or families that seek refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other temporary housing facilities provided by organizations or other government agencies.
- These shelters may offer a safe place to sleep, access to basic amenities, and support services such as counseling or job training.
- Sheltered homelessness, however, is still temporary and often involves rotating between different shelters.

Unsheltered Homelessness

- Unsheltered homelessness is when individuals or families do not have access to emergency shelters or any form of stable housing.
- They live on the streets or in parks, abandoned buildings, or makeshift encampments.
- People experiencing unsheltered homelessness face numerous challenges, including exposure to the elements, lack of sanitation facilities, and increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

Episodic Homelessness

- Episodic homelessness refers to individuals who experience multiple episodes of homelessness but have periods of stable housing in between.
- Factors such as unemployment, mental health challenges, or substance abuse may contribute to these recurring cycles.

Chronic Homelessness

- Chronic homelessness involves individuals who experiencing long-term or repeated episodes of homelessness, often for extended periods (typically more than a year), and who frequently have complex health issues or disabilities.
- These individuals may face significant barriers to obtaining and maintain stable housing.

Employment and Homelessness

- People experiencing homelessness want to work and many do, according to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).
- As many as 40-60 percent of people experiencing homelessness have a job, but housing is unaffordable because wages have not kept up with rising rents.
- There is no county or state where a full-time minimum -wage worker can afford a modest apartment.
- At minimum wage, people need to work 86 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom apartment.

Source: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



Local Homeless Liaison Responsibilities

Local Liaisons

- Every LEA must designate an appropriate staff person to serve as the local homeless education liaison (42 USC § 11432 (g)(1)(J)(ii)).
 - This person may be the coordinator for other federal programs.
- Local liaisons serve as the key homeless education contact for the LEA and play a critical role in the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act.

Local Homeless Liaisons

- Required in every LEA
- Responsibilities include:
 - Determine McKinney-Vento Eligibility
 - Work with others in the district and community to identify students
 - Assist families and unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) with enrollment and school selection decisions
 - Ensure parents and UHY are informed about services, including transportation to the school of origin.

McKinney-Vento Identification

Identifying Students

- Identification is the first step to connecting students in homeless situations with the support necessary to ensure their equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as is provided to other children and youth.
- When identifying eligible students, it is important to remember:
 - circumstances vary from family to family,
 - students experiencing homelessness do not all look the same, and
 - students experiencing homelessness do not all have the same behavior patterns.

Housing Questionnaire

- **Every** student gets one **every** year.
 - Include in the LEA enrollment packet or online enrollment process.
 - Must be translated to any other languages frequently used in your LEA.
 - Designate someone at each school to process forms.
 - Forward to the district homeless liaison or to the designated point of contact.

Immediate Enrollment

- LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students, including barriers related to outstanding fees, fines, or absences (42 USC § 11432 (g)(1)(I)).
- Enrollment is defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities” (42 USC § 11434a (1)).
 - Includes Removing Barriers to Extracurricular Activities, Before and After-school Programs.
- Homeless children and youth have the right to enroll in school **immediately, even if lacking documentation normally required for enrollment** (42 USC § 11432(g)(3)(C)).

Enrollment

- Local homeless liaisons must assist in obtaining needed immunizations, required health records, and screenings.
- The student must be allowed to enroll while the needed documentation is gathered.
- The McKinney-Vento Act supersedes state or local law or policy when there is a conflict (U.S. Constitution, Article VI).

Right to Privacy

- Schools must treat information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation as a student education record, which is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- LEAs must obtain prior written consent from the parent or eligible student in order to disclose any information from a student's educational record.

Monitoring

IX, Part A Education for Homeless Children & Youth

- LEA-level McKinney-Vento Dispute Resolution
 - Missing key pieces of the dispute process
 - Does not align with SEA
 - Not on LEA letterhead
- Homeless Education Rights Posters
 - Missing contact information
- McKinney-Vento Training
 - Lack of proof
 - sign-in sheets with name & role in LEA
 - date
 - title of meeting



Program Updates, Questions & Resources

National Center for Homeless Education

- As announced during our National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) Updates.
 - Team Safal (Safal Partners, ICF, and Pearl Strategies) is now managing NCHE.
- The NCHE Helpline is operational, fully staffed, and ready to support you. Note the updated phone number and email address below.
 - **Phone:** + 1 (305) 306-8495
 - **Email:** NCHE.helpline@safalpartners.com
 - **Hours:** 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM ET, Monday-Friday

Resources

- [U.S. Department of Education \(ED\): McKinney-Vento Law and Guidance](#)
- [Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)
- [ePlan > TDOE Resources](#) > ESSA Information, Guidance, PPTs, & Webinars > Title IX, Part A Education for Homeless Children & Youth > McKinney-Vento Toolkit and Resources 2021
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\):](#)
 - [NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit](#)

Please Share your Feedback:

- You may access the PD by navigating here:
- <https://forms.office.com/r/eVtWEAZ9xZ>





Thank You!

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