Partnerships that Connect Child Care and Head Start with McKinney-Vento Liaisons and the Public Schools

[Webinar] Wednesday, October 9, 2019 1:00 - 2:15 PM ET

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Webinar Logistics

- Enter your questions in the questions pane and send to All.

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2. Score at least 80%.

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Overview

- Welcome, introductions, polls
- Review of key policies and regulatory expectations for collaboration
- Summary of available data regarding access to early childhood programs
- **Provide examples of implementation:**
  - Children and Youth Subcommittee - rural North Carolina
  - Child Care Resource Navigation - Child Care Resources, Washington
  - Early Childhood Work Group - BELL Project - Philadelphia
- Questions, discussion, wrap-up, post test, evaluation
Today’s Learning Objectives

- To increase awareness of the key policy and regulatory requirements for child care, Head Start, school districts and housing to work together to identify and enroll young children experiencing homelessness into quality early childhood programs.

- To increase knowledge of the data indicating young children experiencing homelessness are underserved in early childhood programs despite their higher need for quality early childhood experiences.

- To enhance understanding of model practices that offer strategies to strengthen collaboration and capacity through community partnerships and key partners to engage in this effort.
Poll #1

Which best describes your role?

- McKinney-Vento coordinator/liaison
- School social worker/counselor/nurse
- Housing/homeless service provider
- Early care and education, Head Start or pre-K
- Other role not included above
Poll #2

Which age group does your work typically focuses on? (check all that apply)

- Infants, toddlers and preschoolers (0-5 years)
- School-aged children (6-13 years)
- High school-aged/teen parents (14-18 years)
- Parenting youth (19-24 years)
- Adults (25 years and older)
Poll #3

What best describes your understanding of policies and regulatory expectations related to collaborating with other agencies in your community to identify and enroll young children in quality early childhood programs?

- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not at all familiar
- Don’t know/unsure
About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website: [http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Education Leads Home: A National Campaign Building Stronger Futures for Homeless Students

1. Young children will participate in quality early childhood programs at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.

2. A 90 percent high school graduation rate among homeless students by 2030.

3. A 60 percent post-secondary attainment rate by 2034.

www.educationleadshome.org
Quick Review

Review of key education, early childhood and housing policy and regulatory expectations for collaboration

Grace Whitney,
SchoolHouse Connection
Understanding Definitions of ‘Homeless’

- McKinney-Vento Act
  - Housing subtitle – HUD definition
  - Education subtitle – McKinney-Vento definition
- Must know which definition to use when determining eligibility for benefits and services
- Must know which definition to use when collecting and reporting data to understand the challenges homelessness creates for children, families and service systems
Fixed, Regular, and Adequate

**Fixed:** Securely placed; not subject to change or fluctuation

- A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.

**Regular:** Normal, standard

- A regular residence is one which is used on a regular (i.e. nightly) basis.

**Adequate:** Sufficient for a specific requirement; lawfully and reasonably sufficient

- An adequate residence is one that is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.
Recent Major Policy Enhancements Impacting Early Childhood (2016)

#1 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
*Mckinney-Vento includes preschool (0-5)

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/k-12/

#2 Head Start Program Performance Standards
*May reserve up to 3% of funded capacity

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/early-childhood/

#3 Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule
*Increases alignment with other ECE policy

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/early-childhood/
## Preschool, Head Start, and Child Care Policies for Children Experiencing Homelessness *updated October 4, 2016*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicability</th>
<th>Preschool: Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act</th>
<th>The Head Start Act and the Head Start Program Performance Standards</th>
<th>Child Care and Development Block Grant Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reauthorized in 2015</td>
<td>The Head Start Act was Reauthorized in 2007</td>
<td>Authorizes the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-regulatory guidance published July 2016</td>
<td>The Head Start Program was Reauthorized in 2007</td>
<td>Reauthorized in 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administered by the <strong>U.S. Department of Education</strong></td>
<td>Regulations (Head Start Program Performance Standards) published September 2016</td>
<td>Regulations published September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Administered by the <strong>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</strong></td>
<td>Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applies to all local educational agencies (LEAs), including LEAs that do not receive McKinney-Vento subgrant funding. 81 Fed. Reg. 14432 (March 3, 2016).

The McKinney-Vento Act’s preschool provisions apply to all LEA-administered preschool programs, including Head Start programs that are administered by LEAs. 2016 Guidance, N-4.

Applies to Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships Programs. §1302.1.

Applies to all states that receive CCDF funds via the state’s Lead Agency and all child care providers/programs funded by CCDF. §98.13(b)(1).

Requires Lead Agencies to + ensure subsidy priority for homeless families + training/technical assistance + outreach activities

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*https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/preschool_head_start_and_child_care_policies_for_children.pdf*
Early Childhood Policy Alignment to Address Barriers to Access

Addressing barriers to access by:

- Providing **grace period** for submitting documentation
- Providing multiple ways of supplying **verification** of homeless status
- **Prioritizing** children meeting homeless status eligibility
- **Designating capacity** for children who meet homeless status eligibility, e.g., reserving slots, designating percentage, contracts
- **Waiving/adapting eligibility requirements**, e.g., copays, work/school requirements
- Providing staff training
Early Childhood Policy Alignment to Address Barriers to Participation

Addressing barriers to access by:

- Assuring continuity of care
  - extending eligibility past 1 year
  - maintaining “school of origin”, assisting with transportation
- Planned transition when in the best interest of the child
  - eligibility follows the child
Early Childhood Policy Alignment to Address Barriers to Participation

School district liaisons are required to:

- participate on housing Continuums of Care
- refer to Head Start

Head Start programs are required to:

- establish MOUs with school districts
- collaborate with community providers including housing providers

Housing Continuums of Care are required to:

- include school district liaisons as members

*All are required to collect and share data.*
What does the available data tell us about the participation of young children experiencing homelessness in early childhood programs?
Why is early childhood a topic of discussion when addressing homelessness?

Using the narrower HUD definition, shelter & census data indicate that young children are disproportionately impacted.

Source: Beth Shinn, Professor and Chair, Department of Human and Organizational Development; Vanderbilt University
### US DHHS and US DOE 50-State Profiles – National Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent of children experiencing homelessness served by Head Start</th>
<th>Percent of children experiencing homelessness served by McKinney-Vento</th>
<th>Percent of children experiencing homelessness unserved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>( Combined 8.0% )</td>
<td></td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: CCDF child care currently beginning to collect and report data.*
What the data tells us:

- **Using the narrower HUD definition**, shelter & census data indicate young children are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
- ACF and DOE data indicate that young children experiencing homelessness are **under-enrolled in quality early childhood programs**.
- Data demonstrate the need for increasing access to quality early childhood programs for young children experiencing homelessness.
- **Identification is a factor** – using the correct definition in Head Start, and now CCDF child care:
  - Under-identification, misinformation, confusion over definition.
Systemic Barriers to Accessing Early Childhood Programs

- System confusing for parents, other providers
- Eligibility, enrollment requirements vary (records, health forms, proof of residency/guardianship, application process, due dates)
- Limited capacity, wait lists, hours available
- Mobility, instability

- Poor health, fatigue, hunger, trauma, adversity, stress
- Developmental delays, behavior (toilet training)
- Prejudice and misunderstanding
- Lack of clean clothing, diapers, etc.
- Cost, copays
- Transportation
Poll #4

Which best describes your community regarding identifying and enrolling young children experiencing homelessness?

- we tend to work separately
- early childhood and schools work together
- early childhood and housing work together
- schools and housing work together
- all sectors actively partner, use formal agreements
Partnership Models

● Through partnerships involving McKinney-Vento liaisons and local school districts, housing Continuums of Care and providers, Head Start and CCDF subsidized child care, the aim is to identify young children experiencing homelessness and enroll them into high quality early childhood programs.

● The model practices that will be shared demonstrate a range of strategies that can be used to strengthen collaboration among key community partners to increase enrollment and capacity to serve this population of young children and families.
Partnership Models

Presenters will:

- describe how they are connecting systems and changing their practices to increase enrollment of young children experiencing homelessness in early childhood programs offering quality child care and Head Start services

- describe their efforts from their positions within a local school districts, a child care resource and referral, and housing provider to increase connect families with quality child care and Head Start providers to ensure timely access and full participation

These partnerships result in sustainable systems that support families.
Children and Youth Subcommittee in Rural North Carolina

- School Social Worker and McKinney-Vento Liaison for Transylvania County Schools, 2007 - present.
- Transylvania County is a rural county in Western NC.
- Population 33,956
- Total Enrollment in TCS: 3,427
- Free/Reduced Lunch: 55%

Beth Branagan, BASW
School Social Worker and Homeless Education Liaison, Transylvania County Schools, Brevard, North Carolina
Region 2 - NCCEH
Balance of State CoC Regional Committees
Region 2 - NCCEH

The Southern Mountains Regional Committee

(Transylvania, Henderson, Rutherford, and Polk)

- Meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month
- Approximately 30 regular attending members from schools, mental health, housing programs, job programs, shelters, veterans organizations
- Responsible for implementing the COC’s initiatives locally
- Children, Youth, and Family Homelessness was often overlooked
Children and Youth Subcommittee

- **October 2018**: First conference call with SHC, NCCEH
- **April 2019**: Launch Event - “Forum on Family Homelessness”
- **May 2019**: First Meeting of the Children and Youth Subcommittee
Family Forum on Homelessness

- Approximately **50 attendees** with representatives from all 4 counties who work with children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.
- Introductions, Connections, Networking!
- Identified strong collaborations, Identified Gaps, and developed the start of an Action Plan.
We have a name!

Children/Youth Homeless Action Coalition (CHAC)

Goals:

- Meetings held every other month
- Members rotate hosting the meeting
- Host provides presentation about their agency’s programs/services
- Invite speaker to every meeting
- Inform the regional coalition of our work/findings/advocate for children and families
We have a name!

Children/Youth Homeless Action Coalition (CHAC)

Goals:

- Grow the Subcommittee (Ensure Child Care Subsidy program staff are at the table)
- Create a Resource Directory of programs/services in our 4-county region
- Host/Co-Host a Regional Resource Fair for families (Planning for January)
- Ensure our work is advertised on news media/social media outlets
- Continue to refine/develop our goals
- Give Children/Youth/Families a Voice!
North Carolina CCDF Targeted Outreach

Establish a structure: Children and Youth Subcommittee for rural BOS Regions and urban Continuums of Care.

Builds on existing structures and fulfills the need for formal CoC and LEA collaboration and coordination.

Creates capacity for connecting early childhood sectors and resources for broader representation on the CoCs and Regional Committees.

Serves as a venue for policy alignment, overcoming barriers for families and service fragmentation, resource sharing, etc.
Child Care Resource & Referral Outreach

Child Care Resource Navigation for Families Experiencing Homeless

Katherine Kaiser, MPA
Program Manager, Homeless Child Care Subsidy Program
Child Care Resources, Seattle, WA
Child Care Resources

- Child Care Resource and Referral for King & Pierce Counties in Washington State
- Operate the statewide Child Care Aware of Washington Family Call Center
- **Mission:** to improve all children’s access to high quality early learning experiences by engaging families, caregivers, and communities. Embedded in CCR’s daily work is identifying and addressing racism so that all children can thrive in their early learning environments.
CCR’s Homeless Child Care Subsidy Program

- For 15 years, CCR has operated a Homeless Child Care Program, helping children experiencing homelessness to access and maintain high quality early learning opportunities.
- Includes:
  - Customized service coordination and short-term child care subsidy for families experiencing homelessness
  - Public subsidy eligibility navigation and application assistance
  - Outreach efforts to identify families in need
  - Technical assistance and support for child care providers taking homeless children into their care.
Homeless Grace Period for the state Child Care Subsidy

Before July 2017

• Child care $$ for homeless families administered regionally (including CCR)
• 600-700 children per year, max 120 days
• Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy requires parents to participate in approved activities

After July 2017

• Homeless child care $$ are incorporated into WCCC
• Homeless Grace Period = 120 days of care w/o approved activity
• 864 families and their children served in first year
• State contracts with CCR to provide navigation services
Child care navigation services for families experiencing homelessness

- Universal screening question in the Call Center
- Eligibility consultations
- State subsidy application guidance
- Regionally specific resources & referrals, including McKinney Vento Liaisons
- Follow – up support at 30 days and 120 days
- 1160 children from 690 families served in FY 2019
Recommendations to WA Department Children Youth and Families

- Add universal screening question for all WCCC applicants
- Increase Homeless Grace Period to 12-months
- Change the mode of communication for families experiencing homelessness
Early Childhood Work Group & The BELL Project

Building Early Links for Learning (BELL) - Promoting developmental friendliness and quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) for families experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia

Joe Willard, MS
Vice President of Policy
People’s Emergency Center
Philadelphia, PA
**Mission**

PEC community development programs respond to community needs and build on neighborhood assets to help bridge the digital divide, expand mixed-income housing opportunities, stimulate economic growth, create wealth, and improve the quality of life for all West Philadelphia residents.
2,500 children ages 0-5 years are in shelter or unsheltered (doubled up) in Philadelphia each year.
**Opportunity!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY20</th>
<th>FY21</th>
<th>FY22</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHLpreK Slots</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Head Start Slots 2016-17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Slots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,524</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected # Eligible in FY 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18,702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated # 'Drops' per month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed New funding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* Gov Wolf = $30M for PreK, $10M Head Start, $23M for CCIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal CCDF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 9th CR increases funding by approximately $5.8 billion over two years (FY 2018-2019)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Served by 18 agencies funded in the city
Emergency housing
Transitional housing
# children & age highly variable by programs.

Map from Cutuli & Carvalho Pereira, 2016
Bell Goals
*Jan. 1, 2018 - Dec. 31, 2020

- Increase the enrollment of children ages 0-5 years experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia into high quality early childhood education programs
- Increase the developmental friendliness of Emergency (EH) and Transitional Housing (TH)

Bell Objectives

- Increase developmental sensitivity and cross system understanding through
  - Workshops
  - Self-assessments
- Data collection and analysis
- Community Advisory Board
- Advocacy
Impact Sought

- Increase number of infant, toddler, and pre-school children in quality ECE programs (i.e., > 242 in HS)
- Head Start, Star 3-4 Child Care, PreK, Early Intervention) for families in EH/TH greater than 30 days
- Year 1 – at least 50% of 3-4 year olds
Resources, Discussion, Questions
Data Resources

Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile January 2016

Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile June 2017

Early Childhood Homelessness – State Profiles 2018

Early Childhood Homelessness – State Profiles 2019
Data Resources

Out of the Shadows: A State-by-State Ranking of Accountability for Homeless Students

http://www.icphusa.org/national/shadows-state-state-ranking-accountability-homeless-students/

The United States of Homelessness – Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness

https://www.icphusa.org/interactive_data/the-united-states-of-homelessness/
Resources

*US DHHS Administration for Children and Families

ACF Early Childhood Development Expanding Early Care and Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children

HHS-HUD-ED Early Childhood Homelessness Policy Statement

Well-being of Young Children after Experiencing Homelessness
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/homeless-families-research-briefs
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Link to post-test: https://forms.gle/.czxHSdvLRYkjW1Ph6
**Contact Information**

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See you at NAEHGY’s 31st Annual Conference!

November 2-5 \ Washington, DC

5 Sessions:
- What’s Hot on the Hill(s): Federal and State Policy Advocacy
- Education Leads Home: A National Campaign on Student Homelessness
- Lessons of College Liaisons: Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness
- NC’s Focus on Access to Quality Child Care for Children Experiencing Homelessness
- Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles