Virtual Conversation #4 with SHC on COVID-19: Questions, Strategies, Information

Thursday, April 9, 4-5PM Eastern
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)
- Facebook Group: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/SchoolHouseConnection/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SchoolHouseConnection/)
- Newsletter: [https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/](https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/)
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Housekeeping

HAVE A QUESTION?

This webinar is for you. Enter your questions in the questions pane and click ‘Send’.

RECORDING & HANDOUTS

An archive of this webinar and all materials will be posted here.

This PowerPoint is available in your “Handouts” panel.

If you’ve signed up for this webinar, you will receive a link to the recording in an email after the webinar is over.
Today’s Agenda: Listen, Learn, Share

- Where to Find SHC Resources
- What’s New
- Facilitated conversation:
  - Outreach and communications
  - Health, Safety, Basic Needs
  - Access to Learning
  - Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
  - Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers
- Federal Legislative Update
- Resources links
As COVID-19 disrupts education, services and life across the country, children and youth experiencing homelessness are exceptionally vulnerable. This page offers resources to help meet their needs as we respond to this global crisis.

- FAQ on COVID-19 and Homelessness
- Five Ways to Protect Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19
- Checklist for Local Education Agencies and Early Childhood Providers
- Strategies for Schools and Early Learning Programs
- Higher Education Resource: COVID-19 Response for Youth Who Are Homeless or in Foster Care
- Upcoming Webinars
- Archived Webinars
- Policy Updates
- [Guest Perspective] Supporting Our Students Amidst the Unknown: Evolving Lessons During COVID-19
- News on COVID-19 and Homelessness
- Other Resources
What’s New?
This Week’s Updates
ED announced today (April 9) that it is making available over $6 billion to institutions of higher education for emergency financial aid grants, to be provided directly to students. Read the announcement.

This is 50% of the total amount of higher education emergency aid provided by the CARES Act Higher Education fund; the remainder goes to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction.

Emergency financial aid is for expenses related to disruptions to education due to COVID-19, including for course materials and technology, food, housing, health care, and childcare.

A list of distribution of CARES Act higher education funding, by institution, including the minimum allocation for emergency financial aid grants, is here.
New funding flexibility to allow funds from previous fiscal years to be spent over the next school year. Specifically, states can request waivers to allow LEAs to:

- Carry over more than 15 percent of their FY 2019 Title I, Part A funds into FY 2020 (to be used after September 30, 2020); and
- Extend the availability of FY 2018 Title I, Part A and McKinney-Vento funds until September 30, 2021. (This extension also applies to funds under: Title I, Part C; Title I, Part D; Title III, Part A; 21st Century; and several other ESEA programs.)
- States can submit ED’s waiver request form to take advantage of this new funding flexibility. ED expects to approve waiver requests within one business day of submission.
HUD Announcement: Thursday, April 2, 2020
First $1 Billion (of $3 Billion) in Emergency Solutions Grant

- CARES Act provided $4 billion in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
- Can be used for motel/hotels, emergency shelter, services.
- Includes “at risk of homelessness” for prevention activities. Per HUD, this term includes those defined as homeless by ED and HHS
- $1 billion went out last week under existing formula to current grantees.
- See HUD press release here, and CARES Act funding state and grantee allocations here
- Remaining amount to be allocated to states or local units of government by formula determined by Secretary.

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“Recovery Rebate” of $1,200 provided through the CARES Act is only available to individuals who cannot not be claimed as a deduction on someone else’s tax return (tax years 2018 and 2019)

- SHC is working on advocacy so all unaccompanied homeless youth, and all students considered independent on the FAFSA, can receive the benefit regardless of whether their parents claimed them on their taxes.
- **Strategy**: Work with unaccompanied youth to file 2019 taxes as soon as possible.
  - [Free tax return software](#) is available.
  - Unaccompanied homeless youth with no income can complete an [online registration](#) offered by TurboTax, in partnership with the IRS.
- **Coming Soon**: Tip sheet for unaccompanied youth, prepared by tax expert attorneys
New and Featured Resource

Five Ways to Protect Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19

Coming Soon From SHC:

FAFSA and College Transition Tips

Checklist for State Education Agencies
“Working with a McKinney-Vento Liaison in CA to get Chromebooks to two eligible students from my school district in WA State who are temporarily in CA. Want to make sure the students can access their online school activities in their Google Classrooms. Just when I think I’ve done and seen it all something new comes along. I love the way McKinney-Vento Liaisons from all over the country pull together to help students and families!”

- Leslie Camden Goold, Central Valley, WA
Facilitated conversation on known challenges/responses
Children and youth experiencing homelessness retain all educational rights under current federal law.

- Secretary is permitted to waive various sections of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act related to assessments, accountability, state plans, and allocation of funding.
- Secretary does not have the authority to waive:
  - McKinney-Vento Act requirements
  - Title I Part A reservation of funds for homeless students
  - Requirements to serve children/youth with disabilities who are homeless
  - Independent student status for unaccompanied youth on the FAFSA
Outreach, Identification, Communication

CHALLENGES

- McKinney-Vento students staying outside of school district.
- Maintaining contact with M-V students, including Unaccompanied Youth.
- Identifying families and youth who become homeless after schools closed.

STRATEGIES

- Coordinating with area liaisons to get resources to MV students living in their attendance areas (resource lists)
- Pre-paid cell phones
- Coordinated outreach to families, students, campgrounds, motels
Health, Safety, Basic Needs

CHALLENGES

- Access to temporary housing for self-isolation/recovery/safety
- Food: access, delivery
- Access to hygiene and health services
- Providing food and materials safely

STRATEGIES

- Motel vouchers, RVs, dorms
- Gift cards
- Repurposing bus drivers for delivery of items
- Community foundations, faith-based supports, businesses
- Leaving items outside doors, in bins

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Inspiration from Our Inbox (or Facebook, or Webinars)

“We are starting to resume providing showers and laundry. We are actually putting a staff member in the local laundromat to pump money into machines for homeless families!”

- Sara Woolverton, Granite Falls
Challenges & Responses
E-Learning

CHALLENGES

- Mobile hotspots
- Devices (laptops, tablets, phones)
- Minutes for phone use
- Places to charge devices
- Stable environment conducive to learning

STRATEGIES

- Spectrum internet
- Comcast offer
- Xfinity offer
- Cox offer
- Wifi in school parking lots and on school buses
- Donations to cover insurance on devices
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

CHALLENGES
- Isolation
- FAFSA determinations
- Consent to health care for minors

STRATEGIES
- Regular check-ins
- Prepare FAFSA determinations in advance for all identified UHY, and also as new UHY are identified
- [State Laws on Minor Consent for Routine Medical Care](https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
- [State Laws to Support Youth Experiencing Homelessness](https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
Young Children (Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers)

**CHALLENGES**

- Appropriate food items
- Safety of physical environment are shelters, other temporary locations
- Preschool enrollment for next school year (deadlines, etc.)

**STRATEGIES**

- Ask about the presence of young children
- Connect to [WIC](http://www.wic.org) and [CACFP](http://www.cacfp.org) and [Head Start](https://www.headstart.gov) about appropriate food
- [Child-proofing checklist](http://www.childproofingchecklist.com) - electric sockets, removal of sharp objects and toxics, and provision for adequate security
Challenges & Responses
Federal Waivers
Federal Waivers and Other Action as of April 8, 2020

**ED**

- By April 10, all payments on federally held student loans will be suspended, without interest or penalties, through Sept. 30.
- ED provided [waivers](#) to allow funds from previous fiscal years to be spent over the next school year.

**USDA**

- [Waived requirement to provide school meals in group setting](#)
- [Waived meal time requirements](#)
- [Allowing delivery of school meals](#)
- [Allowing parents/guardians to pick up meals without children present](#)
- Districts can provide food to students in their area who are not enrolled in the district.
Federal Waivers and Other Action as of April 1, 2020

HUD/FHA

- Foreclosure and eviction moratorium for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages for the next 60 days (effective March 18, 2020)
- Waivers for Homeless Assistance Programs (Continuum of Care and Emergency Shelter Grants) (April 1, 2020)

ACF

- ACF Information Memorandum - March 30, 2020
  - Provides short-term relief for administrative, financial management, and audit requirements
  - Applicable to human service activities conducted by recipients in areas affected by COVID-19
  - 12 specified areas of flexibility
  - ACF Information Memorandum: IM-ACF-OA-2020-01
Federal Legislative Update
COVID-19 Bills Overview

Phase 1
Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, enacted March 6, 2020
$8.3 billion emergency funding bill designed to treat and prevent the spread of COVID-19

Phase 2
Families First Coronavirus Response Act, enacted March 18, 2020
Provides for free testing, paid sick leave, some food assistance and waiver authority, and unemployment provisions

Phase 3
The CARES Act, enacted Friday, March 27, 2020
$2.2 trillion for coronavirus response and economic stimulus

Phase 4
In progress
Third Coronavirus/Economic Stimulus - H.R. 748
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
- Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund
- Additional Child Care, Head Start, Runaway and Homeless Youth Act funding
- Housing assistance funding: Emergency Solutions Grant, Community Development Block Grant, Rental Assistance, More

See SHC’s Summary of Homelessness-Related Provisions

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SHC’s “Phase Four” Advocacy Priorities: Education

- **K-12 Education:** $500 million to support identification, outreach, and removal of barriers to services and education through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program.

- **Higher Education:** New funding and requirements to target outreach to youth experiencing homelessness, prioritize them for emergency aid, provide them with assistance in FAFSA completion, and waive SNAP work requirements for college students.

- **Early Childhood:** Emergency child care, outreach, and early learning support for young children experiencing homelessness.
SHC’s “Phase Four” Advocacy Priorities: Youth and Families

- **Unaccompanied Youth:** Provisions to remove barriers to Recovery Rebates for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.

- **Family Stabilization:** A dedicated flexible funding stream to support emergency needs, including emergency housing, eviction prevention, outreach, and other services, for families and children experiencing homelessness.

[Read more details on SHC’s “Phase Four” Advocacy Priorities](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
Questions
Education Week Map: Coronavirus and School Closures

[Map showing school closures across the United States with different colors to indicate closure timelines]

SchoolHouse Connection and Other Education Resources

- [SchoolHouse Connection] COVID-19 and Homelessness: Strategies for Schools, Early Learning Programs, and Higher Education Institutions
- Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Questions to Consider | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
- COVID-19 ("Coronavirus") Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel
- COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information
- AASA Provides Resources on Coronavirus
- Chronic Absenteeism in the Time of Coronavirus
- ACF-HS-IM-19-01 General Disaster Recovery Flexibilities
Mental Health Resources

- Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19 | CDC
- Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health During an Infectious Disease Outbreak
- Coping With Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks
- Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource
Thank you!

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