Virtual Conversation #7 with SHC on COVID-19: Questions, Strategies, Information
Thursday, May 21
4 - 5 PM Eastern

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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

- What’s New? Updates
- Facilitated conversation:
  - Outreach and communications
  - Health, Safety, Basic Needs
  - Access to Learning
  - Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
  - Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers
- Congressional 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.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**
- FAQ on COVID-19 and Homelessness

**Checklists, Guides, and Strategies:**
- COVID-19 Checklist for State Education Leaders on Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Five Strategies to Help Homeless Youth Transition to College During COVID-19
- Five Ways to Protect Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19
- Checklist for Local Education Agencies and Early Childhood Providers
- Fact Sheet on Stimulus Payments and Homeless Youth
- Strategies for Schools and Early Learning Programs
- Higher Education Resource: COVID-19 Response for Youth Who Are Homeless or in Foster Care
- Opportunities for Impact Survey: Child and Youth Homelessness, Schools, and COVID-19

**Webinars:**
- Upcoming and Archived Webinars

**Policy Updates on COVID-19:**
- Policy Updates

**Guest Perspective:**
- Supporting Our Students Amidst the Unknown: Evolving Lessons During COVID-19

**COVID-19 and Homelessness in the News:**
- News on COVID-19 and Homelessness

**Resources from Federal Agencies and Partner Organizations:**
- Other Resources

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**All SHC COVID-19 Resources:**

What’s New?
This Week’s Updates
CDC Guidance on Reopening Child Care, Schools, and Youth Programs

- Interim Guidance for Resuming School
- Considerations for Operating Schools
- School Reopening Decision Tool
- Interim Guidance for Resuming Child Care Programs
- Child Care Reopening Decision Tool
New & Featured Resources:

- Keeping in Touch with Families and Students Checklist
  - www.schoolhouseconnection.org/keeping-in-touch-during-school-closures/
- Awarding and Accepting Partial Credits for Students Experiencing Homelessness
  - www.schoolhouseconnection.org/awarding-and-accepting-partial-credits/

Coming Next Week:

- Preparing for School Reopening and Recovery: Considerations in Serving Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
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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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

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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
● State Laws to Support Youth Experiencing Homelessness

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“Recovery Rebate” of $1,200 provided through the CARES Act is only available to individuals who cannot 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 (deadline is July 15).
  - Free tax return software is available.
  - Unaccompanied homeless youth with no income can complete an online registration with the IRS.
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 and CACFP and Head Start about appropriate food
- Child-proofing checklist - 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 23, 2020

**ED**

- By April 10, all payments on federally held student loans were 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.

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Federal Waivers and Other Action as of April 1, 2020

**HUD/FHA**

- Foreclosure and eviction moratorium for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages
- 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](#)
CARES Act provided $4 billion in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). This can be used for motel/hotels, emergency shelter, services. It includes “at risk of homelessness” for prevention activities. Per HUD, this term includes those defined as homeless by ED and HHS.

$1 billion has gone out 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.
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 3.5
Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act - H.R. 266

Phase 4
In progress

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Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, H.R. 6800

- House Democratic proposal, passed on partisan basis (208-199).
- Senate will not take it up.
- Contains:
  - $90 billion State Education Fiscal Stabilization Fund distributed directly to Governors ($58 billion K-12, $27 billion higher ed)
  - $100 billion rent relief
  - $11.5 billion Emergency Solutions Grant
- Timing unclear for Senate Republican proposal.
Bipartisan Push for Homeless Children, Youth, Families

Two Dear Colleague Letters circulated: www.schoolhouseconnection.org/bipartisan-group-of-reps-and-senators-call-for-support/

- **K-12 Education**: $500 million through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program.
- **RHYA**: $300 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs
- **Trafficking Prevention**: $25 million for existing grantees to provide survivor support
- **Family Stabilization Fund**: $2 billion for new fund at ACF to provide flexible funding for community organizations to meet the unique needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.
Urge your U.S. Representative and your U.S. Senators to support homeless and trafficked children, youth, and families in the next coronavirus relief legislation.

1. **Use this simple form** to enter your zip code, **personalize** a template letter, and hit “send” to deliver a message to your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators

2. Please share this alert as widely as possible with your networks.

Questions

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Don’t Forget: Fill out the survey after this webinar
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

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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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