Webinar

Federal Policy Update on Child, Youth, and Family Homelessness

>>> Wednesday, July 1, 1:00PM - 2:15PM ET

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HAVE A QUESTION?

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

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Today’s Agenda

- Current Context for Federal Policy
- COVID-19 Homelessness Legislation
- Other COVID-19 Related Legislation
- FY2021 Funding for Homelessness Programs
- Tell Us: Post-Webinar Survey
Current Context For Federal Policy

- Worsening pandemic and economic crisis
- Anti-racism movement and fight against police brutality
- Upcoming election on November 3, 2020
- Dwindling Congressional Calendar
COVID-19 Legislation: CARES Act

- No dedicated EHCY dollars
  - $13 billion in K-12 ESSERS fund, $3 billion in GEER Fund; $14 billion in higher education funding
  - Services for homeless children and youth are called out as an eligible use of funds, but not required
  - Competing demands and state and local budget shortfalls mean funds unlikely to be directed to M-V children and youth
- Inadequate funding for RHYA program
- ESG funding largely excludes homeless children, youth, and families
- Economic Stimulus Payment barriers for unaccompanied homeless youth
COVID-19 Legislation: HEROES Act

- House Democratic proposal, passed on partisan basis (208-199)
- Contains the same flaws as the CARES Act
  - $90 billion State Education Fiscal Stabilization Fund distributed directly to Governors ($58 billion K-12, $27 billion higher education, but no homeless targeting)
  - $11.5 billion for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), same restrictions on eligibility and use of funds
- No additional RHYA funding
- Inadequate child care funding
- Senate equivalent expected around July 20
Emergency Family Stabilization Act (S. 3923)

Proposed by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)

Why is EFSA needed?

- Prior to COVID-19, youth and family homelessness were at record levels. The outbreak of the coronavirus has created further barriers to their survival.
- While previous coronavirus relief legislation provided some homelessness-related funding, most children and youth experiencing homelessness are ineligible to receive them.
- Meeting families and youth where they are - through the systems to which they are the most connected - is the most effective way to stabilize youth and families experiencing homelessness and reduce transmission of COVID-19.
Emergency Family Stabilization Act (S. 3923)

Introduced by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)

What does EFSA do?

- Creates the Emergency Family Stabilization Fund: a new, flexible, emergency funding stream for community-based organizations through the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) at HHS.
- Provides $800 million in direct dedicated funding to meet the unique needs of families and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Current ACF grantees will be eligible, as well as local agencies with experience and expertise in serving homeless children, youth, and families.
- Funds can be used for a wide variety of housing, health, education, and safety-related needs.
House bill is expected soon, with higher funding level ($2 billion).

**Urge your U.S. Senators** to support the Emergency Family Stabilization Act.

1. Use this [action form](#) to enter your zip code, personalize a template letter, and hit “send” to deliver a message to your U.S. Senators.
2. Endorse the legislation (local, state, or national organizations) by completing this [sign-on form](#).
3. Please share as widely as possible with your networks.
Any Questions So Far?
Other COVID-19 Related Legislation (1)

- Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act: appropriates $500 million for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program (EHCY), $11 billion for Title I Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Child Care Is Essential Act: appropriates $50 billion to the Child Care Stabilization Fund
- Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act: appropriates $100 billion Emergency Rental Assistance Fund
- Protecting Renters from Evictions and Fees Act: establishes a national eviction moratorium through March 2021
Other COVID-19 Related Provisions and Legislation (2)

● **HEROES Act provisions:**
  ○ to strengthen the Child Tax Credit for one year but more is needed
  ○ to increase SNAP maximum benefit and extend Pandemic EBT benefits
  ○ to lower age for EITC to 19, and allow homeless and foster youth to claim EITC and be full-time students

● **Pandemic TANF Assistance Act:**
  appropriates $10 billion in emergency assistance grants for cash assistance to help families meet basic needs and subsidized employment
FY2021 Funding for Child, Youth, and Family Homelessness

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY)
- FY2020 funding was $101.5 million, an 8% increase over the previous year.
- At this level, less than one in four local educational agencies receives subgrants.
- Historic levels of child and youth homelessness pre-COVID; lasting impacts after COVID.
- FY2021 request is $300 million.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
- 4.2 youth and young adults experience homelessness every year in America unaccompanied by a parent.
- FY2020 funding was $132 million, a $5 million increase over the previous year.
- Youth experiencing homelessness are at high risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19-- we need to do more to support our young people.
- FY2021 request is $165 million.
- This amount is still inadequate, but is what we were advised to ask for and if secured, would be a win.
House committees to take up FY2021 funding bills starting next week.

Senate appears to be delaying action.

EHCY and RHYA provide essential services for homeless children and youth to succeed educationally and to eventually overcome homelessness, but are dramatically underfunded.

Send a letter to your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives [here](#) to urge them to support the EHCY and RHYA funding in FY2021.
The Fight Against Systemic Racism

- African American Policy Forum  
  [https://aapf.org/](https://aapf.org/)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
  [https://www.naacp.org/](https://www.naacp.org/)
- National CARES Mentoring Movement  
  [https://caresmentoring.org/](https://caresmentoring.org/)
- Poverty and Race Research Action Council  
  [https://prrac.org/vision/](https://prrac.org/vision/)
Questions
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Don’t Forget: Fill out the survey after this webinar
Featured Resources:

● Website:
  ○ http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org
  ○ https://nn4youth.org/
  ○ https://familypromise.org/

● Newsletter
  ○ https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/
  ○ https://nn4youth.org/e-newsletter/

● Federal Policy Advocacy
  ○ https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/policy-advocacy/policy-updates/
  ○ https://nn4youth.org/policy-advocacy/

● State Policy Advocacy
  ○ https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/policy-advocacy/state-policy/
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
Thank you!

Join the conversation:

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