WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE HILL
UPDATE ON CHILD, YOUTH, AND FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020 | 1:00 – 2:00PM ET
About Us

Barbara Duffield
Executive Director
Barbara@SchoolhouseConnection.org

Alleanne Anderson
Policy and Outreach Associate
Alleanne@SchoolhouseConnection.org

Darla Bardine
Executive Director
Darla.Bardine@NN4Youth.org
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

- Current Status of COVID Relief Negotiations
- Review of COVID Legislation
- FY2021 Funding for Homelessness Programs
- Advocate Tips
- Tell Us: Post-Webinar Survey
House Democrats have passed the revised HEROES Act on October 1, 2020.

Senate Republicans have proposed the HEALS Act, but not yet acted upon.

Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin are currently negotiating for a new stimulus package.
COVID-19 Legislation: House and Senate Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revised HEROES Act (House Democrat Proposal)</th>
<th>HEALS Act (Senate Republican Proposal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$208 billion state stabilization fund; “allowable” uses for homeless children and youth</td>
<td>$105 billion for education; $70 billion for ESSER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No dedicated EHCY funding</td>
<td>No dedicated EHCY funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No dedicated RHYA funding</td>
<td>No dedicated RHYA funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-month eviction moratorium</td>
<td>No eviction moratorium expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50 billion Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act</td>
<td>No Emergency rental assistance appropriation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5 billion for HUD Homeless Assistance (ESG)</td>
<td>No HUD homelessness assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$86.8 billion for HUD and USDA</td>
<td>$3.3 billion for housing programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50 billion for child care, children experiencing homelessness to be prioritized</td>
<td>$15 billion for child care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HEROES Act: Overview

- Provides some important resources, does not fully address the education, health, safety, and housing-related needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- No funding directed towards identifying, enrolling, and supporting students experiencing homelessness through EHCY.
- No dedicated RHYA funding
- No direct, flexible funding for community organizations to meet the unique needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness under broader education definition
- Does not address how unaccompanied youth can access stimulus checks.
HEROES Act: Education Funding

- $208 billion for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund
  - $175 billion for K-12 education-- Use of funds for homeless students is allowable, but not required.
  - $27 billion for public postsecondary education
  - 4 billion for governors to address educational needs

- $11.9 billion for general postsecondary education
  (covers private institutions, HBCU’s, etc)
**HEROES Act: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act**

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Act:** Gives the HHS Secretary the authority to provide the following flexibilities for the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program:

- Waiving the 21 day maximum length of stay in RHY Basic Center Programs
- Waiving the 540-day and 635-day maximum length of stay in RHY Transitional Living Program
- Waiving the 20-youth maximum capacity in RHY Basic Center Programs and 20-individual maximum capacity in RHY Transitional Living Programs when grantees assure that waiving such capacity limits does not compromise the health and safety of youth or staff or the ability to implement applicable Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance
- Waiving the 90 percent limitation on the Federal cost share
HEROES Act: Head Start Funding

- $1.7 billion appropriation for the Head Start program.
  - Funds will be disbursed in proportion to the number of children who are enrolled in an agency’s program.
- Children experiencing homelessness under the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act are prioritized for Head Start enrollment.
Any Questions So Far?
HEROES Act: Earned Income Tax Credit

- **Lowers the age** that youth from foster care and youth who are homeless could claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to age 18, and also allows foster and homeless youth to claim the EITC if they are full-time students and working.
- This provision helps to create parity with young adults of the same age who are fortunate enough to be receiving financial support from parents or caregivers.
HEROES Act: Housing and Homeless Assistance

- $50 billion appropriation to address emergency rental needs.
- $5 billion for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. Most children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness are not eligible for these funds, nor does the ESG program meet their complex needs.
- Renew funding for grantees awarded Continuum of Care funding in 2019.
HEROES Act: **Eviction Moratorium**

- A **12-month moratorium** on non-payment eviction proceedings for all renter and homeowners.
- Prohibits fees, fines, and extra charges due to nonpayment of rent.
- It **does not protect** persons staying in hotels/motels, nor those who are temporarily staying with others.
What’s Missing?

Priorities for Final Bill

- Emergency Family Stabilization Act (HR 7950/S. 3923)
- $500 Million for EHCY
- $300 Million for RHYA
- Allow *unaccompanied homeless youth* to access stimulus payments
Emergency Family Stabilization Act, H.R. 7950/S. 3923

Sponsored by U.S. Representatives John Yarmuth (D-KY), Don Bacon (R-NE), Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Don Young (R-AK) & U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Susan Collins (R-ME)

- Bipartisan legislation that introduces a new, flexible, emergency funding stream for community-based organizations (including schools) through the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Provides direct dedicated funding to meet the unique needs of families, children, and youth experiencing homelessness under the broader definition.
  - House bill provides $2 billion
  - Senate bill provides $800 million
- Funds can be used for a wide variety of emergency housing, health, education, and safety-related needs.
- Helping children, youth, and families through the systems to which they are most connected will stabilize them quicker and more effectively
$500 Million
Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY)

- Previous COVID-19 legislation, the CARES Act, permitted funds to be used for activities to support students experiencing homelessness, but did not require it.
- As a result, most states are not directing CARES Act dollars to homeless students.
- EHCY is the only federal education program that removes barriers to school enrollment, attendance, and success caused by homelessness. Without dedicated funding for EHCY, many homeless students will not be identified and connected to school.
- SHC and NN4Y are advocating for $500 million in EHCY funding in the next COVID/stimulus bill. (This was included in the Senate Democrat bill, S. 4112)
$300 Million - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)

- Previous COVID-19 legislation, the CARES Act, appropriated $25 million for existing Runaway and Homeless Youth Act grantees, but did not add any flexibility in how the funds could be used and did not provide funding for expanding services.
- RHYA is the only federal homelessness program targeted specifically to young people and a significant appropriation is warranted given the limited ability of current RHYA grantees to meet the needs of a growing population that is at high-risk of infectious diseases, and whose mobility places them at a higher risk for both contracting and spreading COVID-19.
- RHYA providers know how to serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness who are extremely mobile, lack parental or other supportive adults who can help them navigate emergencies or emergency response systems.
- NN4Y and SHC are advocating for $300 million in RHY funding in the next COVID relief bill.
Remove Barriers to Stimulus Payment for Unaccompanied Youth

- Many unaccompanied youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or from foster care cannot access stimulus payments because their parents have claimed them as dependents.

- Final COVID bill must ensure these youth are considered eligible individuals so they can access these payments.
Call to Action
For This Week Only

A Dear Colleague Letter has been put forth by Congressman John Yarmuth and Congressman Don Bacon, requesting that EFSA be included in the next COVID-19 stimulus package.

1. Call your U.S. Representatives and urge them to sign on to the “Yarmuth/Bacon Dear Colleague Letter on Homelessness” to show support for EFSA.
   Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Deadline is Friday, October 9th.
Call to Action
On all COVID Priorities

It is important for Members of Congress to hear from their constituents, and the time is now.

- Take action today by:
  
  Step 1: Using this [action form](#) to personalize a template letter to be delivered to your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives
  
  **NOTE:** If you have a relationship with a Member of Congress or their staff, email them the letter directly. Ask SHC for specific contact names.

  Step 2: (For local, state and national organizations): Endorse the legislation by completing this [sign-on form](#).

  Step 3: Sharing as widely as possible with your networks.
Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY)
- $102.7 million proposed appropriation (1.18% increase from FY2020)
- At this level, less than one in four local educational agencies receive subgrants.
- Historic levels of child and youth homelessness pre-COVID; lasting impacts after COVID.
- FY2021 request is $300 million.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)
- $140 million proposed appropriation (5.74% increase from FY2020)
- 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.
Appropriations Action

- U.S. House passed several FY21 appropriations bills; no Senate action.
- A continuing resolution has been passed by both the House and Senate to continue FY20 funding until December 11, 2020.
- 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.
Why Advocate?

- You are the expert and voice for children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.
- Constituent engagement is the best way - and often the only way- to change policy, especially in these times.
Advocacy vs. Lobbying

Any activity to influence policy. Includes educating, providing information, arguing for a cause.

Activities that ask legislators to take a specific position on a specific piece of legislation, or urge others to do the same (from the IRS definition for non-profits).
Virtual Advocacy

- **Relationships are the key** - with members, staff, and other organizations.
- Members are still doing virtual meetings and sharing screenshots on Twitter; some are even doing “socially-distanced” visits.
- Staff are also doing phone calls and some virtual meetings.
- Election season also provides a long recess and important opportunity to educate and advocate.
You Can Do It Too!

- SchoolHouse Connection and National Network for Youth want to find new ways that we can best facilitate your advocacy.
- Sign up here if you are interested in participating in meetings with your U.S. Representatives and/or Senators. We’ll organize this for you!
Questions
+ Don’t Forget: Fill out the survey after this webinar
Featured Resources:

- Website:
  - http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org
  - https://nn4youth.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/
Thank you!

Join the conversation:

https://www.facebook.com/SchoolHouseConnection/groups/

https://medium.com/@SchoolHouseConnection

https://www.facebook.com/nn4youth

https://twitter.com/nn4youth