

Federal Education Resources for American Indian Children Experiencing Homelessness

Presented by:

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Overview of Presentation

- Overview Indian Education
 - White House Initiative on American Indian/Alaska Native
 - Title VII Programs K-12
 - Bureau of Indian Education
- Basic provisions of McKinney-Vento
 - Eligibility & Identification
 - Immediate Enrollment & School Selection
 - Coordination with Title I and other Federal education programs
- Coordination with other agencies' programs serving homeless children and youth



White House Initiative on American Indian/Alaska Native

- Interagency collaboration
- MOA (DOI, HHS, ED)—Native American Languages
- Post-secondary education
- National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE)
- My Brother's Keeper
- Let's Move



ESEA, Title VII, Indian Education (K-12)

- Formula Program—1,285 local education agencies, 474,853 students
- Professional Development—29 grants in 12 states (Teacher and Administrator training)
- Demonstration—39 grantees in 15 states, 17 to postsecondary, 16 to early childhood, and 6 both
- State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP)—4 pilot projects

Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)



- Bureau Operated Schools
- Bureau Funded—Grants & Contract
- Post-secondary—AIAI, SIPI
- Tribal Colleges & Universities



Recent TA on OIE-BIE and EHCY Coordination

The National Center for Homeless Education issued in Fall 2013 a module for our on-line State Coordinators' Handbook on "Strengthening Services for Native American Students" at http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/sc_hb_2010.php (please scroll to the bottom)



Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

Main themes of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title VII, Subtitle B):

- School access
- School stability
- Support for academic success
- Child-centered, best interest decision making
- Critical role of the local homeless education liaison



LEA Homeless Liaisons

- Local liaisons play a critical role in the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act
- Every school district must designate a local homeless education liaison.
- Local liaison responsibilities include:
 - Identifying homeless children and youth
 - Ensuring that homeless students can enroll immediately and participate fully in school



Who Qualifies for McKinney-Vento Services?

Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including:

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (“doubling up”)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals



Who Qualifies (cont'd)

- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or a similar setting
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances



Determining Eligibility: The Ground Rules

- Reference NCHE's *Determining Eligibility and Confirming Eligibility* briefs at: www.serve.org/nche/briefs.php
- Determinations are made on a case-by-case basis by examining the living arrangement of each child or youth
- Some instances will be clear-cut; others will require further inquiry and then a judgment call
- There are LEA and SEA enrollment dispute procedures in place in every State
- Forthcoming TA on Kinship Care and MV Act



Doubled-Up

McKinney-Vento defines “doubled-up” as “sharing the housing of others *due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason*”

- Considerations:
 - Why did the family move in together? Due to a crisis or by mutual choice as a plan for mutual benefit? Cultural or community norm?
 - How permanent is the living arrangement intended to be?
 - Was there a loss of housing precipitating the arrangement?
 - Is the living arrangement fixed, regular, and adequate?

Awaiting Foster Care Placement



- Children entering foster care face high residential and school mobility, academic challenges, educational discontinuity
- Eligibility must be reviewed in the context of state and local child welfare policies
- Check with your State Coordinator for information relevant to your state
(see http://center.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php)



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- The McKinney-Vento Act defines unaccompanied youth as a youth “not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian”
- Local liaisons must support unaccompanied youth in school selection and dispute resolution processes
- “Age limits”
 - Lower: There is no lower age limit for unaccompanied youth
 - Upper: The upper age limit is your state’s upper age limit for public education



School Selection

Students experiencing homelessness have the right to attend one of two schools:

- Local Attendance Area School

Any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend

- School of Origin

The school attended when permanently housed; or the school in which the student was last enrolled



Immediate Enrollment

- Homeless children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documentation normally required for enrollment
- If a student does not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the local liaison must assist immediately in obtaining them, and the student must be enrolled in the interim



Access to other Federal Services in Schools/Districts

- Homeless students are automatically eligible to receive free school meals; the USDA permits local liaisons and shelter directors to qualify homeless students for free meals by providing a list of names with effective dates
- IDEA includes special provisions for serving homeless children and youth with disabilities
 - for more information: www.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc_spec_ed.php
- Part B and Part C state coordinators available at
 - <http://ectacenter.org/contact/619coord.asp>
 - <http://ectacenter.org/contact/ptccoord.asp>
 - <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/monitor/state-contact-list.html>

Title I-A Set-aside: The Basics



- Homeless students are automatically eligible for Title I services, or meet the academic standards required of other students for eligibility (for the whole school year)
- Title I of ESEA requires districts to set aside Title I-A funds to for comparable services to homeless students in non-Title I schools
- Services to homeless students that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I students and that are not available from other sources, according to the need of the homeless student (e.g. clothes, hygiene or school supplies)
- Title I-A set-aside funds can be used to served students at shelters and other places where they reside



Inter-agency Coordination

US Department of Health and Human Services

Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) programs:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/grants/fysb-grantees>

Head Start State Collaborators:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/states/collaboration/map/index.html>

Child Care Development Fund State Contacts:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-grantee-state-and-territory-contacts>

Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program:

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/homevisiting/statecontacts.pdf>

HUD – Continuum of Care (COC)

Search by state or program at <https://www.onecpd.info/grantees/>



For More Information

National Center for Homeless Education

NCHE website: www.serve.org/nche

NCHE helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org

ED's EHCY program website

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>

ED's OIE website

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/index.html>

New ED webpage on students in foster care

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/foster-care/index.html>



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