



Understanding COHHIO Course to HOME Technical Assistance

Introduction

About COHHIO Course to HOME

COHHIO Course to HOME is an exciting new opportunity for Ohio school districts and educational service centers. The [Ohio Department of Education](#) (ODE) received federal formula allocated funds through the [American Rescue Plan](#) to provide increased support, and professional development opportunities to districts specifically in meeting the need of the following vulnerable student populations experiencing homelessness:

- rural children and youth
- students of color
- children and youth with disabilities
- English learners
- LGBTQ+ youth
- students in foster care
- justice-involved youth and
- pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students

ODE has teamed up with the [Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio \(COHHIO\)](#) to provide communities of practice and other professional development supports, called [COHHIO Course to HOME](#). You can read more about the partnership by reviewing Ohio's ARP-HCY state plan [here](#). The purpose of COHHIO Course to HOME is to increase resources and coordinate intentional responses for districts in order to meet the need of vulnerable students experiencing homelessness. Additionally, COHHIO Course to HOME provides on-demand [technical assistance](#) to help districts respond to the needs of student homelessness.

COHHIO Course to HOME does not provide direct services to students and families. Rather COHHIO Course to Home provides support to districts in order to ensure districts can meet the needs of students and families in an effective manner. Students and families may access the housing information line directly (not associated with COHHIO Course to HOME) [here](#). Students and families seeking affordable housing are encouraged to explore Ohio Housing Finance Agency's [Ohio Housing Locator](#) which maintains a listing of available units throughout the state (not associated with COHHIO Course to HOME). Youth and young adults seeking answers related to housing are encouraged to visit COHHIO's youth initiative [here](#).

What is Technical Assistance?

Technical assistance is the process of providing guidance, tools, resources, and consultation to assist districts so they may engage in continuous quality improvement of their services and build their capacity to effectively serve their students.



Who can receive COHHIO Course to HOME technical assistance?

COHHIO Course to HOME technical assistance is intended for the following:

- McKinney-Vento Liaisons
- District administrators and staff working alongside students experiencing homelessness
- Educational Service Centers (ESC) Liaisons
- American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) I & II sub-grantees
- McKinney-Vento sub-grantees

How can COHHIO technical assistance help your district?

COHHIO's Course to HOME technical assistance is designed to provide requestors with the necessary support and resources to better assist students and families experiencing homelessness in the district.

How does technical assistance work?

Technical assistance is made available upon district request. TA services are scheduled individually and are intended to provide a resource or consultation on a specific topic to enhance districts practices or address a challenge.

Technical assistance will be provided by COHHIO staff based on the district request and may be delivered via email exchange, one-on-one video or phone consultation, small group facilitation, etc.

Technical assistance will involve COHHIO asking background questions about district size, location, community supports, culture, and experience in homelessness response. Background is a critical component to intentional and meaningful technical assistance. Upon request COHHIO will provide districts with a written summary of the technical assistance provided.

Technical assistance may include guidance on best practices regarding student homelessness, community resources, example uses of McKinney-Vento and ARP-HCY funds, as well as capacity building within the district, system, and/or community.

Technical Examples include:

- Trouble-shooting the homelessness needs of a specific student(s)
- Pandemic response for students experiencing homelessness
- Identification of students experiencing homelessness
- Increasing district and/or community awareness and response around student homelessness
- Identifying community resources to support students experiencing homelessness such as
 - Emergency housing/shelter
 - Transportation



- Food
 - Clothing
 - Hygiene supplies
 - Household supplies
 - Housing unit search
 - Other
- Support planning professional development around student homelessness
 - Support building or strengthening a district homelessness response team
 - Partnering with the Continuum of Care (CoC)
 - Collaborating with the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)
 - Diversity, equity, & inclusion centered supports
 - Outreach strategies and engaging cross-system partners
 - Culturally responsive services and trauma-informed care
 - Support developing district tools, written protocols, and district professional development approaches
 - Continuous quality improvement strategies
 - Funding strategies
 - Sustainability strategies

How does my district request technical assistance?

First, districts are encouraged to prepare for requesting technical assistance. Districts should consider who from the team could benefit from participating in the technical assistance and invite all relevant parties. When requesting general technical assistance districts are encouraged to provide the following information as part of the request:

- Requestor's name
- Requestors district role
- County of district
- Explanation of the need or question
- Background information or context that may be helpful in understanding the need

When requesting technical assistance for resources and supports regarding a **specific student(s)** experiencing homelessness or specific situation districts are also encouraged to provide the following in the request:

- County or current location of the student(s) experiencing homelessness
- A brief overview of the situation and what steps have been taken including community referrals made by the district
- Age(s) of the student(s) and head of household

When requesting technical assistance for resources and supports regarding a **specific student(s)** experiencing homelessness or **situation(s)**, **districts are highly encouraged to have the McKinney-Vento Liaisons take the lead on making the request.** However, the district personnel that knows the student(s) experiencing homelessness or situation(s) most closely should be included in the request. This can be accomplished by copying (cc-ing) all relevant staff in the email request for technical



assistance and/or inviting relevant staff to participate in the video/phone consultation. A team approach to problem solving is the preferred process for technical assistance.

Finally, when making a request for technical assistance, districts are encouraged to consider the duration of the technical assistance. Is the district looking for one session that addresses the need, is the district looking for on-going support, or is the district looking for as needed technical assistance? Requestors are encouraged to consider the strategy.

How to Access Support

Requesting technical assistance is easy!

- Email us a technical assistance request at homelesseducation@cohhio.org
 - Include the info described above in the email
- Call us at 614-280-1984 ext. 143
- Complete the technical assistance request [form](#)

Other technical assistance pro tips

To receive the best support possible, the COHHIO TA team will need background information about the district and situation so have it ready. When making a request for technical assistance consider that all of the following information will only improve the technical assistance experience:

- District information
 - Location
 - Information about the student population
 - Relevant staffing information
 - Number of school buildings
 - School culture
 - Community engagement
- Description of the situation
- Desired outcome or goals from TA
- Existing community partnerships and resources
- Needed community partnerships and resources
- Previous successes and/or challenges
- Examples of what the district has in mind
- Any supplemental information necessary for the COHHIO TA team to help your district!

Consider the impact of on-going technical assistance. While some needs can be solved in a single session consider how more in-depth or layers needs may take more time. Keep in mind that the better the COHHIO Course to HOME TA team knows your district and your needs the better TA we can provide. Many challenges can be solved in one session and that's totally fine! Districts are highly encouraged to consider long term goals and long-term technical assistance needs and strategies.



For more resources visit the COHHIO Course to HOME website

[Click here](#)

Additional Online Resources

[Red Tree House Community Resource Guide](#)

- [Guide to Using the Resource Guide](#)

[Ohio Department of Education: Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)

[Ohio Department of Education: Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness with ESSER and ARP Funds](#)

[Ohio Department of Education: American Rescue Plan Homeless II Funds](#)

[Ohio Department of Education: Local School District Liaison Duties, Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[COHHIO Emergency Rental Assistance](#)

[COHHIO Course to HOME](#)

[COHHIO Youth Housing Initiative](#)

[COHHIO Housing Now for Homeless Families](#)

[COHHIO Homeless System Resource Map](#)

[COHHIO On-Demand Recorded Trainings](#)

[Ohio Housing Locator](#)

[School House Connection](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education](#)

[Ohio Bridges Program](#)

[Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio](#)

[Ohio Domestic Violence Network](#)

[The Center for Family Safety and Healing](#)

[Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth](#)

[United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

[True Colors United](#)

[School Personnel's Role in Addressing the Intersection of Homelessness and Juvenile Justice](#)