Ohio McKinney-Vento Community of Practice

Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Ohio
Zoom Logistics

- All participants can unmute
- You can share your camera
- Questions can be asked throughout the training
- The powerPoint will be sent out after each training
- Breakout rooms
- Polls/quizzes
- Handouts/Materials
- Audio/video issues
Agenda

• Welcome & Introductions
• National Overview of Rural Student Homelessness (NCHE)
• Data-Driven Facts of Rural Student Homelessness (Chapin Hall)
• Local Spotlights Panel
• Reminders & Resources
• Closing
Objectives

Attendees will:

• Understand the components of COHHIO Course to HOME
• Understand the national scope of rural homelessness
• Learn best practices for meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness in rural Ohio
• Learn resources to support students experiencing homelessness in rural Ohio
• Connect with rural peers
Agenda

• Welcome & Introductions
  • National Overview of Rural Student Homelessness (NCHE)
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• Closing
Welcome!

Please say hello in the chat box and share

• Your name & pronouns
• Name of your District
• Name one small thing you appreciate about your rural community

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY
COHHIO Course to HOME
Team

Lisa Brooks she/her
Youth Housing Initiative Director

Ami Diallo she/her
Youth Housing Initiative Specialist

Evelyn Garon she/her
Youth Housing Initiative Specialist
Guest Presenters

Kenya Haynes
she/her
Program Specialist
National Center for Homeless Education

Matthew Morton
He/him
Research Fellow
Chapin Hall
Local Spotlights Panel

- **Amy Eldridge**
  *Youth Program Coordinator*

- **Amy Vanderhoff**
  *McKinney-Vento Coordinator*

- **Heath Ring**
  *Shelter Director*

- **Randall Hunt**
  *Deputy Director and Housing Director*

- **Sandra Plantz**
  *McKinney-Vento Coordinator*

- **Ohio Student**
  *Lived Expert*
COHHIO Course to HOME

- Community of Practice
- Technical Assistance
- District Toolkit

- Communications & Newsletter
- E-Learning
- Translated Materials

Housing. Opportunities. Meaningful. Engagement
Community of Practice Principles

1. We recognize that all communities and districts are unique but have some shared challenges and can learn from each other's experiences

2. We embed student and family leadership in decision-making, designing and implementing strategies

3. We ensure strategies and approaches improve equity, including racial & LGBTQ+ equity

4. We are solution-oriented and creative in our planning and problem solving

5. We promote peer support and shared learning opportunities

6. We explore, develop and integrate best practices at the core of our approaches

*COHHIO is here to facilitate the conversation and share knowledge learned from working with communities, not to own the space*
Community of Practice Agreements

• Listen for understanding
• Check in and check out
• Expect and accept non-resolution
• Practice “both/and” thinking
• Be aware of intent and impact
• Make space, take space
• Safe Terms:
  • “ELMO”
  • “Ouch”

For more information review the Guide to Community of Practice

Understanding COHHIO Course to HOME
Community of Practice

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.

What is community of practice?

Community of Practice
A widely used definition of community of practice comes from Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner, who helped articulate the concept in 1991 – Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

Why community of practice?
The motivation for convening a community of practice at the most fundamental level, is a group of people coming together driven by a shared learning need, in this case student homelessness with an emphasis on the following vulnerable groups:
- rural children and youth,
- students of color,
- children and youth with disabilities,
- English learners,
- LGBTQ+ youth,
- students in foster care
Agenda

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Homeless Education in Rural Areas

Ohio McKinney-Vento Community of Practice
About NCHE

NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education’s technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

- Website: http://nche.ed.gov
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org
- Products: https://nche.ed.gov/resources/
- Webinars: https://nche.ed.gov/group-training/
- Listserv: https://nche.ed.gov/resources/ (click Listserv tab)
- Twitter: @NCHEducation | Facebook: facebook.com/NCHEducation
The Myth of Urban Youth Homelessness
Urban and Rural Realities

• Rates of poverty have historically been higher in rural than urban areas.

• According to the 2019 American Community Survey, this discrepancy persists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Rates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Metro Counties</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metro Counties</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• Youth homelessness affects rural and urban areas alike.

• Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and non-rural areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth 13-17 Experiencing Homelessness</th>
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<tr>
<td>Household Prevalence in Rural Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Household Prevalence in Urban Counties</td>
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</table>
“The lack of evidence of what works in supporting young people in rural contexts limits our ability to identify effective programs or practices to serve them.”
Relationships and Rigor

• Identification
  • Examine your local data to help evaluate the need for outreach and/or improved identification in your community.
    • 2.5% of the overall student population
  • Build relationships with community agencies such as domestic violence shelters

• Services
  • Focus on student outcomes
  • “Nothing about us without us”
Contact Information

• Kenya Haynes
• Program Specialist
• National Center for Homeless Education
• khaynes@serve.org
Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- National Overview of Rural Student Homelessness (NCHE)
- **Data-Driven Facts of Rural Student Homelessness (Chapin Hall)**
  - Local Spotlights Panel
  - Reminders & Resources
- Closing
Research on Rural Youth Homelessness: Challenges and Strategies
Presentation to the Ohio McKinney-Vento Community of Practice
Dr. Matt Morton
May 18, 2020
Chapin Hall’s Voices of Youth Count study revealed a broad & hidden challenge of youth homelessness in America.

1 in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period. That’s 3.5 million young adults. About half of them involved explicitly reported homelessness while the other half involved couch surfing only.

1 in 30 youth ages 13-17 experienced a form of homelessness over a 12-month period. That’s about 700,000 youth. About three-quarters of them involved explicitly reported homelessness (including running away or being kicked out) and one-quarter involved couch surfing only.
Survey data underscore invisible homelessness in schools

• **5.2%** of high school students reported homelessness in SY 2018-19 in surveys

• That’s over twice the rate of students reported by schools as experiencing homelessness (2.3%)

Data: SchoolHouse Connection’s analysis of 2019 YRBS data from 27 states (AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, ID, IL, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MT, NH, NM, NC, ND, PA, RI, SC, SD, VT, VA, WI)
LGBTQ youth come into systems with more adversities

- 27% exchanged sex for basic needs
- 9% forced to have sex
- 62% physically harmed by others
- 60% exposed to discrimination or stigma outside of the family
- 37% exposed to discrimination or stigma within the family
- 38% harmed self
- 47% non-LGBTQ

(LGBTQ youth had 2.2 times the risk of reporting homelessness. Source: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago)

(Source: VoYC In-Depth Interviews)
Race & intersectionality

Explicit homelessness over the last 12 months, self-reported by young adults, ages 18-25. These estimates do not include reports of couch surfing only.

(Source: VoYC National Survey)
Missed opportunities across public systems

Among youth experiencing homelessness on a given night:

- **46%** ever in Detention or Incarceration vs. 15% of general (older) youth population
- **29%** ever in Foster Care vs. 2% of general youth population
- **34%** had less than high school diploma/GED (ages 18-25) vs. 11% of general youth population

In Washington State, the largest number of youth facing homelessness after a public system:

- **19%** from residential behavioral health became homeless within 12 months

(Source: Chapin Hall, VoYC Youth Count surveys)

(Source: WA DSHS, 2020)
Risk factors for homelessness overlap with risk factors for school dropout

The relationship between educational attainment and homelessness is bidirectional.

- Low educational attainment is a risk factor for homelessness*.

  Young adults with less than a high school diploma or GED were

  4.5x

  more likely to report experiencing homelessness than their peers who completed high school.

- ...and homelessness is a risk factor for lower educational attainment.

  Young adults who experienced homelessness were less than

  1/3

  as likely to be enrolled in four-year college as stably housed peers.

Racial and ethnic inequities cut across both homelessness and educational outcomes.

Among young adults, ages 18-25, experiencing homelessness, rates of at least some postsecondary education:

- White, non-Hispanic youth: 28%
- Youth of color: 18%
- Black youth: 22%
- American Indian or Alaska Native youth: 15%
- Hispanic youth: 13%

(Source: VoYC Education brief)
Rural youth homelessness: equally prevalent but more hidden

Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Youth 13-17</th>
<th>Young Adults 18-25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household prevalence in urban counties</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household prevalence in rural counties</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where youth experiencing homelessness stayed on the night of the youth count.

Source: YoYC Brief Youth Survey
Rural youth experiencing homelessness are more likely to be out of school and work than youth in larger urban counties.

- 57% of youth in small counties are not attending school or employed.
- 46% of youth in large counties are not attending school or employed.

Youth = Ages 16-24
Source: VoYC Brief Youth Survey
Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in Rural America

October 2018

The fifth in a series of Research-to-Impact briefs by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago on understanding and addressing youth homelessness.

In Voices of Youth Count's first Research-to-Impact brief, researchers estimated that nearly 4.2 million youth and young adults in America experienced some form of homelessness during a 12-month period. Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in Rural America highlights research related to the specific experiences of young people who reside in the vast areas of the country that have fewer people and more widely dispersed services. The findings show that rural youth homelessness is just as prevalent as homelessness in urban areas. However, in rural areas, youth experience of homelessness are more likely to be hidden, and these youth face unique challenges accessing education, jobs, services, and support.
Challenges Identifying Youth

Undercounting

• Rural areas underestimate the number of youth experiencing homelessness due to lack of community awareness

Liaisons

• Youth were not aware their schools had federally required school-based homelessness liaisons

"There's a lot of youth that I know, they didn't quite understand what it meant to be homeless, and in fact it took me a while to realize that I actually was qualified as homelessness… I didn't even know that we had a homeless liaison."

-- Young Adult Stakeholder
“We have kids using social media and other very unsafe avenues to find housing, because we can't help them.”

-Regional Stakeholder
Youth reported experiencing racism from rural public systems.

Lack funding to develop strategies

Rural areas lack affirming services and supports for LGBTQ+ youth.

A lot of these services are being dealt by churches and a lot of youth don't feel comfortable with churches.

-- Young Adult Stakeholder
Cross-Systems Collaboration

Barriers

Lack of Resources & High Turnover

Agencies Not Understanding Each Other

Different Definitions of Homelessness

Data Sharing Challenges

Over the last year, just by learning about each other, I understand so much more of the pressures that Children’s Services is going through, Juvenile Courts are going through. Just by these resources allowing that dialogue, it’s breaking down that “us and them” kind of deal.

– Regional Stakeholder
Barriers to Youth Collaboration

- Lack of Resources & High Turnover
- Geographic & Technological Challenges
- Tokenization
- Excluding Marginalized Youth
- Lack of Funding

“We have to have the money to reimburse and compensate the young people in an intentional way.”

--Regional Stakeholder
The Role of Schools

In rural areas, school systems have to play a stronger role in the absence of services.

To prevent and address youth homelessness, rural schools need more capacity to:

• identify youth and raise awareness
• dismantle systemic racism
• support LGBTQ+ affirming services and supports
Youth-Driven Solutions
A collaborative process shaped the project
The Trust Youth Initiative: A “Cash Plus” Housing Solution

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, BY YOUNG PEOPLE:</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Plus</th>
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</table>
| Direct Cash Transfers            | • $29,400 paid unconditionally over 24 months  
  ➢ $550 paid twice per month for 24 months  
  ➢ One-time $3,000 | • Support team: Coach (social worker), peer support, program manager |
|                                  | • UpTogether Platform: multiple payout options (Venmo, PayPal, direct deposit, prepaid card) | • Delivering: Strengths-based coaching, benefits counseling, housing navigation, financial coaching, connections to care, education & career support |
|                                  |                                              | • Evidence-based/informed wherever possible |
|                                  |                                              | • Flexible: Virtual & in-person |
Moving Upstream
From Reactive to Proactive

Define the problem • Identify causes, risk & protective factors • Develop & test interventions
Scale-up evidence-based solutions • Monitor implementation

(Source: Chapin Hall, 2019)
Perspective on Prevention

Prevent Recurrence

Crisis → Homelessness

Risk → Crisis

Prevent Risk

Increasing Population Impact

Increasing Effort at the Individual Level

Show what’s possible
“I BELIEVE NO HUMAN IS LIMITED” - ELIUD KIPCHOGE
Systems change: The Upstream Project

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

COLLECTING & USING GOOD DATA

SCREENING & EARLY IDENTIFICATION

YOUTH & FAMILY SUPPORTS

EQUITY

Pilots in Hopkins, MN; Redwood City, CA; and Orlando, FL
MTSS and systems change

- Proactive, schoolwide/universal, holistic, systematic CQI approach
- Emphasis on buy-in, data-driven practices, accountability
- Five years to reach full implementation with integrity
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• Closing
# Panelists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panelist</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Public Entity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Vanderhoff</td>
<td>McKinney-Vento Liaison</td>
<td>Marion City Schools</td>
<td>Marion county</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heath Ring</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter</td>
<td>Putnam, Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot, Marion, and Crawford counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Eldridge &amp; Randall Hunt</td>
<td>Housing Coordinator &amp; Deputy Director – Housing Director</td>
<td>Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency</td>
<td>Fairfield, Licking, Coshocton, Holmes, Knox, and Muskingum counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenney Lee</td>
<td>LFCAA Youth Action Board Member</td>
<td>Ohio student</td>
<td>Newark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Plantz</td>
<td>McKinney-Vento Liaison</td>
<td>Gallia Local Schools</td>
<td>Gallia county</td>
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Discussion

• Reflections from community of practice today in the context of your community?
• What are some of the hidden challenges of rural homelessness?
Discussion

• What practices have you found most effective for collaboration in rural settings?
  • What identification strategies have you found effective in your work?
  • What steps can service providers take to address transportation barriers in their communities?
• How have you seen your district or others successfully address the needs of students experiencing homelessness in rural Ohio?
Questions
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COHHIO
Course to HOME

Important Reminders!
Plan for Upcoming Sessions

Quarter One
3/30/2022
Introduction to Homelessness
3/30/2022

Quarter Two
5/18/2022
Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Ohio

Quarter Three
9/14/2022
Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness; A Focus On Unaccompanied Youth and English Learners-New Comers

Quarter Four
11/02/2022
Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness; A Focus On: Students in Foster Care and Justice-Involved youth
## Plan for Upcoming Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter One</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/15/2023</td>
<td>5/17/2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness; A Focus On:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Identifying and Meeting the Needs Students Experiencing Homelessness; A Focus On:</strong></td>
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<td>Pregnant, Parenting, or Caregiving Students</td>
<td>Children and Youth with Disabilities</td>
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<td>Quarter Three</td>
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<td><strong>Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness; A Focus On:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Supporting the Health and Well-being of Students At-Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness</strong></td>
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<td>BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth</td>
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Download 2022-2024 Calendars

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<tr>
<td>30 McKinney-Vento Community of Practice Session 1 (1p) - Introduction of Homelessness</td>
<td>14 McKinney-Vento Community of Practice Session 3 (1p) - Newcomers and Unaccompanied Youth</td>
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18 McKinney-Vento Community of Practice Session 2 (1p) - Rural Homelessness
2 McKinney-Vento Community of Practice Session 4 (1p) - Foster Youth and Juvenile Justice Involved Youth

Preview the schedule here
Request Technical Assistance

Defining Technical Assistance
• The process of providing guidance, tools, resources, and consultation to assist districts achieve goals

Accessing Technical Assistance
• Email us at homelesseducation@cohhio.org
• Call us at 614-280-1984 ext.143
• Access resources at www.cohhio.org/youth

More Information
• Review the Guide to Technical Assistance
Visit the Website

Ohio Department of Education Youth Homelessness Program

About COHHIO Course to HOME

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) received federal formula allocated funds through the Arbour Bend program to support school districts to meet the needs of vulnerable student populations experiencing homelessness, including:

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

Visit Website

https://cohhio.org/homelesseducation/
Join the Mailing List

Sign up to Stay in Touch!

Sign up for the COHIO Course to HOME mailing list and stay up to speed.

* Email

Your email here 😊

* First Name

* Last Name

Sign Up
Feedback

We invite you to provide feedback about today's session. You can provide feedback here: https://forms.gle/sq1osHgFSQcATSSs77
Spotlight Your District

We invite you to share about your district to be considered for spotlight.

Districts can be spotlighted in community of practice and/or the COHHIO Course to HOME newsletter.

If you’re interested in spotlighting your district let us know here: https://forms.gle/JPL8548ighpR1kps7
Questions
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Spotlight Panel Contact

• Marion City Schools McKinney-Vento Liaison
  • Amy Vanderhoff
    • avanderhoff@mcs.presidents.org
• Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter
  • Heath Ring
    • director@hoohs.org
Spotlight Panel Contact

- Lancaster Fairfield Community Action-Agency
  - Amy Eldridge
    - AEldridge@faircaa.org
  - Randall Hunt
    - Rhunt@faircaa.org
Spotlight Panel Contact

• Gallia Local Schools McKinney-Vento Liaison
  • Sandra Plantz
    • gl_splantz@gallialocal.org
Contact Information

COHHIO Course to HOME
homelessseducation@cohhio.org
Resources

Ohio Department of Education – Rural Education
NCHE : Transportation For Homeless Children And Youth: Strategies For Rural School Districts
Chapin Hall : Rural Communities Need Funding and Support to Address Rural Youth Homelessness
Chapin Hall : Missed Opportunities : Youth Homelessness in Rural America
Chapin Hall : Challenges & Opportunities: In Addressing Rural Youth Homelessness
Title V, Part B - Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)
Rural Low-Income School Program
U.S. Department of Education Education Almanac August 2020: Rural education updates
Holler Health Justice
Homeless Children: Addressing the Challenge in Rural Schools (scholarly)
Resources

Penn State Center on Rural Education and Communities
USICH Strengthening Systems for Ending Rural Homelessness: Promising Practices and Considerations
Federal Funding Tool for Addressing Homelessness in Rural Communities
HUD Prevention Strategies in Rural Areas
Data Collection Challenges in Rural Areas
HUD Rural Gateway
SNAPS In Focus: Partnering to End Homelessness in Rural America
Point Source Youth Rural Conference on Youth Homelessness
NPR Unsheltered And Uncounted: Rural America's Hidden Homeless
Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness: Understanding Homelessness in Rural America
Resources

Ohio Department of Education Students Experiencing Homelessness
Ohio Department of Education American Rescue Plan Homeless II Funds
Ohio Department of Education Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness with ESSER and ARP 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 On-Demand Recorded Trainings
COHHIO Housing Now for Homeless Families
COHHIO Homeless System Resource Map
Resources

Ohio Resource Guide
COHHIO Guide to the Resource Guide
School House Connection
National Center for Homeless Education
Ohio Bridges Program
Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio
Ohio Reach
Ohio Domestic Violence Network
The Center for Family Safety and Healing
HUD Exchange Connecting Housing and Education
Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth
Youth homelessness is a solvable problem.