

HomeRoom Network

Community of Practice Session V

Meeting the Needs of Marginalized Students Experiencing
Homelessness; A Focus on: Unaccompanied Youth

10/11/2022

Welcome – Please sign in!

Please say hello in the chat box and share

- Your name & pronouns
- District



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Zoom Logistics



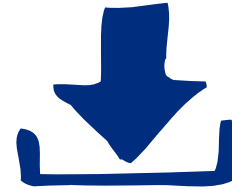
**All participants
can unmute**



**You can share
your camera**



**Questions can be
asked
throughout the
training**



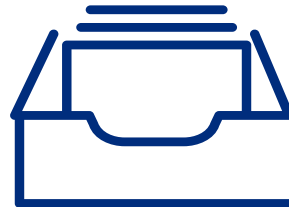
**The powerPoint
will be sent out
after each
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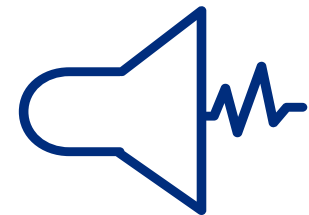
Breakout rooms



**Polls/
quizzes**



**Handouts/
Materials**



**Audio/video
issues**

Agenda

- Introduction & Activity
- Unaccompanied Youth Overview
- Best Practices & Discussions
 - Identification
 - Engagement
 - Professional Development
- Closing & Resources

COHHIO Youth Housing Initiative Team



**Ami Diallo she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Specialist**



**Evelyn Garon she/her MSW
Youth Housing
Initiative Specialist**

Welcome Activity

In Breakout Rooms, please share:

- Your name
- Your district
- What's something you could use advice on right now (personally or professionally)?



Defining Unaccompanied Youth

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program defines “unaccompanied youth” as a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.”

To be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth, two conditions must be met:

1. The child or youth’s living arrangement meets the McKinney-Vento’s definition of homeless: lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to hardship or similar reason and
2. The child or youth is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Comparing Definitions

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Children and youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence **and** not under the care of parent or guardian

Undocumented Youth/ Unaccompanied Minor

- **Undocumented:** Children and youth living in the United States without legal documentation
- **Unaccompanied (alien) minors:** Youth under age 18 who come to the U.S. without an accompanying parent or guardian.
 - The term “unaccompanied” in this context refer to their immigration status, not their McKinney-Vento status.
 - Many youths coming from other countries are not here with a parent or legal guardian and are often put into unstable living situations

Paths to Being on their Own

- Family dysfunction
 - Includes issues related to blended families, substance abuse, pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation
 - 1/3 of unaccompanied youth identify as LGBTQ+
- Parental neglect and abuse, incarceration, illness, deportation, or death
- Running away from a foster care placement or aging out of the foster care system

Unaccompanied youth are eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act regardless of the circumstances that led to their separation from family



The Educational Rights of Unaccompanied Youth

Unaccompanied youths have all the same rights as any student experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act, as well as some additional ones:

1. The right to immediate enrollment without proof of guardianship
2. Assistance from their local homeless education liaison to:
 - a) Select a school of attendance, whether the local school or the school of origin
 - b) Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested
 - c) Ensure the prompt and fair resolution of any disputes in accordance with the Act

Identification Best Practices

- Post outreach materials where youth are likely to congregate
- Build trusting relationships with youth across school personnel
 - Conduct conversations in places that allow for confidentiality
 - Consider a culturally responsive and sensitive lens when having identification conversations
 - Inform youth up-front about the circumstances that might require a report to child welfare and/or law enforcement
 - Listen to youth's concerns and wishes in a non-judgmental way
- Enlist other students to help spread the word about services offered to students experiencing homelessness



Discussion: Identification


In Breakout Rooms:

What is your biggest barrier to the identification of unaccompanied youth?

How does your current enrollment process support the identification of unaccompanied youth?

How do you ask students and families about their living situations?

How might you be able to raise awareness of the services offered to students experiencing homelessness in your district?



Take notes and be prepared to share with the group!



Enrollment



Unaccompanied youth are entitled to enroll in school immediately

Common methods schools districts use enrolling unaccompanied youth include:

- The student enrolling themselves using a self enrollment form
- An adult caregiver enrolls the student
- The local liaison enrolls the student

Districts must develop policies not only related to enrolling unaccompanied youth, but also related to determining who can sign for issues and activities as part of a student's ongoing school participation

FASFA

Independent accompanied homeless youth do not need to include parental information on the FAFSA. District liaisons can assist youth by:

- Notifying them that they can start the application process when it becomes available as early as possible
- Writing a determination letter for the unaccompanied youth
- Giving the determination letter to the youth
 - Even if youth aren't sure whether they want to go to college, make sure they have the determination letter in case they decide to apply
 - Keep a copy so you have it in case you are asked by institutions and/or in case youth lose it
 - If students know what school they will attend, help them send it to the college via email

Outreach and Engagement Best Practices

- Use a trauma-informed approach
 - Keep in mind the challenges that youth experiencing homelessness on their own are facing
- Collaborate across programs to provide wrap-around services
 - Know where in the community there are resources for families
- Accommodate unique circumstances
 - Unaccompanied homeless youth may have dual roles (student and employee, etc.), schools should work with students to find solutions that meet the student's needs
- Conduct a need assessment
 - The needs of an unaccompanied youth may be unclear, and schools and districts can ensure that they meet those needs by conducting a needs assessment with the student



Discussion: Outreach and Engagement

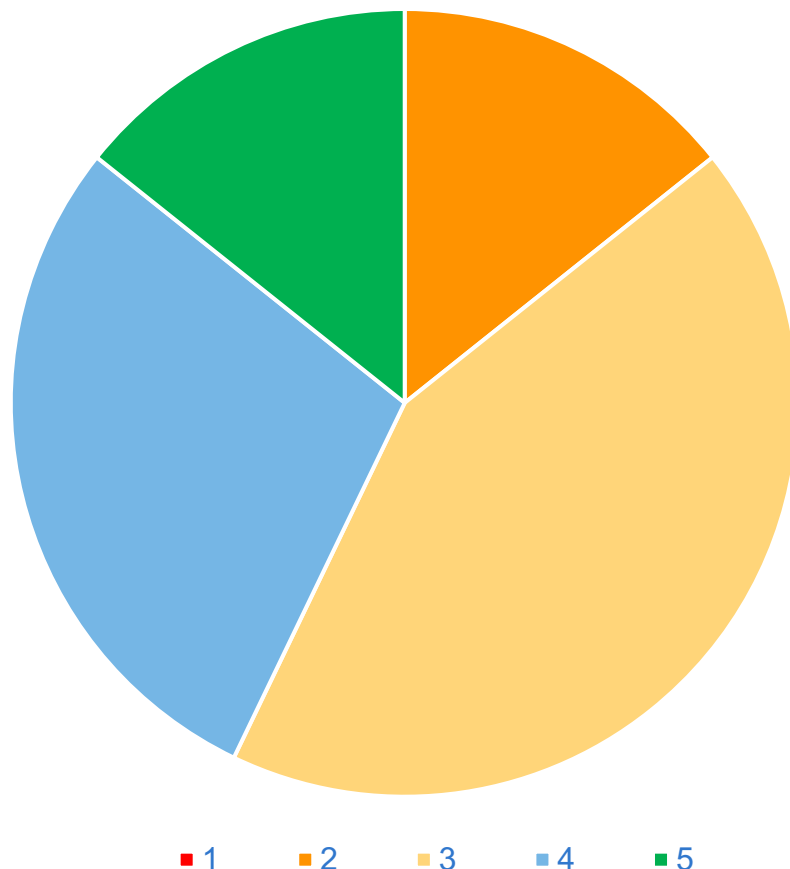
In Breakout Rooms:

What flexibilities does your district offer to support the unique circumstances of unaccompanied youth? What potential flexibilities could your district offer that it currently is not?

Who are your biggest collaborators? Where might there be missed opportunities for collaboration?



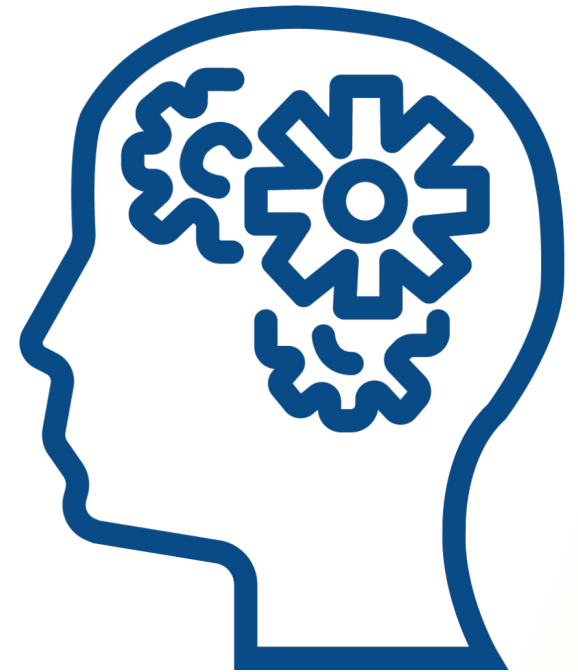
District Understanding of the Needs and Rights of Unaccompanied Youth on a Scale of 1–5



Professional Development

Key topics to train district and school personnel on:

- The McKinney-Vento Act and the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth
- The effects of trauma on students experiencing homelessness
 - The unique challenges of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness on their own
 - The effects of trauma on service providers
- Cultural humility
 - Ensure staff honor the beliefs, customs, and values of all students



Discussion: Professional Development

In Breakout Rooms:

How do you train your staff on the unique needs and rights of unaccompanied youth?

What has been effective in building staff awareness?

Where are there gaps in staff knowledge and capacity to support unaccompanied youth?

How does your district practice and encourage cultural sensitivity?



Upcoming Sessions

Session Six
12/6/2022

**Developing, Maintaining and
Sustaining Transportation for
Vulnerable Youth Experiencing
Homelessness**

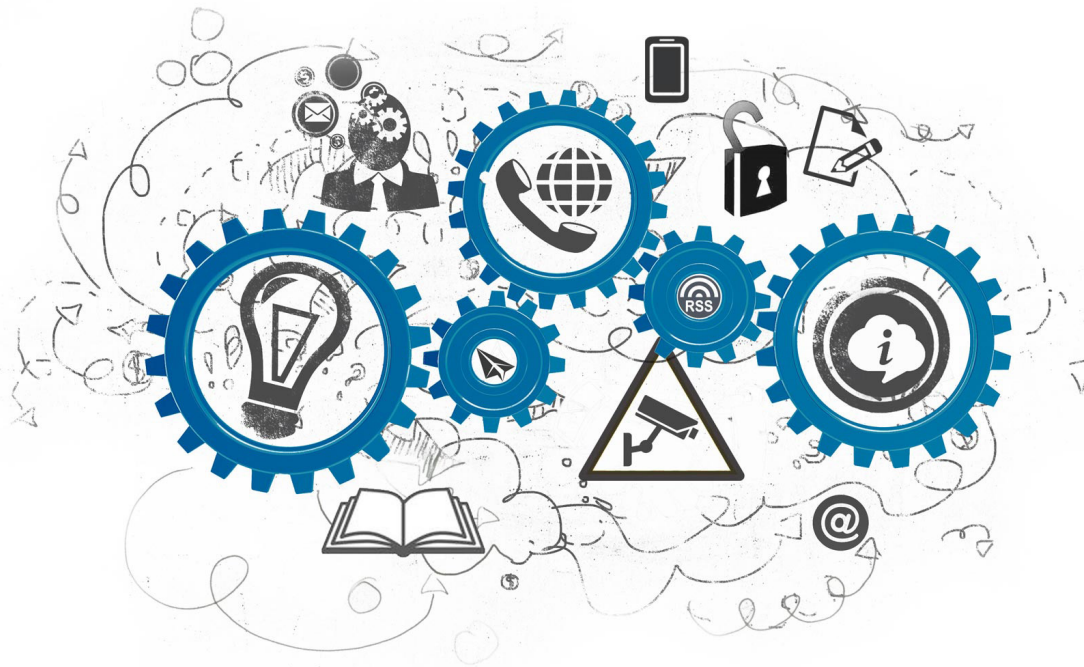
Session Seven
2/14/2023

**Establishing and Sustaining
Nutrition Efforts for Students
Experiencing Homelessness**

Coming Soon

COHHIO Course
to HOME Toolkit

COHHIO Course to
HOME E-Learning
Center



Feedback

We invite you to provide feedback about today's session. You can provide feedback here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWEUqcoBUjqTmJHLTvSZgK4KaZk3VuLQAcjyX9g2jXkobsAg/viewform>



A stylized graphic of a spotlight. It features a grey base with two vertical black bars, a black rectangular body, and a bright yellow circular lens. A wide, yellow beam of light projects from the lens towards the bottom right of the slide.

Spotlight Your District/ESC

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>

Resources

- [Alone Without a Home: A National Review of State Laws Affecting Unaccompanied Youth](#)
- [CDC Adverse Childhood Experiences Infographic](#)
- [Increasing Access to Higher Education for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Information for Colleges and Universities](#)
- [In School Every Day: Addressing Chronic Absenteeism Among students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [NCHE Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [NCHE Homeless Liaison Toolkit](#)
- [NCHE School Personnel Resources](#)
- [NCHE Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart](#)
- [NCHE Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Overview](#)

Resources

- [NCHE Needs Assessment](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education Unaccompanied Youth FAQ](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection Awareness and Training Resources](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection Unaccompanied Youth](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection 5 Quick FASFA Tips for Liaisons](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection Financial Aid for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#)
- [School Counselor Supports for College Preparation and Readiness for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Sex Trafficking of Minors: What Schools Need to Know to Recognize and Respond to the Trafficking of Students](#)
- [Unaccompanied Youth Toolkit for High School Counselors and McKinney-Vento Liaisons](#)
- [When Legal Guardians are not Present: Enrolling Students on their Own](#)



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