COHHIO COURSE TO HOME

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NEWSLETTER

2022

Special Edition
Last week, the New York Times Magazine published an article that portrays the reality of rural youth homelessness in the United States through the stories of several youth and families experiencing homelessness in Ohio, as well as the school personnel committed to helping them. These compelling stories detail the challenges of experiencing homelessness in areas where schools are often the only source of services, highlighting the important role of McKinney-Vento liaisons tasked with identifying and meeting the needs of these vulnerable students to ensure they receive the same quality of education as their peers. The article additionally shines light on how the challenges of rural homelessness are further compounded by a lack of transportation and services; the obstacles created by HUD's definition of homelessness in terms of eligibility and accurate data; and the consequences of punitive truancy policies that create additional barriers to education. COHHIO encourages readers to share this must-read article with school administrators, community partners, policy makers, and peers to further increase awareness of rural student homelessness.
2022 – 2023 Foster Care and Homeless Education Regional Training

The regional training series for local school district foster care and homeless liaisons will run from November 2022 – February 2023. This training covers federal requirements, state-level data and best practices in collaboration and provision of wraparound supports for youth in foster care and youth experiencing homelessness. You are encouraged to sign-up for the region your district is in to train with other liaisons in your geographical area. All trainings are virtual and will take place from 9:30 – 11 am on the dates listed below:

- November 3, 2022 – Northeast region
- November 17, 2022 – Southeast region
- December 8, 2022 – Southwest region
- January 26, 2023 – Northwest region
- February 9, 2023 – Central region

Register for your region’s training here. Registration will close on Wednesday, October 19. At that time, a meeting link will be sent to all registrants so the training can be accessed on the date selected.

America's First Homelessness Problem: Knowing Who is Actually Homeless

Featured in the Washington Post, this article highlights the challenges of capturing accurate data on homelessness across the United States and how one county in Washington is working to change homeless count methodologies. Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Point-in-Time count is a key component of the federal government’s homeless population estimate. However, many believe that the numbers generated from the PIT are merely estimates, and the single night number is almost certainly an undercount. Earlier this year, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) in Seattle decided to field-test a new method to capture data on individuals experiencing homelessness by combining headcount techniques with recorded testimonies. KCRHA is confident that this new methodology will not only produce a more accurate numerical understanding of homelessness, but also create a vast collection of stories attesting to the experience of homelessness.
Featured Resources

**Navigating the Ethical Maze: Storytelling for Organizations Working With Vulnerable Populations**

Produced by the Hollywood Homeless Youth partnership, this issue brief highlights the power of storytelling; explores the ethical considerations of this practice when working with vulnerable populations of young people; and offers ideas, tools, and practices to help navigate these ethical dilemmas.

**BIPOC Mental Health Month Toolkit**

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Mental Health America released a Spanish version of their BIPOC Mental Health Month Toolkit. The toolkit focuses on the uniqueness of individual communities, barriers to well-being, cultural beliefs, strengths and resiliency factors, and more. Find both versions of the toolkit here.

**2023 National Summit on Youth Homelessness**

Early Bird registration is now open for the 2023 National Summit on Youth Homelessness taking place virtually and in-person on March 2nd and 3rd, 2023 at the Hyatt on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Learn more and register now to reserve your spot!

**Youth Collaboratory Mental Health Resource Guide**

During a crisis, our attention is so focused on what is causing us fear, stress, or anxiety that our ability to think about possible solutions is impaired. Recognizing mental health needs and responses are complex, Youth Collaboratory has created a guide to serve as a starting place as you search for supports that are appropriate for you and your district.

**New Report on Barriers to Financial Aid**

Released by SchoolHouse Connection, this report examines recently released 2020-2021 federal data that help illustrate the impact of the pandemic on FAFSA completion for youth experiencing homelessness and youth with experience in foster care.

**Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness: District Approaches to Supports and Funding**

A new report from the Learning Policy Institute examines how five school districts work to serve students experiencing homelessness. The report aims to better understand the assets and needs of students experiencing homelessness and what districts are able to do to address these needs.
THANK YOU

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