

March 2023 ➤

SPRING NEWSLETTER



COHHIO
Course to HOME

RE-DETERMINING MCKINNEY-VENTO ELIGIBILITY



With the end of the school year approaching, it's time to begin thinking about your district's process for re-determining McKinney-Vento eligibility. The re-determination process can be done through in-person meetings, phone calls, or providing families with methods to self-identify, such as providing an online form or sending out end-of-year letters to McKinney-Vento families. Regardless of your method, it's important to be transparent about the process and let families know that eligibility determinations for all students are revisited at the beginning and end of each academic year. Preparing families for this process ahead of time may alleviate potential feelings of anxiety or mistrust. Verifying students' living situations is critical for not only prioritizing identified students for services at the beginning of the next school year, but also ensuring a smooth and successful transition process to permanent housing for families who are no longer McKinney-Vento eligible.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Developed by the Ohio Department of Education, this form can be used as an [interview tool](#) to check in with families about their current living situation and make eligibility determinations

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month (NCAPM), a month to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Research has shown that children and youth experiencing homelessness experience higher rates of adverse childhood events, including witnessing or experiencing violence, abuse, and/or neglect. You can play an important role in supporting families in order to prevent child abuse and neglect. Use this month as an opportunity to help raise child abuse awareness in your district. Visit the NCAPM Outreach Toolkit for graphics, social media posts, and sample proclamations.

**NCAPM OUTREACH
TOOLKIT**

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH



May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention (NTPP) Month, an effort by the Family & Youth Services Bureau to prevent and reduce teen pregnancy among the nation's youth. Pregnancy and parenthood are common among youth experiencing homelessness. [Chapin Hall's Voices of Youth Count Study](#) found that young parents have three times the risk of experiencing homelessness compared to their non-parenting peers. With this data in mind, preventing teen pregnancy can be a key factor in preventing youth homelessness. Visit the NTPP Month Digital Toolkit for information, graphics, and social media content to help spread the word about teen pregnancy prevention.

**NTPP MONTH
DIGITAL TOOLKIT**



YOUTH AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

2022 NATIONAL REPORT

Developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Institute of Justice, this report consists of the most requested information on youth and the juvenile justice system in the United States. The 2022 National Report provides a comprehensive analysis of youth victims and offending by youth, and what happens to youth when they enter the juvenile justice system in the

United States. The system must react to the law-violating behaviors of youth in a manner that not only protects the community and holds youth accountable, but also enhances youth's ability to live productively and responsibly. The report draws on numerous national data collections to address specific information needs of those involved with the juvenile justice system. It is organized into short sections that can be read independently from other parts of the report.

More News from the Field

Housing, Opportunities, Meaningful Engagement



CDC Study Finds Increased Rates of Violence and Trauma Among Teen Girls

Published by the Washington Post, this article highlights new findings from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on teen violence and trauma. Data shows increases in rape and sexual violence, as well as record levels of feeling sad or hopeless. Nearly 1 in 3 high school girls reported in 2021 that they seriously considered suicide, and almost 15 percent said they were forced to have sex, both significant increases from previous years. Results showed that girls tended to fare worse than boys when it comes to feeling persistently sad and hopeless, rates of alcohol and drug use, rates of attempted suicide, and being bullied by peers. However, CDC researchers emphasized that schools could be a lifeline as students struggle, pointing to studies showing better mental health outcomes for students who felt connected to their schools. Research has shown that young people who feel more connected in their schools do better, both while they are adolescents and up to 20 years later. [Read the full article here.](#)

Increased Student Homelessness in Central Ohio

Published last month, this local news article by WSYX calls attention to the increase in student homelessness that Franklin County has experienced in the last year. While student homelessness increased 2% across the state of Ohio from the 2020-2021 to the 2021 -2022 school year, rates of student homelessness increased by 19% in Franklin County alone. This article highlights the challenges and difficult decisions faced by two mothers as they struggle to maintain a sense of normalcy for their children. Both mothers have struggled to keep their children in school due not only to their mobility, but also their concerns of their children being stigmatized by their peers. One mother resorted to calling Child Protective Services on herself because she felt that she could not provide for her child, but now fears losing custody if she is unable to obtain housing. The difficulties faced by these mothers are common realities for the families experiencing homelessness across the state. [Read the full article and watch the news story here](#) to learn more about the experiences of these families.



OHIO VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Being an online school with over 14,000 students enrolled from all 88 counties across the state, the Ohio Virtual Academy (OHVA) faces unique challenges in identifying and supporting the needs of its students experiencing homelessness. Because staff and students do not live in one generalized area, it can be difficult for staff to intimately know the areas their students live in. In addition, being a virtual school prevents OHVA from participating in the National School Lunch Program. To combat these challenges, OHVA decided to use grant funds to pay stipend positions to set up a donation center at one of their offices in Maumee. Staff donate new and gently used clothing, household items, and non-perishables. The donation center team then organizes the collection of these items at large, in-person school events; coordinates the transportation of items to the office to be inventoried, sorted, inspected, and packed for families; monitors the referrals from staff for families in need of particular items; and finally coordinates the shipment/delivery of the items to families. This is a new initiative for OHVA, and they are excited to see how they can expand in the future.

**Know a district or
ESC whose work
needs the spotlight?
Tell Us About It!**

**Want to learn more
about this OHVA
initiative?**

Contact Heidi Ragar
hragar@k12.com
419-482-0948



Featured Resources

FASFA Fixes for Youth Experiencing Homelessness and Foster Youth

In December 2022, SchoolHouse Connection hosted a webinar with several key stakeholders to discuss the FASFA Simplification Act and provide guidance on its implementation. [Watch the recording](#) or [download the PowerPoint](#) to learn more about these changes to federal student aid policy.



Youth and Relationship Violence Toolkit

This toolkit organizes information, resources, tips, and tools designed to help service providers better address relationship violence among youth who have run away from home, are living on the streets, or are experiencing homelessness. [Learn more and access the toolkit here.](#)

Partnering with Youth to Implement the Principles of Change

The National Network For Youth in partnership with The Coalition For Juvenile Justice has produced [a resource for partnering with youth](#) to restructure policies and systems to address the intersection of youth legal system involvement and homelessness in your community.

Groundwork Ohio's 2023 Early Childhood Dashboard

This newly released [data dashboard](#) by [Groundwork Ohio](#) is a comprehensive snapshot of Ohio's performance on more than 60 key metrics that examine the systems, community conditions, and outcomes necessary to ensure that young children in Ohio are healthy and ready to learn.

Human Trafficking Resources from RHYTTAC

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY), and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) have prepared [a list of resources](#) to increase your knowledge and to help prevent human trafficking.



Housing Ohio Conference: Save the Date April 11- 13

Housing Ohio is [COHHIO's annual conference](#) to convene advocates, practitioners, and experts to explore new and innovative approaches to ending homelessness and expanding access to affordable housing in Ohio. This year's conference will be COHHIO's first ever hybrid conference. [Register here!](#)



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