Increasing McKinney-Vento Awareness and Response

Tuesday April 11th, 2023

Increasing McKinney-Vento Awareness and Response

Housing Ohio Conference 2023

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio | 175 S. Third St. Suite 580 Columbus, OH 43215

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- National & State Overview of Student Homelessness
- The McKinney-Vento Act and Liaison Responsibilities
- COHHIO & ODE Partnership
- COHHIO Course to HOME Overview
- Ohio Liaison Panel
- Closing

COHHIO Course to HOME Team

Amanda Wilson
she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Director

Ami Diallo she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Specialist

Evelyn Garon she/her
Youth Housing
Initiative Specialist

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Ohio Department of Education

Susannah Wayland she/her
*State Homeless Education
Coordinator*
Office of Whole Child Supports

Ohio Liaison Panel

Amy Vanderhoff
McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Marion City Public Schools

Rebeka Beach
McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Cincinnati Public Schools

Terri Mabrey
McKinney-Vento Coordinator
Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West

Laura McNamara
Student Services Coordinator
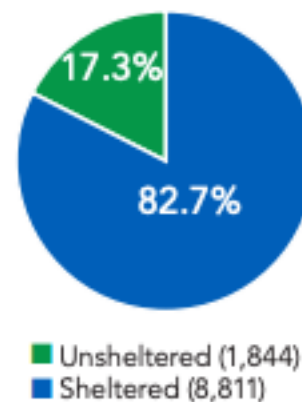*Washington Court House City Schools*

Current Homelessness Data

OHIO

3.0% change from 2019

-5.4% change from 2007

Total Homeless, 2020
10,655

Source

9.1 in every **10,000** people were experiencing homelessness

17.3%

82.7%

- Unsheltered (1,844)
- Sheltered (8,811)

HUD
Estimates of Homelessness

7,636 individuals

3,019 people in families with children

736 unaccompanied homeless youth

730 veterans

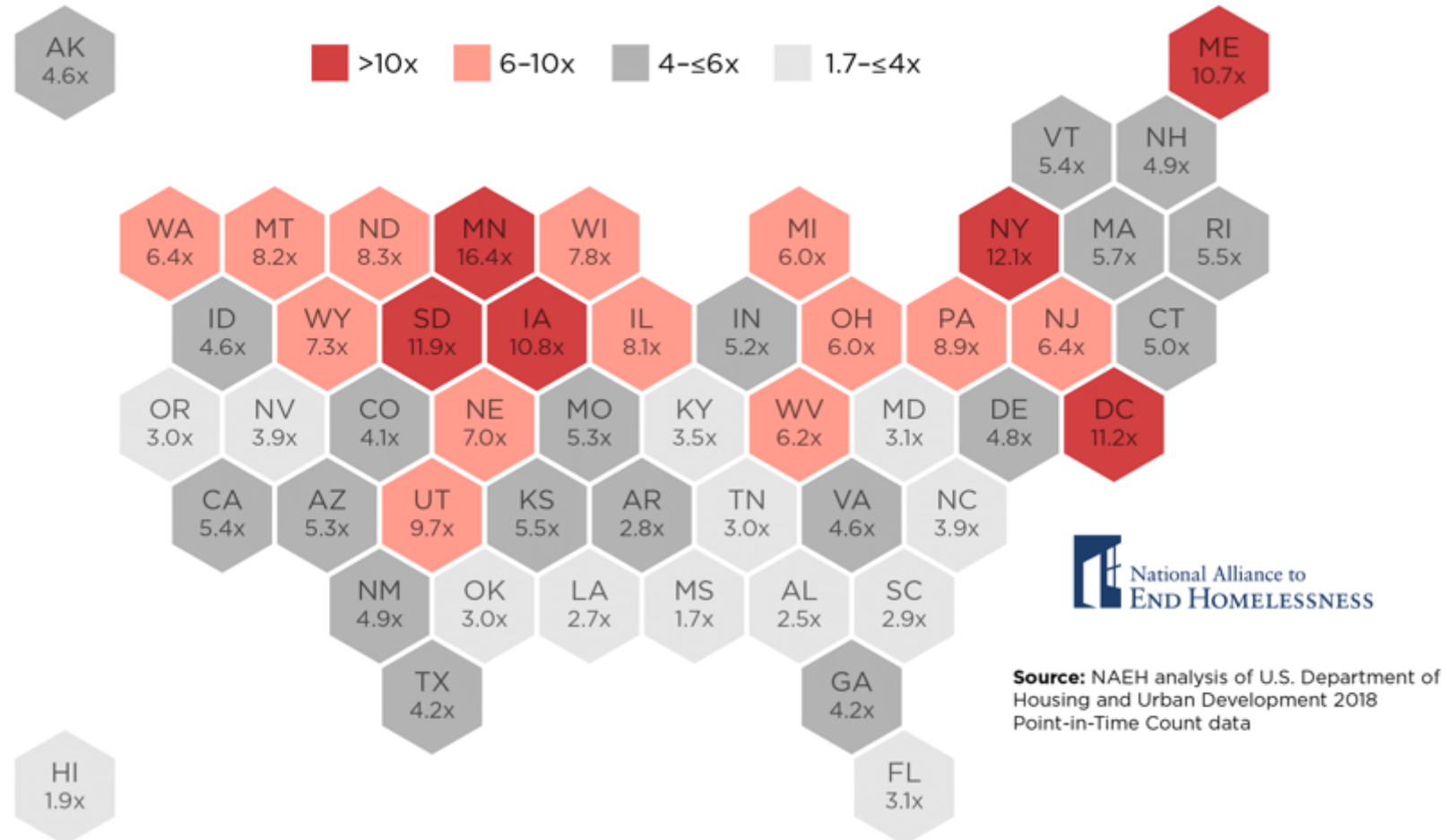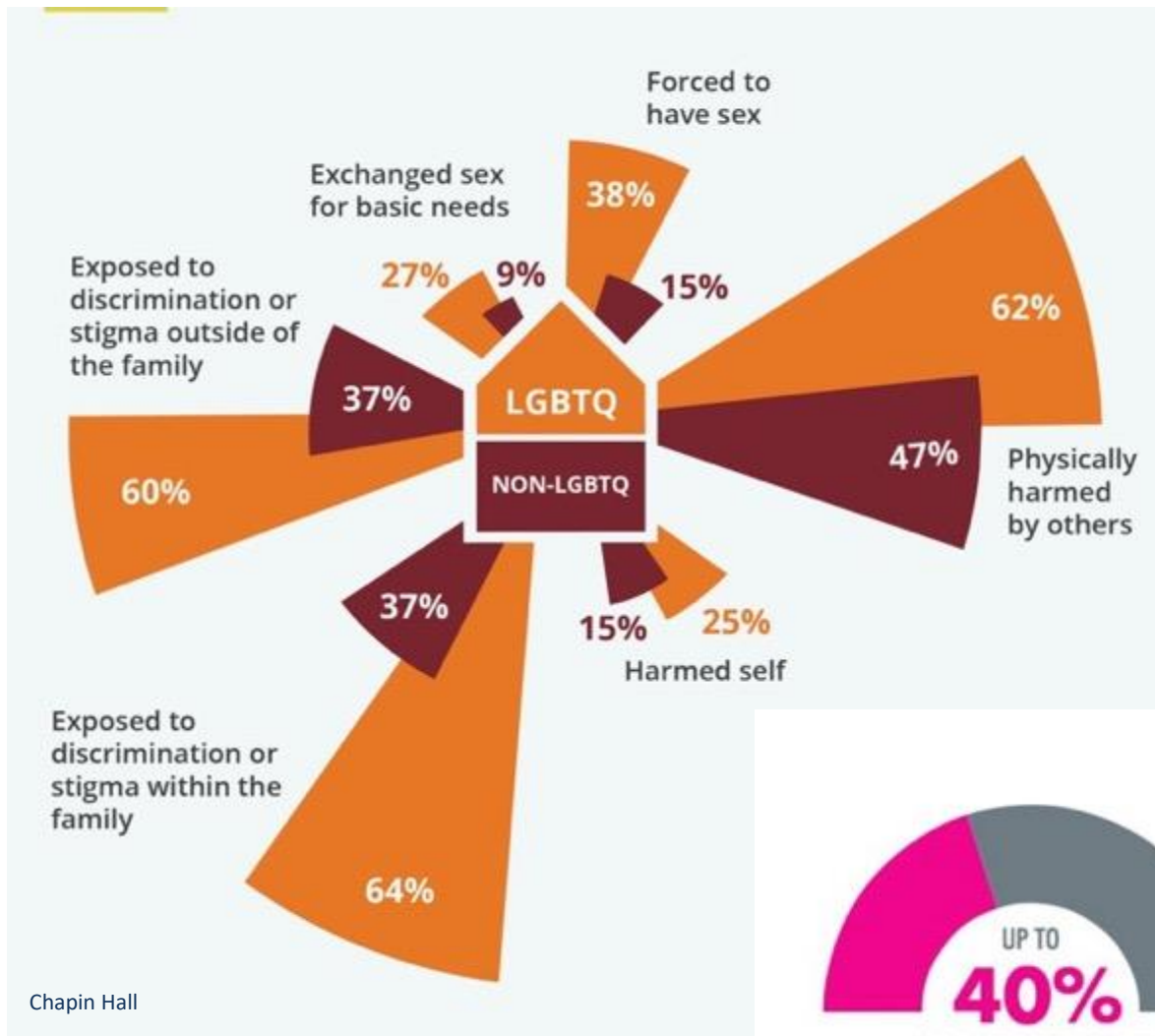**700** chronically homeless individuals

EMIS

23,885 2019-2020 students experiencing homelessness

Source

In Every State, African Americans Are More Likely Than Whites to Experience Homelessness

Ratio of Black-to-White homelessness rate by state, 2018

Legend: ■ >10x ■ 6–10x ■ 4–≤6x □ 1.7–≤4x

AK 4.6x

ME 10.7x

VT 5.4x | NH 4.9x

WA 6.4x | MT 8.2x | ND 8.3x | MN 16.4x | WI 7.8x | MI 6.0x | NY 12.1x | MA 5.7x | RI 5.5x

ID 4.6x | WY 7.3x | SD 11.9x | IA 10.8x | IL 8.1x | IN 5.2x | OH 6.0x | PA 8.9x | NJ 6.4x | CT 5.0x

OR 3.0x | NV 3.9x | CO 4.1x | NE 7.0x | MO 5.3x | KY 3.5x | WV 6.2x | MD 3.1x | DE 4.8x | DC 11.2x

CA 5.4x | AZ 5.3x | UT 9.7x | KS 5.5x | AR 2.8x | TN 3.0x | VA 4.6x | NC 3.9x

NM 4.9x | OK 3.0x | LA 2.7x | MS 1.7x | AL 2.5x | SC 2.9x

TX 4.2x | GA 4.2x

HI 1.9x | FL 3.1x

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Source: NAEH analysis of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2018 Point-in-Time Count data

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Chapin Hall

LGBTQ+ Youth 120% More Likely to Experience Homelessness

McKinney-Vento Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness and seeks to remove any barriers these students may face in succeeding in school.

This Act requires every school district to designate a liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The liaison is responsible for coordinating services to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are enrolled in school and have equal opportunity to succeed academically.

Defining Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Act says that any student staying somewhere that is not a **"fixed, regular, or adequate"** nighttime residence is considered homeless.

This means:

Sharing another person's house due to lost housing	Staying in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping ground	Living in an emergency or transitional shelter	Being abandoned at a hospital
	Staying in a private or public place not designed for sleeping	Living in a car, park, abandoned building, or train station	Living in substandard housing (lack of utilities & appliances, mold)

Liaison Responsibilities

Local homeless education liaisons have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Youth experiencing homelessness are identified
- Youth experiencing homelessness are enrolled in and have equal opportunity to succeed in school
- Youth and families have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible
- Youth and families receive referrals to health care, dental, mental health, substance use, housing, and other services
- Parents and guardians are informed of educational opportunities available to their children
- Public notice of the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness is disseminated in locations frequented by families and youth

Liaison Responsibilities (Cont.)

Local homeless education liaisons additionally have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the provisions of the Act
- Parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness are fully informed of all transportation services available to McKinney-Vento students
- School personnel providing services to students experiencing homelessness receive professional development and other support
- Unaccompanied youth:
  - Are enrolled in school
  - Have opportunities to meet the same academic standards as other youth
  - Are informed of their status as independent students and receive assistance verifying this status for Federal Student Aid

COHHIO Course to HOME

Background

• History of collaboration between COHHIO & ODE

• Development of COHHIO Course to Home

• Ohio's ARP State Plan

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Ohio's ARP-HCY State Plan

Ohio's ARC-HCY State Plan outlines the Ohio Department of Education's contract with COHHIO to provide professional development and supports to school districts through the following deliverables:

- Community of Practice sessions
- E-Learning Center for liaisons and school personnel
- Technical Assistance
- Toolkit for Schools
- Newsletters

COHHIO Course to HOME

Purpose

- Empower Ohio districts in meeting the specific and urgent needs of students experiencing homelessness

- Provide professional development and resources in meeting the need of vulnerable historically underserved students 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
  - pregnant, parenting, or caregiving students

COHHIO Course to HOME

Housing. Opportunities. Meaningful. Engagement

Community of Practice

Defining Community of Practice

- *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.*
  k

- The fundamental motivation for our community of practice is a group of people coming together driven by a shared learning need, in this case student homelessness with an emphasis on vulnerable groups

- By engaging each other, over time, in collective learning, we develop a bond that in turn fuels the production of resources to influence our own practices. The combination of a shared field/area of expertise, community, and practice lie at the heart of a community of practice.

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

COHHIO Course to HOME Communities of Practice

Ohio McKinney-Vento

- Occurs quarterly
- Webinar style learning opportunities
- Open to school districts across the state and any school personnel striving to increase knowledge and response of students at-risk of or experiencing homelessness

HomeRoom Network

- Bi-monthly
- Interactive, discussion-based workshops
- Targeted to ARP-HCY I sub-grantees, McKinney-Vento sub-grantees, and ESC liaisons striving to increase knowledge and response for students at-risk of or experiencing homelessness
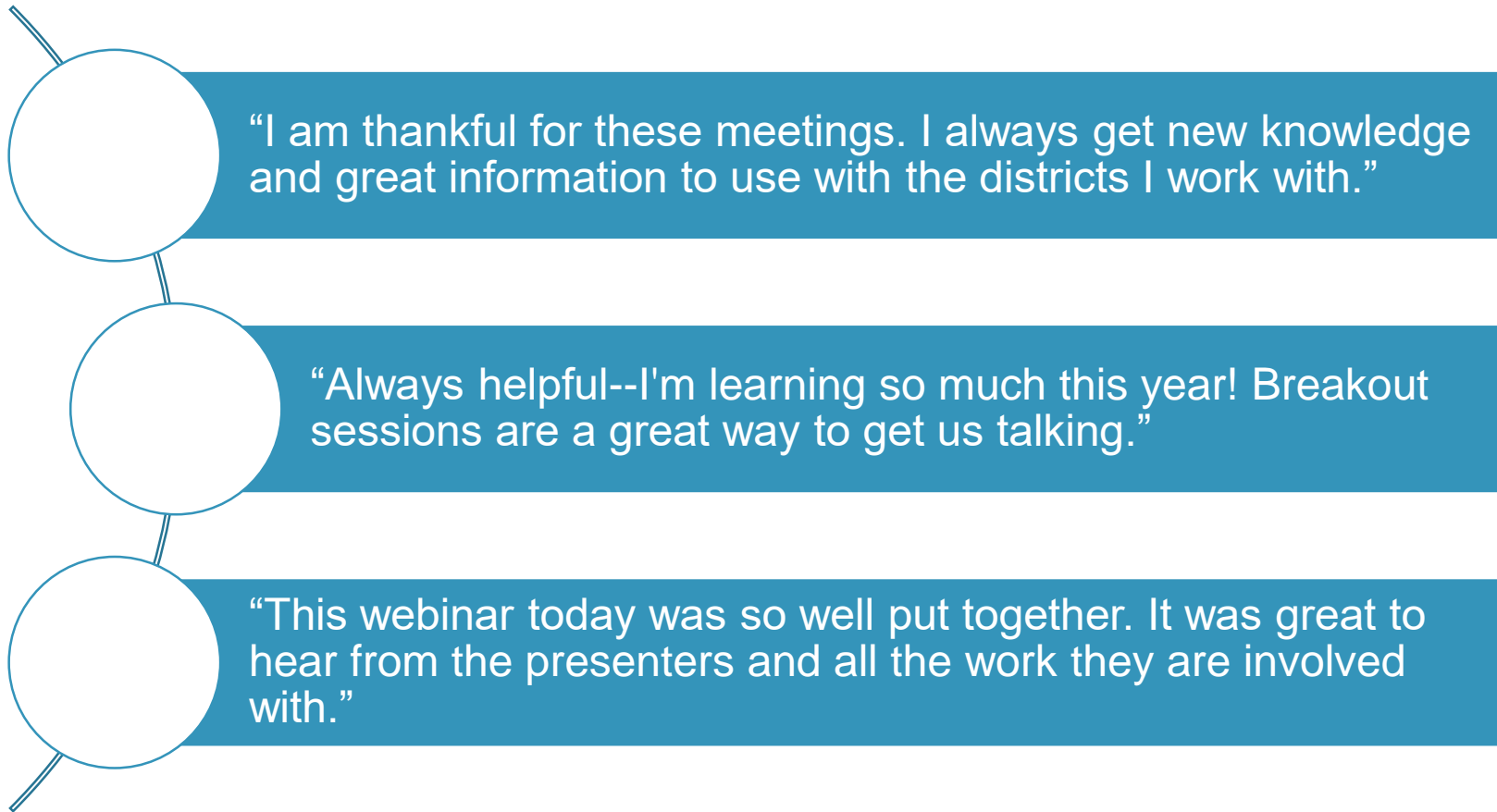
Sessions to Date

Ohio McKinney-Vento

1. Introduction to Homelessness
2. Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Ohio
3. Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Unaccompanied Youth and English Learners
4. Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Students in Foster-Care and Justice-Involved Youth
5. Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Pregnant and Parenting Youth

HomeRoom Network

1. Introduction to Community of Practice
2. Establishing a Solid Collaboration with the Local Homelessness Response System
3. Providing Culturally Responsive Care & Resources: A Focus on LGBTQ+ & BIPOC Youth
4. Increasing and Sustaining McKinney-Vento Awareness, Outreach, and Professional Development
5. Identifying and Meeting the Unique Needs of Unaccompanied Youth
6. Developing, Maintaining, and Sustaining Transportation
7. Establishing and Sustaining Nutrition Efforts

Feedback from Participants

"I am thankful for these meetings. I always get new knowledge and great information to use with the districts I work with."

"Always helpful--I'm learning so much this year! Breakout sessions are a great way to get us talking."

"This webinar today was so well put together. It was great to hear from the presenters and all the work they are involved with."

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.

COHHIO Course to HOME technical assistance is intended for:

- 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

Technical Assistance to Date

Requests Received from February 2022 – March 2023:

170

Technical Assistance is requested by emailing homelesseducation@cohhio.org

Assistance Commonly Requested:

- Community resources and partners
- Resources and strategies for rural districts
- Assistance and resources for unaccompanied homeless youths
- Fire relief
- Eligibility determination
- Best practice guidance
- Community of Practice materials
- Data requests

Vulnerable Youth Team Technical Assistance to Date

Requests Received from August 2022 – March 2023:

1,115

Ohio | Department of Education

Top 5 Most Common Requests:

- Funding
- Identification
- Training
- Enrollment
- School Selection

E-Learning Center

The purpose of the COHHIO Course to HOME E-Learning Center is to provide quality online professional development for school districts to use with liaisons, teachers, and school-based personnel in supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Liaison Course

- Designed for liaisons to understand their roles and responsibilities, as well as strategies and best practices for carrying out their duties.

Educator Course

- Designed for teachers to understand the signs of homelessness, their role in supporting students, and the role of their district's liaison.

Videos

- Designed as quick knowledge bites for all school personnel, available as standalone content and embedded throughout the E-Learning courses.

Toolkit for Schools

COHHIO is in the process of developing a toolkit for liaisons and other school personnel to utilize in identifying and supporting the needs of students experiencing homelessness. This toolkit will include the following forms, guides, and resources:

For Liaisons	For Educators	For Families
• Eligibility Determination Form • New Liaison Checklist • Transportation Tracker • Family/Student Needs Checklist • Trauma Sensitive Guide • Sample Communications/Social Media Posts	• District Communication Protocol • Common Signs of Homelessness Desk Tent	• Referral to Community Resources • Educational Rights Brochure • Unaccompanied Youth Rights Flyer

Communications

Listserv

- Utilized for Community of Practice announcements, follow-up materials, surveys, and newsletters

Quarterly Newsletter

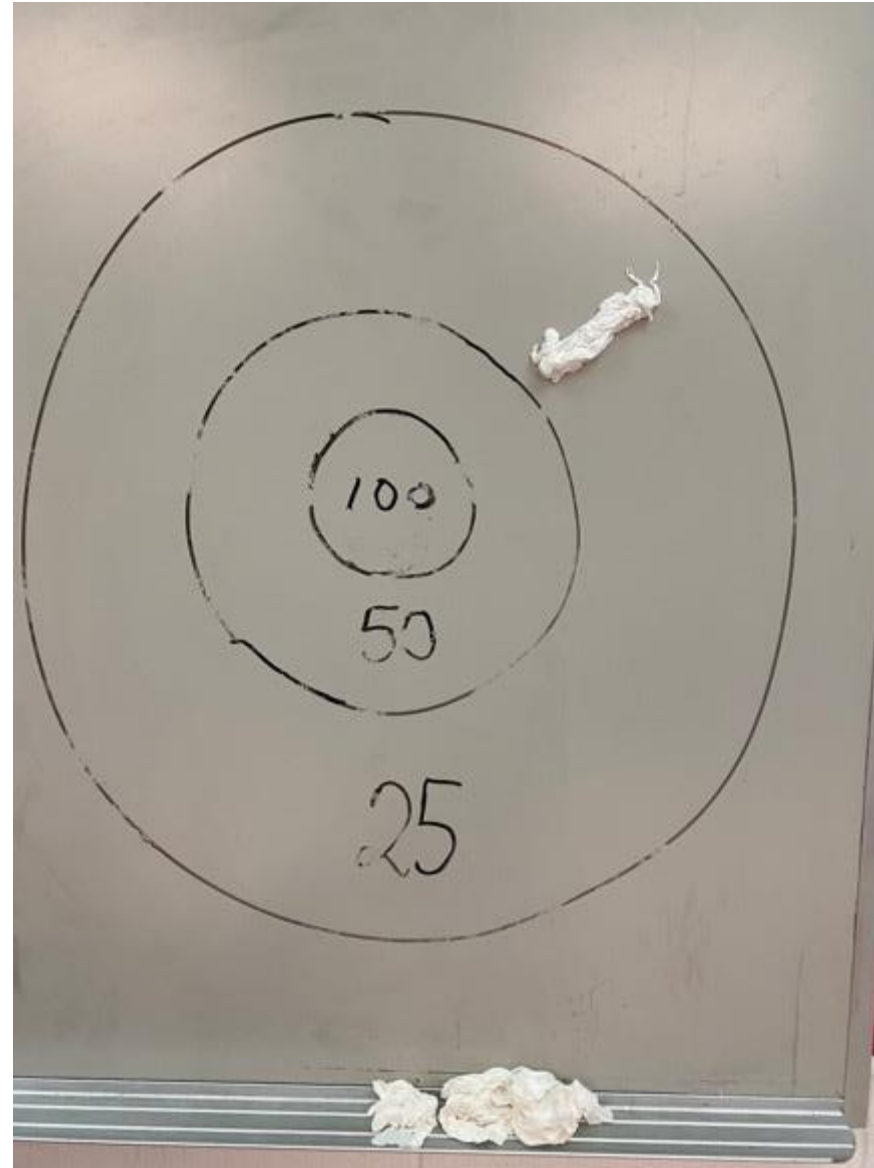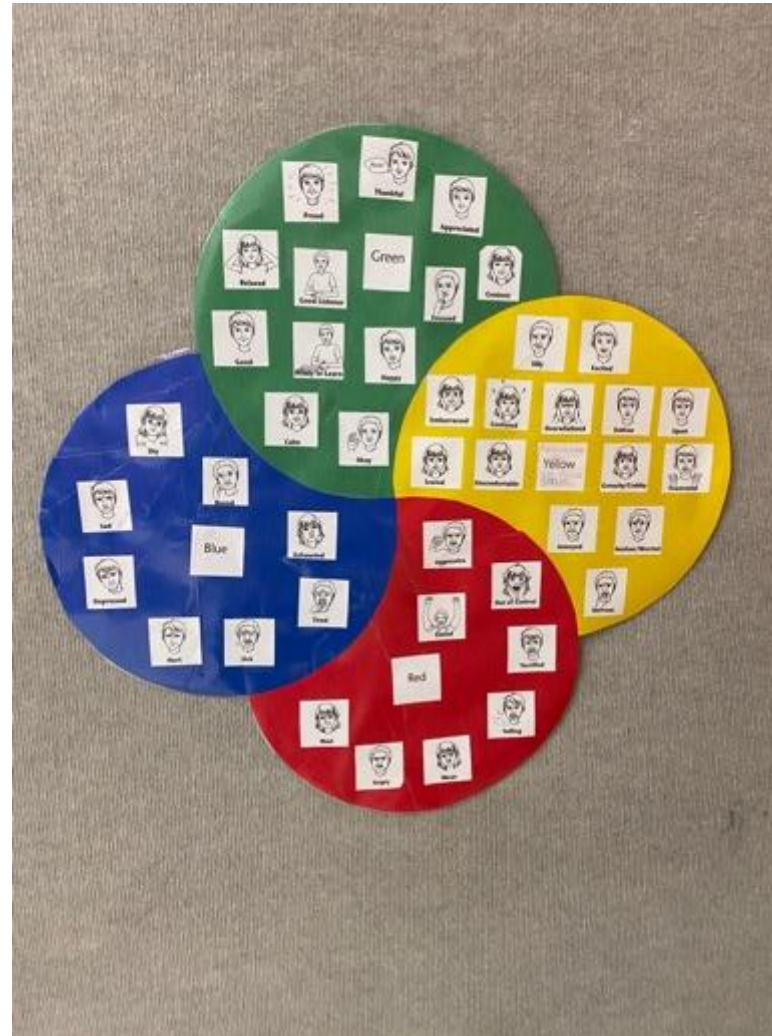- Includes news from the field, district spotlights, resources, best practice guidance, and more!

Website

- Landing page for all program information, including Community of Practice materials and listserv messages
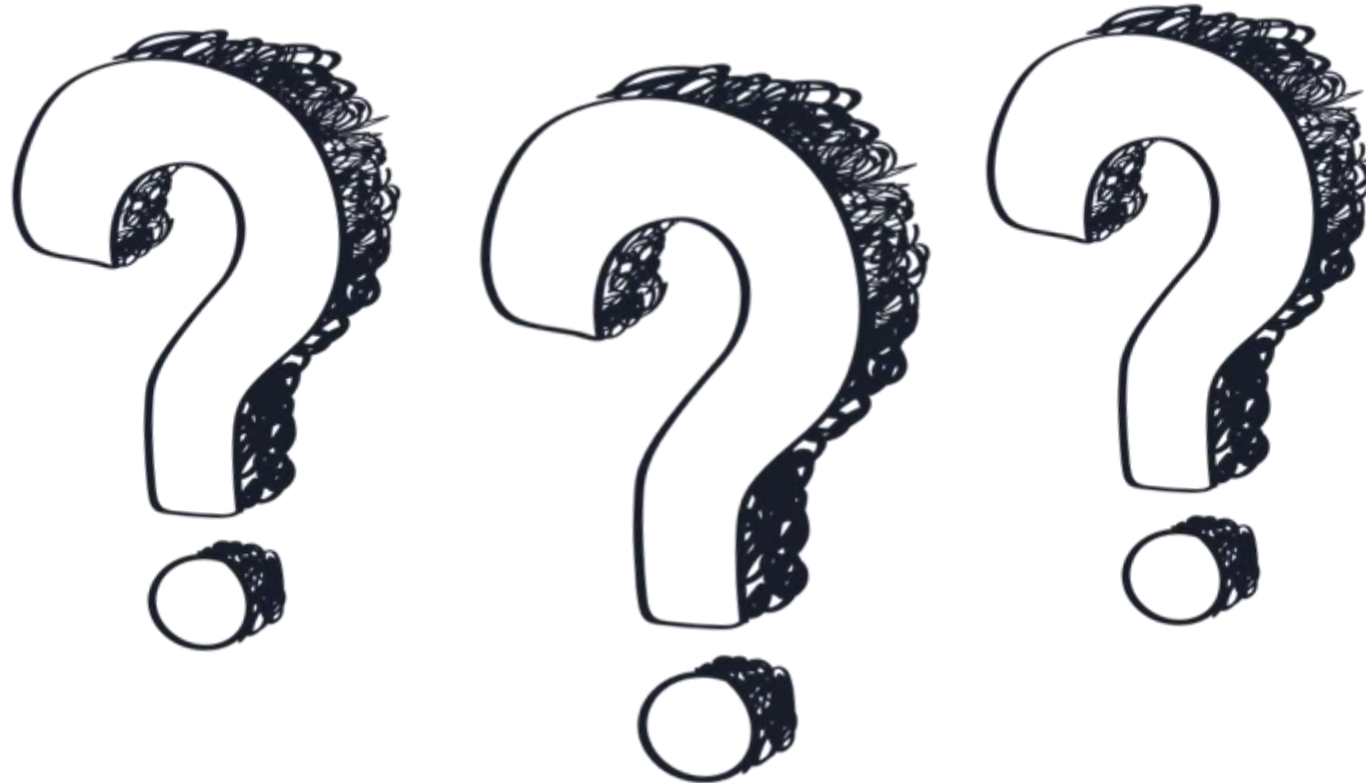
Panelists

Panelist	District/ESC	County	Region
Amy Vanderhoff	Marion City Schools	Marion	Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care, Region 11
Rebeka Beach	Cincinnati Public Schools	Hamilton	Hamilton County Continuum of Care
Terri Mabrey	Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West	Lucas	Lucas County Continuum of Care
Laura McNamara	Washington Court House City Schools	Fayette	Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care, Region 16

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Questions

Panelist Contact Information

Panelist	Email	Phone
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Rebeka Beach, Cincinnati Public Schools	beachre@cpsboe.k12.oh.us	513-363-6579
Terri Mabrey, ESC of Lake Erie West	tmabrey@esclakeeriewest.org	419-725-2064
Laura McNamara, Washington Court House City Schools	laura.mcnamara@wchcs.org	740-335-1810 ext.2510

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 Course to HOME](#)

[COHHIO Youth Housing Initiative](#)

[School House Connection](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education](#)

CEU Code

HOC380