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FALL NEWSLETTER

2023

NEWSLETTER



COHHIO
Course to HOME.

BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST



Starting off the beginning of a new school year on the right track is key for ensuring the identification and support of students and families experiencing homelessness. Consider the following strategies to prepare for this school year:

- ☐ Verify the status of students experiencing homelessness from the previous school year. Check-in with families about what they need in order to attend and succeed in school.
- ☐ Touch base with community organizations and agencies to verify contact information and eligibility requirements for programs and services. Renew or establish local partners.
- ☐ Assess professional development needs of district staff and personnel as it relates to McKinney-Vento policies and procedures, including identification strategies, available services, and your district referral process.
- ☐ Analyze attendance data from last year to gain insight on which students may need extra support. A student's attendance in the previous school year predicts their attendance for the upcoming school year.
- ☐ Update and verify homelessness awareness poster placements in your district and community. Ensure posters are placed in locations where students and families can easily read and location them.
- ☐ Update websites and informational materials as needed. Ensure contact and program information are up-to-date.
- ☐ Meet with seniors to review graduation requirements, post-graduation plans, and important deadlines. Begin preparing students to complete their FAFSA once it becomes available.

BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

**DEVELOPING AN
EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION
PROTOCOL**

**AWARENESS
BUILDING TOOLS
FOR STAFF**

**ENSURING ACCESS
TO FOOD
RESOURCES**



THOUSANDS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSTABILITY

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

A recent national survey found that nearly half of all college students experienced housing insecurity in 2020. In that same time, 14% of students experienced homelessness, according to The Hope Center for College, Community and Justice. Despite these numbers, these students often go unnoticed on their campuses. The societal stereotypes of homelessness lead some students to believe that their living situations don't qualify. On top of these misconceptions, college students are an understudied population in the realm of housing insecurity research. While McKinney-Vento

requires data on K-12 youth experiencing homelessness, there is no analogous program for college students struggling with homelessness. The most common challenges for these students are not being able to pay the full amount of their rent, mortgage or utility bills; going into default or collections because of housing; leaving a home because they felt unsafe; or the need to move frequently. All of these challenges impact students' ability to focus on their education, yet obtaining a college degree is often the key to escaping continued housing instability and realizing their dreams.

More News from the Field

Housing, Opportunities, Meaningful Engagement



The Intersection of Homelessness and Human Trafficking

Authored by Christi Bartman from [Eyes Up Appalachia](#)

Youth in a runaway or homeless situation are at a higher risk of being targets for individuals who will offer jobs that are too good to be true, modeling opportunities, fraudulent commission-based work, offers to exchange sex for drugs or rent, or other “opportunities.” What the youth might not know is that those offering the “opportunities” are potentially recruiting or grooming them for human trafficking. Labor trafficking is the use of fraud, force, or coercion to recruit someone to perform labor or services. Sex trafficking, if the individual is under 18, does not even have to show fraud, force, or coercion (though it is often there) but the key is that there is an exchange of a sexual activity for something of value. That something of value could be a place to stay, drugs, money, or anything else. We all know survival sex is out there - but we don't always think about a continued spiral into a situation where the control is not

with the youth. As an educational liaison or advocate, by providing housing, food, employment opportunities and safety, you can go a long way toward meeting those needs the trafficker is using to recruit. Make sure you don't only focus on girls. Boys can also be trafficked. Trans and LGBTQ+ individuals are at increased risk. And don't forget, those recruiting youth are often other youth! By offering training on healthy relationships, safe use of social media, and safety planning along with skills such as how to apply for jobs or plan a budget, you can help them build up their resistance to the trafficker's offers. It is not uncommon for youth to return to a trafficking situation (trauma bonding is real!) but if they know you offer them a safe, non-judgmental space, you may be that trusted adult they reach out to when they have nowhere else to turn.

Additional Resources

[Human Trafficking and Housing & Homelessness](#)

[Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth](#)

[Homelessness and Human Trafficking Infographic](#)

District

Spotlight



WHITEHALL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Whitehall City Schools are piloting a new approach to connect with students ahead of the new school year called "100 Days to Build Relationships." The program began in July and will continue through the first quarter of the school year. Through this initiative, district administrators, staff, teachers, and other personnel are conducting student home visits. Whitehall City has over 3,500 enrolled students and during this initiative, district staff will visit all of them, regardless of their current living situation. During these home visits, district staff are introducing themselves, providing informational materials, and dropping off supplies and resources to help students prepare for the upcoming school year, including math and reading learning kits and other enrichment activities. These visits give the district an opportunity to show all students, including those experiencing homelessness or housing instability, that the district is here to help and support them. For unidentified students experiencing homelessness, these home visits let the district know which families may need additional resources and services. The overall goals of this district program are to bridge the gap between school and families ahead of the school year and show families that the district is engaged in the community.



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

Featured Resources

Overcoming Legal and Policy Barriers to Serving Minors Experiencing Homelessness

Serving young people experiencing homelessness and helping them quickly exit homelessness is critical and is often incredibly challenging due to their legal status as minors. [The National Network for Youth has created a Toolkit](#) with resources and strategies for overcoming policy and legal barriers for these youth.



New Federal Guidance on Special Education

In July, U.S. Department of Education released [updated guidance](#) to improve educational opportunities for children and youth with disabilities. This resource by SchoolHouse Connection breaks down the implications of this guidance for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Confronting Anti-LGBTQI+ Harassment in Schools

The U.S. Department of Education's resource "[Confronting Anti-LGBTQI+ Harassment in Schools](#)" is a great foundation to ensure all teachers, school staff, students, and families are aware of what constitutes harassment. Download the resource and share it with your peers!

Flexing the Flexibility of ARP-HCY Funding Series

Developed by SchoolHouse Connection, [this series](#) highlights some specific uses of ARP-HCY funds, why these funds are beneficial for meeting the needs of students experiencing homelessness, and how some districts are using their funds for these purposes.

Out of Reach Report 2023

Released in June, the 2023 Out of Reach Report highlights the mismatch between the wages people earn and the price of decent rental housing in every state. Between last year's report and this year's, the hourly wage required for Ohioans to afford a modest apartment jumped from \$17.05 to \$19.09. [Read the full report and compare state data here.](#)



Bringing Kinship Care out of the Shadows

Kinship foster care is viewed as best practice because evidence shows that children fare better being with kin or close family friends when they cannot remain safely with their parents. This [new brief by Chapin Hall](#) clarifies kinship practices and provides best practices and recommendations.



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