Ohio McKinney-Vento Community of Practice

Supporting Transitions to Adulthood for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Session 7

8/9/2023
Welcome!

Please say hello in the chat box and share
• Your name & pronouns
• Name of your District
• Your role
• One word description of how you are doing today
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 training
- Breakout rooms
- Polls/ quizzes
- Handouts/ Materials
- Audio/video issues
Agenda

• Welcome & Introductions
• Need for FAFSA and Higher Education
• FAFSA Simplification Updates
• Best Practices
• Resources
• Q&A
• Closing
Objectives

Attendees will:

• Understand the importance of higher education for students experiencing homelessness
• Learn about the FAFSA process and procedures
• Learn best practices for supporting transitions to adulthood for students experiencing homelessness
• Learn resources to support transitions to adulthood for students experiencing homelessness
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
Guest Presenters

Jiilllian Sitjar (she/her)
Director of Higher Education Partnerships
SchoolHouse Connection

Carlos Bing
Director of College Access Programs
Ohio Department of Higher Education
Supporting Transition to Adulthood for Students Experiencing Homelessness

August 9, 2023 | 1:00pm Eastern

COOHIO and Ohio Department of Education
About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

WEBSITE: [schoolhouseconnection.org](http://schoolhouseconnection.org)

NEWSLETTER: [schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up](http://schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up)

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
1. Role of High School Counselors
2. Need for Higher Education and FAFSA
3. FAFSA Simplification Updates
4. Transition from High School FAFSA Best Practices
5. Resources/Q&A
Role of High School Counselors
Pulled from the McKinney-Vento Act

School counselors must advise students experiencing homelessness and help them prepare and improve their readiness for college.

Local liaisons and school counselors should ensure that all homeless high school students receive information and individualized counseling regarding college readiness, college selection, the application process, financial aid, and the availability of on-campus supports.
School Counselor Supports

School counselors can support students experiencing homelessness by:

- Collaborating with the local homeless education liaison, including through joint training
- Supporting students with credit recovery options
- Providing students with waivers for college entrance exams and applications fees
- Helping students access documentation that may be needed to apply for college
- Providing information on sources of financial aid
- Exposing students to local postsecondary institutions
- Helping students select a postsecondary institution that is a good fit
- Providing a warm handoff to postsecondary campus-based supports
- Helping parents/caregivers know what to expect from the postsecondary environment and feel equipped to support the educational goals of their children
Need for **Higher Education & FAFSA**
Some form of postsecondary education is necessary for jobs that pay enough to lift out of poverty and afford housing - 80% of "good jobs" are held by workers with at least some postsecondary education.

Higher education appears to be a protective factor against youth homelessness. A 2019 study shows four year college enrollment to be nearly four time higher for young adults without experiences of homelessness in the prior month.

New data links financial aid and upward mobility. In WA, all students who came from families with household incomes below $63K saw their economic status rise within three years of earning a degree and entering the labor force.
Financial Aid Makes a Difference

High schools seniors that complete the FAFSA are 63 percent more likely to enroll in higher education. The higher the amount of financial aid they receive, the higher the likelihood they will successfully transfer or graduate.

- Students receiving ≥ $7,500: 49% transferred or graduated
- Students receiving $1,000-$2,500: 17% transferred or graduated
Who is considered homeless on the FAFSA?

- Unaccompanied homeless youth or unaccompanied youth who are self-supporting and at risk of homelessness are independent students.

- Independent students do not need to include parental information on the FAFSA.
Download the Report:

1. Visit this link - [bit.ly/3HsXsql](https://bit.ly/3HsXsql)
2. Scan the QR Code
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determinations by School District Liaisons

Percent (%) increase (+) or decrease (-) from previous year


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

### Homeless Youth

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<td>784</td>
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<td>878</td>
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### Foster Youth

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<td>4,749</td>
<td>4,266</td>
<td>3,872</td>
<td>3,689</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>3,012</td>
<td>2,775</td>
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*Missing FAFSA data on Foster Youth from 2017-2018*
FAFSA Simplification Updates
The FAFSA Simplification Act: Major Policy Wins

Significant improvements for homeless and foster youth were included in the FAFSA Simplification Act

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is implementing the FAFSA Simplification Act in phases through 2024-2025

ED released guidance on November 4, 2022 and April 14, 2023 declaring the homeless/foster provisions are in effect now for enrollment in the upcoming 2023-2024 award year

While the text of the homeless/foster questions on the FAFSA that went online October 1 has not changed, the law has changed
Big Key Changes

1. Homeless and foster youth care status does not need to be redetermined.

2. Determinations must be made as quickly as practicable.

3. More programs and officials can provide determinations (school district liaisons or their designee, directors/designees of an emergency or transitional shelter (does not need to HUD/RHYA funded), TRIO/GEAR UP director, financial aid administrators).
Transition from High School/FAFSA

Best Practices
Transition from High School Best Practices

- Start talking about college earlier than senior year
- ACT/SAT fee waivers
- McKinney-Vento College tour
- FAFSA mentors/graduation coaches
- Homeless higher education liaisons
- Connect with other higher education professionals (financial aid, homeless higher education liaisons, support programs)
- Summer bridge programs (Florida State Unconquered Scholar Program)
- Mentorship programs
- ARP-HCY money
- College starter kits (laptop, luggage, school supplies, hygiene items, bedding, etc)
- Warm hand-off (The 3 Big E’s)
FAFSA Best Practices

- FAFSA is available now!
  - Use this email template to remind students.
- Provide unaccompanied homeless youth with determination letters ASAP
  - Use this sample form letter
- FAFSA mentors

- Financial aid nights/partner with local colleges
- School counselor FAFSA toolkit
- Remind students that the FAFSA needs to be filled out every year
- Encourage students to familiarize themselves with the financial aid office
- Partner with financial aid
- Trainings
- FAFSA Challenge
- Scholarships and emergency aid
KNOW ANY COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS WHO'VE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS?

Help them apply to the SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program.
The scholarship includes:
• $2,500 Award
• 1-on-1 Support
• 3 All-Expenses-Paid Trips!

APPLY NOW AT
SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP
What other strategies are you doing to support homeless and foster youth fill out the FAFSA and prepare for higher education?
Key Takeaways

1. Start talking to students about plans for after high school before their senior year.

2. Big changes are coming to the upcoming 2024-2025 FAFSA. Provisions for homeless and foster youth are in effect now.

3. Provide continuous support for students as they transition from high school and provide a warm hand-off.
Questions & Discussion
Resources

Video: New Federal FAFSA Guidance for Homeless Youth Webinar (May 11, 2023)

- SHC Higher Education Page
- Tips for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College
  - Transition from high school
- FAFSA Page
  - FAFSA Simplification Act Two-Pager
  - FAFSA Simplification Act One-Pager
  - Sample form for determinations
Let’s Connect!

Facebook: SchoolHouse Connection

Facebook Group: Homelessness & Education - A SchoolHouse Connection Group

Instagram: @SchoolHouseConnection

Twitter: @SchoolHouseConn

Linkedin: SchoolHouse Connection
Sign up for our Mailing List!

Get on the list for important legislative updates, useful resources, webinar announcements, and news related to homelessness and education.
Jillian Sitjar
Director of Higher Education Partnerships

jillian@schoolhouseconnection.org
FAFSA Hub
### Ohio Campuses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION TYPE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS IN OHIO</th>
<th>ACCEPT FAFSA AID?</th>
<th>SPECIAL NOTE *</th>
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<td>Public Regional Campus</td>
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<td>Community College</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private, not-for-profit</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Private, for-profit</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Yes *</td>
<td>check with the institution to be certain</td>
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<td>Ohio Technical Center</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Yes *</td>
<td>some programs are not eligible for federal funds</td>
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Lifetime Earnings Potential

Lifetime Earnings by Educational Attainment, according to Georgetown Study

- Professional
- Doctoral
- Master’s
- Bachelor’s
- Associate’s
- Some College
- High School Grad
- High School Dropout

$0.00 | $0.50 | $1.00 | $1.50 | $2.00 | $2.50 | $3.00 | $3.50 | $4.00
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Sign up to Stay in Touch!

Sign up for the COHIO Course to HOME mailing list and stay up to speed.

* Email

**Your email here 😊**

* First Name

* Last Name

Sign Up
Feedback

We invite you to provide feedback about today’s here: https://forms.gle/cdaEBnQPpNW9UzaA
Contact Information

COHHIO Course to HOME
homelessseducation@cohhio.org
THANKS