



Supporting Young Children Under Age 6 Experiencing Homelessness

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024

Wednesday, May 15th, 2024

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

NEWSLETTER:

schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

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Housekeeping Items

- A link to this recorded presentation and slides will be provided to attendees following the training.
- If you have questions, please share them in the following ways:
 - Enter simple questions into the Q&A feature or type them into the chat.
 - Save in-depth questions for after session office hours.
 - Email homeless@azed.gov with any LEA-specific or in depth questions.
- All resources referenced in this training can be located on our website and in the HEP newsletter.

Reference Sheet

Access all of the resources shared in today's session, and more!



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Supporting Young Children Under Age Six Experiencing Homelessness

Reference Sheet

This reference sheet is designed to provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons with various resources related to supporting young children under age six experiencing homelessness. Links and descriptions within this document are organized by resources provided by the Arizona Department of Education, SchoolHouse Connection, and the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE).

Reach us at homeless@azed.gov for any questions or technical assistance.

From the Office of Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Education Programs, Updated May 2024

Resources from the Arizona Department of Education

These resources from the Arizona Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE) are designed to assist families and local education agencies with connecting to quality early childhood education programs, organizations, and resources in Arizona.

Link & Description of Resource

Within [ADE's Office of Early Childhood Education \(ECE\)](#) website, the following resources can be found:

ECE Program Locator Tools

- [Head Start Locator](#) - While the Arizona Department of Education does not oversee enrollment at any Head Start programs, families can locate a Head Start / Early Head Start program in their area at this link.
- [Read on Arizona's Explore AZ Schools Locator Tool](#) - Read On Arizona has created an interactive tool to help families learn more about the education options in their community. The Explore AZ Schools tool allows individuals to search for schools offering pre-k utilizing criteria important to them on a variety of criteria.
- [First Things First: Quality Childcare in Arizona Locator Tool](#) - First Things First funds Quality First to help early care and education providers in our state improve the quality of their programs through professional development and coaching, specialized assistance and funding to improve their facilities and learning materials. Locate a quality program with this locator tool.
- [Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral](#) - This tool is designed to help families in locating quality child care.

dated program for children aged 3-5
care and education for their young
from birth through age 5 through child
young children looking for the latest child
service.

ing to students and families

Homelessness

experiencing homelessness understand
programs.

d requirement to support families with

date at homelessness among infants

[Act Funds](#) - This resource is designed
for COVID-19 relief, which includes

[ns](#) - Homeless liaisons have a
programs and are uniquely positioned
side for ensuring young children

Existing data on young children who are

House Connection on:

reach out to:

[tact/](#) for support!

[melessness](#) - This resource outlines
es with young children below age

homeless and their families, including the impact of homelessness on health, development, early learning, and well-being.

Pre-Assessment

Let's test your knowledge.

Pre-Assessment

1. True or False: Liaisons are required to utilize the Student Residency Questionnaire to identify children under age six experiencing homelessness.
2. True or False: All liaisons are required to identify and enroll or refer students to early childhood education programs.
3. True or False: Many early childhood education programs are required to prioritize children experiencing homelessness.

Today's Objectives

- Understand the **impacts of homelessness** on expectant parents and children under age six, as well as the prevalence in Arizona
- Revisit the McKinney-Vento Act's **requirements for identifying and referring** young children experiencing homelessness
- Identify at least **one strategy you can use** to increase the identification and referral of children under age 6 experiencing homelessness



Overview

Homelessness Defined

Children and youth
who **lack a fixed,
regular, and adequate**
nighttime residence.



Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.



Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.



Living in emergency or transitional shelters.



Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

Homelessness among Families with Children is on the Rise

16%

Increase in **families staying in homeless shelters or visibly unsheltered** in 2023, according to HUD

Babies

Are the age group at **greatest risk of eviction**, followed by children under the age of five, according to [research from Eviction Lab](#). About a quarter of Black babies and toddlers in rental households face the threat of eviction in a typical year

Families often stay with others temporarily because of lack of shelter availability, and the fear of having children removed from their custody.

Staying with others puts families, infants, and toddlers in vulnerable, harmful situations, and, conditions that may contribute to developmental delays. Parents may stay with abusive/exploitive people, or trade sex in order to have a place to stay.



Homelessness Has Serious Consequences for Young Children



Homelessness in infancy has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems.



The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes.



The impacts of homelessness on young children are long-lasting, even once families are housed, including on children's school readiness.

Homelessness Also Has Long-Term Consequences



The high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness is **68% compared to 85% for all students**. This is the lowest graduation rate of any student sub-group, including economically disadvantaged.



High school students who experience homelessness are **10x more likely to become pregnant or get someone pregnant**.



In addition to the academic impacts, homelessness in the early years can cause **developmental delays, social-emotional challenges, and long-term trauma**.

Homelessness Creates Barriers to Accessing Early Childhood Programs

- **High Mobility** of families moving in and out of motels, staying with others, living in cars, etc.
- **Lack of documentation** and other enrollment barriers, including child immunization and parent work requirements
- **Lack of transportation** to and from programs
- **Lack of awareness** among early care providers of both the definition of homelessness and the best ways to reach families

Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Nearly 600,000

babies, toddlers, and young children under age 6 experienced homelessness in 2021-2022

44% of young women (age 18-25) and 18% of young men experiencing homelessness are current or expectant parents to over

1.1 MILLION young children

([Chapin Hall](#), University of Chicago)

Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

15.2%

Of infants and toddlers live in crowded housing, which is known to jeopardize child development. 2.9% of babies and toddlers have moved three or more times since birth.

[State of Babies Yearbook 2023 \(Zero to Three\)](#)

**Pregnancy and parenthood may
increase the risk of youth
homelessness**

Young parents—especially those unmarried—had three times the risk of experiencing homelessness compared to non-parenting peers. This is the second highest risk factor for young adult homelessness, second only to lacking a high school diploma or GED

**Poll: Have you supported families
with young children under age six
experiencing homelessness?**

"Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), shall ensure that homeless children and youth (including preschool-aged children and unaccompanied homeless youth) are **identified** by school personnel through **outreach** and **coordination** activities with other **entities** and **agencies**."

42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(i)

McKinney-Vento Act

Liaison
Responsibility:
Outreach and
Coordination





Responsibilities of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison

1. Homeless youth are **identified** through outreach with other agencies;
2. Homeless youth are **enrolled** in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school;
3. Access to federally required resources: HeadStart and other **preschool** programs, interventions under IDEA, etc.;
4. **Referral to well-being services**: health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing, etc.;
5. **Inform** families and youth of **educational opportunities** with meaningful opportunities to participate;
6. Provide understandable **public notice of educational rights** in locations frequented by homeless youth, guardians, and unaccompanied youth: schools, shelters, public libraries, soup kitchens;
7. Mediate enrollment **disputes** according to federal guidance;
8. Inform family and youth of all **transportation** services;
9. Provide **professional development** and support for all stakeholders who serve homeless students; and
10. Assist **unaccompanied youth** with: enrollment, academic access and success, and notification of “Independent” status and assistance for FAFSA.

Liaison Duties: Early Childhood Referrals

The liaison must be able to carry out the **ten duties** outlined in the law, including:

- **Identify** McKinney-Vento students
- Post **public notice** of McKinney-Vento rights to parents and youth
- Provide **professional development** and support on McKinney-Vento to school staff
- Ensure children and youths have **access to and receive educational services including services through Head Start programs** (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and other preschool programs administered by the local educational agency

What is “Early Childhood”?

- **Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting** (expectant parents/caregivers of children up to age 5)
- **Early Head Start** (prenatal through age 3)
- **Head Start** (ages 3-5)
- **Early Intervention** (ages 0-3)
- **Preschool** (ages 3-4)
- **Child Care** (ages 6 weeks - 12 years)
 - ◆ [Arizona Child Care Resource & Referral](#)

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HOMELESSNESS

EARLY HEAD START	EARLY INTERVENTION/ CHILD FIND	CHILD CARE	HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE	MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING (MIECHV)
<p>Homeless families are categorically eligible. Also requires proactive outreach, grace periods for immunizations, and prioritized enrollment. Allows programs to reserve slots for homeless infants and toddlers</p>	<p>States must make early intervention services available to homeless infants/toddlers; LEAs must identify and evaluate children with disabilities experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Requires lead agencies to prioritize children experiencing homelessness and use funds for outreach and enrollment of homeless families and expedited enrollment. Lead agencies also must use some grants/contracts to expand the supply of child care for all infants and toddlers.</p>	<p>Requires programs serving families experiencing homelessness to designate a staff person to ensure that young children (including infants and toddlers) are enrolled in early childhood programs.</p>	<p>Some data collection on homelessness is required by the Health Resource and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</p>

The Head Start Program Performance Standards and Homelessness

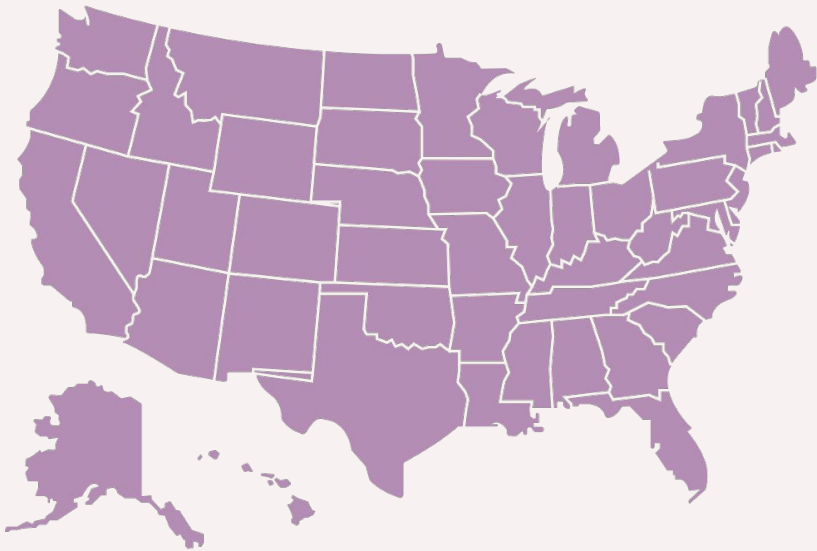
- Include **data on children experiencing homelessness** in community needs assessment
- Must actively **locate and recruit** children experiencing homelessness
- Can reserve **up to 3%** of program slots for children experiencing homelessness
- Must utilize community resources to **help provide transportation** to and from program



Data

DATA TRENDS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Young Children Experiencing Homelessness



Across 50 states, there are approximately **600,000** children under age six experiencing homelessness.



117,715 or **21.17%** of all children under age six experiencing homelessness are currently identified and served by an early childhood program (EHS, HS, Home Visiting, LEA).



That means **79%** of children under age six experiencing homelessness are **not identified and/or enrolled in an early childhood program**

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness



Across 50 states, an estimated **364,390** infants and toddlers ages birth through three are experiencing homelessness.



Only 11% of infants/toddlers are currently identified and served by an early childhood program (EHS, Home Visiting, LEA).



That means **89% of infants, toddlers, and young children experiencing homelessness** are not identified and/or enrolled in an early childhood program

0-6 Homeless Enrollment

Across 50 states:

Head Start & Early Head Start

enroll an estimated 9% of
children experiencing
homelessness

Local Education Agencies

serve an estimated 10.5% of
children experiencing
homelessness ages 0-5

0-3 Homeless Enrollment

Across 50 states:

Early Head Start

enrolls an estimated 5% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

Home Visiting

serves an estimated 2.2% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

(Healthy Families America and Parents as Teachers)

Local Education Agencies

serve an estimated 4.2% of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness

**Poll: How many children under
age 6 are experiencing
homelessness in Arizona?**

Children Under Age 6 Experiencing Homelessness in Arizona

- 7,360 children age 0-6 (1.54%) experiencing homelessness
- 1,086 (14.76%) of these children are enrolled in a program
 - 451 age 3-5 year olds exp. homelessness identified and served by Head Start

Arizona

The period of life from prenatal through age three is critical for physical and social-emotional development, but the experience of homelessness jeopardizes healthy growth and can have long-term consequences. Early childhood development programs can mitigate the impacts of homelessness on child development, and connect families to housing and services. These data profiles are intended to create greater awareness of the prevalence of infant and toddler homelessness, and gaps in access to early childhood development programs.



Total Population Birth Through Age Three: **312,915**



Estimated Total Population Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness: **4,804, or 1.54% of all infants and toddlers**

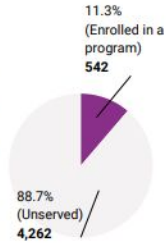


Total population Birth Through Age Three experiencing homelessness enrolled in a program: **542**

Only 1 in 9 infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness is enrolled in a program.



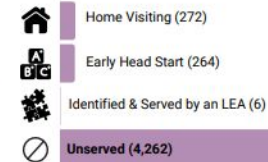
Among the 4,804 infants and toddlers identified, only 542, which accounts for a mere 11.3%, are currently enrolled in a program.



Prioritizing Children Experiencing Homelessness through State Policies

Automatic or streamlined eligibility for children experiencing homelessness?	NO
Priority for children experiencing homelessness to receive child care subsidies?	YES
Exemptions from work requirements for parents experiencing homelessness?	NO
Co-payments waived for parents experiencing homelessness? No. If receiving TANF, co-pays may be waived on a case by case basis.	
Exemption or grace period for children experiencing homelessness to submit eligibility/enrollment documentation?	15 Days
Grace period for children experiencing homelessness to meet immunization requirements?	15 Days
State laws to prioritize children experiencing homelessness for preschool?	NO

Estimated Total Population of Children Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness Enrolled in an Early Childhood Program:




Strategies for Increasing Identification & Enrollment



Identification

Student Residency Questionnaire

 **ADE Student Residency Questionnaire (Sample Form)**

Information contained on this form is confidential and used to determine whether a child or youth meets the definition of homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title IV-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.). False claims about living situations may affect enrollment.

Section A

Today's date: _____ Student Name: _____

Last School attended: _____ Current Grade: _____ Birth Date: _____

Do you have additional children attending school in our district? Yes No

Do you have preschool aged children? Yes No

Address of where the student slept last night: _____

Is this address based on a temporary living arrangement? Yes No

NOTE: If You Checked "NO," you may STOP here. If "YES," please continue to the next section.

Section B

Name of individual completing this form: _____

Your telephone number: _____ Your email Address: _____

Name of the parent/guardian/adult caring for the student: _____

Relationship to the student: _____

If the address you provided in section A is based on a temporary living arrangement, is it due to loss of housing or economic hardship? Yes No

Please place an "X" in each box that best describes where the student sleeps at night

In a place that does not have windows, doors, running water, heat, electricity, or plumbing

Staying with a friend or relative because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
(Example: eviction, foreclosure, fire, flood, lost job, divorce, domestic violence, kicked out by parents, ran away from home)

In a shelter or transitional housing program (name of shelter or program): _____

In an unsheltered location (example: tent, vehicle, abandoned building, streets, campground, park, bus/train station, or similar place)
Provide the main cross streets of this unsheltered location: _____

In a hotel/motel (name of hotel/motel) _____

With an adult that is not a parent or court appointed legal guardian

Alone, not in the care of a parent or court appointed legal guardian

None of the above (Please explain): _____

ADE Student Residency Questionnaire Sample Form 6/2023

ADE **requires** the **use** of the **ADE Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ)**

- The SRQ must be **provided** at **any time enrollment** is requested.
- **Completion** of the SRQ **may not be required nor a prerequisite** for consideration of review for of eligibility or confirmation of eligibility.
- **Upon indication** of homelessness, all potentially eligible **students** are to be **immediately enrolled**.
- The **SRQ** must be **accompanied** by the **Rights of Homeless Students**.

Strategies & Best Practices



Ask about younger siblings on all K12 enrollment forms, housing questionnaires, etc. *and collect and report that data*

- Are there any younger children in the household who are not yet school age?



Know who your local early childhood development providers are and [use this checklist to make referrals](#).



Develop outreach materials and strategies to reach families where they might frequent, such as motels, laundromats, grocery stores, etc.



Develop formal partnerships with early childhood providers, including through memorandums of understanding (MOUs)

Goal: **Increase** the number of children experiencing homelessness enrolled

- **Increase awareness of the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness among staff and families**, including how it impacts children under age six, and the services to which families are entitled.
- **Increase collaboration with partner agencies and systems** serving families experiencing homelessness
- **Improve data collection and reporting** specific to young children and families experiencing homelessness
- **Identify and advocate for the removal of barriers** that prevent families experiencing homelessness from accessing programs

Strategy: Increase awareness of the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, how it impacts young children, and services to which families are entitled.



Facilitate training, *at least* annually, for your program staff on the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness and best practices for outreach and identification.



Provide **sample outreach and enrollment resources** that help families understand the definition of homelessness and rights and services available to them.

Strategy: Increase collaboration with partner agencies and systems serving children under age six and families experiencing homelessness.



Increase referral mechanisms from child welfare, K12, and other systems to your HS and EHS programs. And vice-versa



Convene regular cross-agency meetings between your program(s), housing, child welfare, K12, and other systems with the goal of sharing data and best practices to increase enrollment and outcomes of young children experiencing homelessness



Advocate to include homelessness as a priority for federal grant applications for which the state is applying. This includes Family First, Preschool Development Grant, Child Care Development Block Grant, and others.

Strategy: Improve data collection and reporting specific to children under age 6 experiencing homelessness



Collect data on children ages 0-2 and 3-5, referrals from LEAs, shelter providers, and other agencies, and estimates from other sources.



Provide forums for parents experiencing homelessness to share their experiences accessing early childhood development programs in your community, improving policies and practices in your community based on their needs and wishes.



Conduct the [Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness](#) annually with your program staff to evaluate what improvements could be made to better serve families experiencing homelessness. Also available is the [Self Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness](#)

BARRIERS TO HOMELESSNESS

Strategy: Identify and advocate for the removal of barriers that prevent families experiencing homelessness from accessing programs.



Survey families to get a better sense of specific barriers they may face



Authorize funding to assist with the unique needs of families experiencing homelessness - for example, transportation vouchers to and from your programs.



Take full advantage of federal and state accommodations offered to homeless families, including reserving up to 3% of slots, offering maximum grace periods and waivers, and prioritizing children for enrollment and on waitlists.



Identification Tools

Homeless Education ADE Student Residency Questionnaire (Sample Form)

Information contained on this form is confidential and used to determine whether a child or youth meets the definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is authorized under Title VIII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.). Please advise about living situations only if that enrollment.

Section A

Today's date: _____ Student Name: _____
 Last School attended: _____ Current Grade: _____ Birth Date: _____

Do you have additional children attending school in our district? Yes No
 Do you have preschool aged children? Yes No
 Address of where the student slept last night: _____

Is this address based on a temporary living arrangement? Yes No
NOTE: If You Checked "NO," you may STOP here. If "YES," please continue to the next section.

Section B

Name of individual completing this form: _____
 Your telephone number: _____ Your email address: _____
 Name of the parent/guardian/adult caring for the student: _____
 Relationship to the student: _____

If the address you provided in section A is based on a temporary living arrangement, is it due to loss of housing or economic hardship? Yes No

Please place an "X" in each box that best describes where the student sleeps at night:

- In a place that does not have windows, doors, running water, heat, electricity, or interconnected
- Staying with a friend or relative because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
(Example: relative, friend, etc. that is not a shelter, transitional housing, school bus, or family member)
- In a shelter or transitional housing program (name of shelter or program): _____
- In an unsheltered location (Example: tent, vehicle, abandoned building, street, cardboard box, bus/train station, or under a bridge)
Provide the main cross streets of this unsheltered location: _____
- In a hotspot (name of hotspot): _____
- With an adult that is not a parent or court appointed legal guardian
- Alone, not in the care of a parent or court appointed legal guardian
- None of the above (Please explain): _____

ADE Student Residency Questionnaire - Sample Form 8/2022

Student Residency Questionnaire

Homeless Education ADE Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit (Sample Form)

The information on this form is required to meet The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, authorized under Title VIII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), also known as the McKinney-Vento Act. There are situations where a child or youth who is homeless may not be able to reside with their parent or guardian; however, this fact does not nullify the child/youth's right to receive a free, appropriate public education. This form is not a legal document and solely for school contact only.

The adult "caregiver" requesting enrollment for a minor student presenting him/herself for enrollment and educational services while not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian shall complete this form.

By signing below, I acknowledge the following:

- I am 18 years of age or older and have agreed to fulfill the role of caregiver for the minor student named below, who is unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- I agree to make a good faith effort to encourage the minor student named below to attend school.
- I will attempt to contact the school office if I become aware that the minor student named below will not be attending school on that day(s) and share whether the absence is with or without my approval.
- I have provided the school district with proof of my residence and personal identification.
- I understand that signing this document does not make me the legal guardian of the minor student listed below or make me financially responsible for the minor student, even if I am providing financial support to the student.
- I understand that I may choose to make educational decisions on behalf of the minor and in all other ways stand in for the authorizing party with respect to federal, state and district educational policy, including, but not limited to, accessing the minor's educational records, representing the minor in enrollment, disciplinary, conduct, special education or other matters, signing permission slips for school activities, and any other decision that facilitates the minor's educational experience.

Student Information

Name of the minor student: _____ Date of birth: _____
 Last school or district the student attended: _____

Caregiver Information

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
 Home address: _____
 Telephone number(s): _____ Email address: _____

General Information

Please check one and provide additional information if it is available:

- The student is staying at his home address, as listed above.
- The student is staying in the following location:
Please check any that apply: _____
- While I am currently helping with the care of the minor student, I do not wish to assist school officials with making education-related decisions.
- I have notified the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal guardianship of the minor of my intent to assist school officials with making education-related decisions in the best interest of the student and have received no objection. Please provide the name and phone number for the parent: _____
- I am unable to contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

For School Use Only
 This form should accompany the Student Residency Questionnaire. Send the original form to the LEA Homeless Liaison. The student's cumulative file should not include a copy of this form and you should not make copies under any circumstances. Name of school use personnel who enrolled the student: _____

Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit

Homeless Education ADE Sample Identification & Eligibility Interview Questions & Checklist

Each local educational agency McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison for homeless children and youth, designated under paragraph (1)(D)(ii), shall ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies. (22 U.S.C. 11432 (D)(ii)(A))

The process of identification and eligibility determination involves three basic steps:

Gather all the relevant information. → **Analyze what you know.** → **Seek consultation as needed.**

Each student has a unique housing situation; as a result, determinations regarding eligibility and services under the McKinney-Vento Act must be determined on a case-by-case basis for each student. Remember, McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons are responsible for developing rapport and trust during the interview process to facilitate the acquisition of pertinent information. In other words, it is important to allow families to share their story to ensure you are obtaining necessary details to make a proper determination. Understanding the entire scope of the situation will enable you to make a well-informed decision.

As you conduct your interview process, consider consulting with school staff and community partners to gather information about the student's situation. Staff often build a relationship with the student, or parent, and can be a great source of additional details. Remember to be mindful of confidentiality requirements when collaborating, as outlined within The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

McKinney-Vento awareness is established by way of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison offering yearly trainings to school personnel, service providers, community partners, social service agencies, and advocates.

By providing this training, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison can rely on these stakeholders in the future with the referral, identification, and information gathering to support children and youth experiencing homelessness.

For additional support regarding awareness, interview process, and identification best practices, reference the HCIE Homeless Liaison Toolkit and HCIE Book: Identifying Children and Youth in Homeless Situations.

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act provides a definition of homelessness for children and youth to be used by state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs). It defines homelessness for children and youth to be those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. (22 U.S.C. § 11434(d))

Use the following checklists to help guide your conversation with the parent, guardian, caregiver, or student to determine if the student's living situation is considered fixed, regular, and adequate.

ADE Sample Identification & Eligibility Interview Questions & Checklist Revised 8/2022

School(s) of Enrollment: _____

Interview Checklist

Identification & Eligibility Interview Questions & Checklist

Identifying if a student qualifies as "homeless". This interview

Step 2 – Assessment of Need Planning Guide

Sections:
 Basic Supports, Educational/Academic Supports, & Additional Supports

Instructions

Conduct the interview. Take detailed notes. Determine what need steps will be taken, with emphasis on addressing the high needs (H) by setting a timeline and designee responsible for addressing each need. Finalize documentation.

Rapport and trust during the interview process, consider allow families to share their story to ensure you are obtaining rights and the procedure of making a Homeless

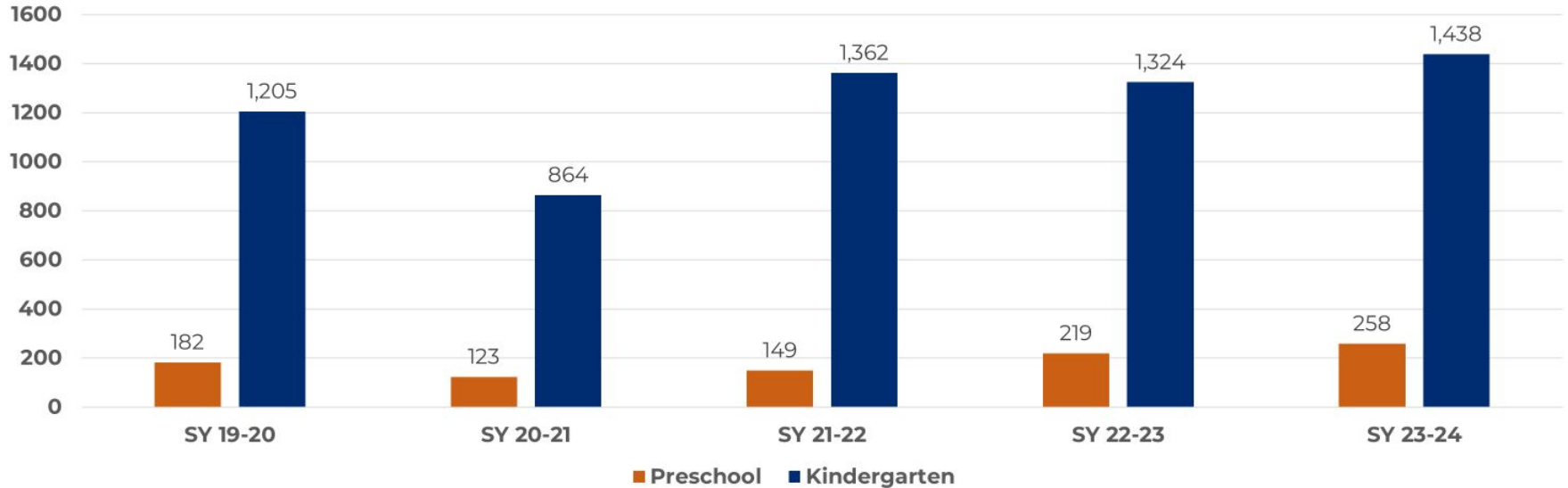
of Interview: _____

Relationship to Student(s): _____



Identified HCY Enrolled in Arizona ECE Programs

Enrolled Homeless Children & Youth in Arizona
School Years 2019-2020 through 2023-2024



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Data & Reporting Requirements



Local educational agency liaisons for homeless children and youths shall, as part of their duties, ... include collecting and providing to the State Coordinator the reliable, valid, and comprehensive data needed to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (f).

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(c)



Reporting Data for HCY in LEA Preschool Programs

- Identified HCY between the ages of 3-5 years **are included** in your LEA's/Charter District's total enrolled HCY,
 - **only if they are enrolled in a preschool program provided by the LEA/Charter District.**
 - Children ages 0-2, or 3-5, and **not enrolled in a preschool program at your LEA/Charter District, are not included** in the total enrolled HCY count.
- Identified **UHY must be coded with both the HCY and UHY needs identifiers and corresponding primary nighttime residence** in the SIS.
- If a **HCY/UHY Student Leaves the LEA/Charter District they should remain in the total enrolled HCY count for that school year** in the SIS
 - Even if they move transfer to another LEA.



Required SIS Data Elements

Please reference the AzEDS HCY and UHY student need data elements and codes listed below:

Code	Descriptor
6	Homeless
21	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Please also reference the primary nighttime residence (PNTR) codes below required for both HCY and UHY:

Code	Descriptor
1	Sheltered
2	Doubled Up
3	Unsheltered
4	Hotels/motels

Examples from the Field

Utilizing ARP-HCY Funds

- SEAs and LEAs must **obligate by September 30, 2024 and liquidate by January, 2025**
- ED's Dear Colleague Letter from September, 2023 emphasized **early childhood activities as an allowable use**
- SEAs and LEAs have used ARP-HCY funds to:
 - Hire **early childhood navigators** (HI and NC)
 - Distribute **mini-grants** to Head Start programs (OH)
 - Partner with Legal Aid (Akron, OH)
 - Joint **Liaison/Early childhood** trainings
 - Partnerships/MOUs with **local shelters**



LEA-Operated Pre-School & Head Start Programs

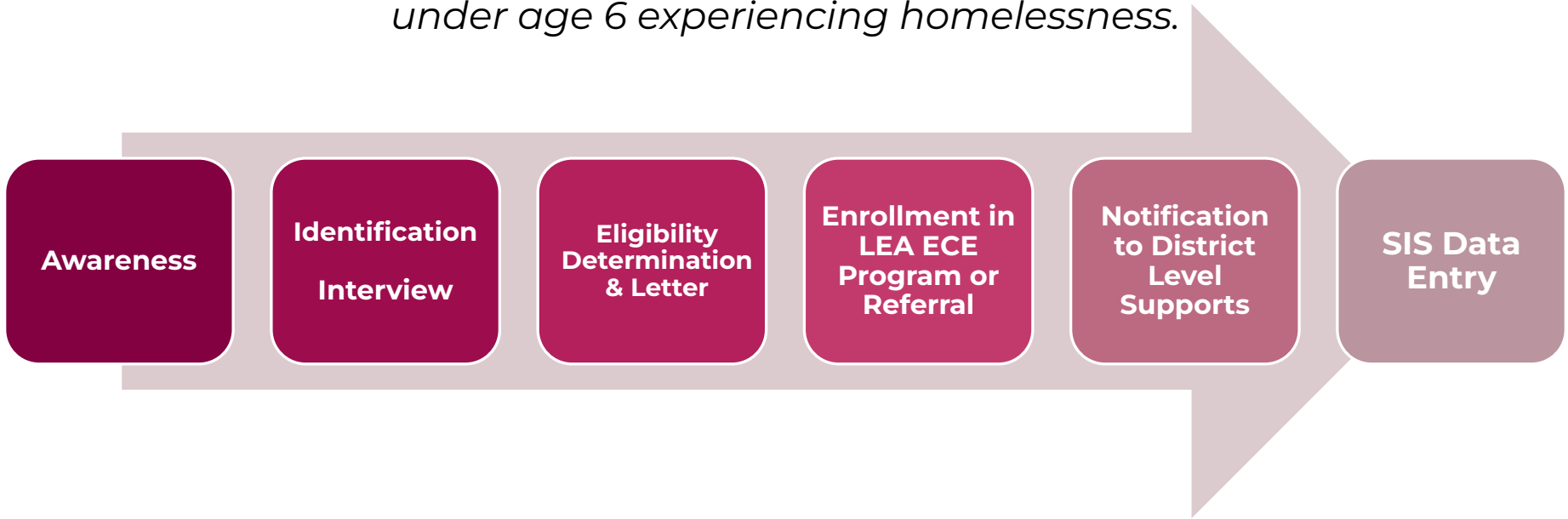
- **Same requirement to remove barriers to the identification, immediate enrollment, attendance, and academic success of pre-school aged children as K-12 students**
- **ARP-HCY I & II, Title I-A Homeless Set-Aside & EHCY Allowable Example Uses**
 - Pay tuition for LEA-operated pre-schools and Head Start programs,
 - Transportation,
 - Birth certificates, health records, and proof of residency,
 - Extended learning opportunities,
 - Parental involvement activities,
 - Personal school supplies, etc.

(42 U.S.C. § 11432 (d)(2); (g)(1)(F)(i))



Big Picture

Foundational requirements to ensure the identification of young children under age 6 experiencing homelessness.



Post-Assessment

Let's test your knowledge.

Post-Assessment

1. True or False: Liaisons are required to utilize the Student Residency Questionnaire to identify children under age six experiencing homelessness.
2. True or False: All liaisons are required to identify and enroll or refer students to early childhood education programs.
3. True or False: Many early childhood education programs are required to prioritize children experiencing homelessness.

QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS

Resources

Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness



Across 50 states, an estimated **364,390** infants and toddlers ages birth through three are experiencing homelessness.



Only 11% of infants/toddlers are currently identified and served by an early childhood program (EHS, Home Visiting, LEA).



That means **89% of infants, toddlers, and young children experiencing homelessness** are not identified and/or enrolled in an early childhood program



Additional Resources

1. [Supporting Young Children & Families Experiencing Homelessness with American Rescue Plan Act Funds](#)
2. [Referring Young Children to Early Childhood Development Programs: Checklist for Homeless Liaisons](#)
3. [Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: an Overview](#)

Additional Resources

1. [Referring Young Children to Early Childhood Development Programs: Checklist for Homeless Liaisons](#)



Referring Young Children to Early Childhood Development Programs: Checklist for Homeless Liaisons

As the back-to-school rush gets underway, school district homeless liaisons are busy working on outreach to families in the community, ensuring students are identified, and securing all the items necessary for immediate enrollment and attendance.

But what about the younger siblings of school-aged children? Early childhood development programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, child care, Early Intervention, and Home Visiting can mitigate the traumatic effects of homelessness, preventing long-term developmental delays and academic struggle. Yet many families experiencing homelessness face barriers when trying to access these programs. In fact, [less than 5% of children experiencing homelessness are enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start, or a district-funded program.](#)

Homeless liaisons have a responsibility under the McKinney-Vento Act to identify and refer younger children to early learning programs and are uniquely positioned to make those connections, but it can be difficult to know where to start. Use this checklist as a guide for ensuring young children experiencing homelessness are enrolled.

1. Identifying Younger Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Does your school district have a process in place for asking if there are younger siblings (aged 0-5, or otherwise not yet school aged) in the family? For example, many school districts include a checkbox on enrollment forms to ask if there are other children in the household.
- Do your identification questionnaires and conversations include asking about any younger siblings?
- Do others in your district know to contact you if they become aware of younger siblings experiencing homelessness? This could include IDEA, Migrant Education, English Learner, Title IX, and other programs.
- Does your identification process include working with youth experiencing homelessness who are current or expectant parents and whose child(ren) will need care?

2. Referring Younger Children to Early Childhood Development Programs

- Do you know your local early childhood partners? You can use the following tools to find programs in your community:

Additional Resources

1. [Referring Young Children to Early Childhood Development Programs: Checklist for Homeless Liaisons](#)

- [Head Start and Early Head Start Locator Tool](#) (for children 0-4 and expectant parents)
- [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency Finder](#) (for children 0-12)
- [Early Intervention State Contacts](#) (for children 0-3 with developmental delays and disabilities)
- Do you have a system for making referrals to early childhood programs? The [Referral App for Children Experiencing Homelessness](#), developed by SchoolHouse Connection and the National Head Start Association, might be a helpful tool.
- Do you have early childhood programs descriptions available to help families understand the services provided and benefits of enrollment? [Project Hope in Virginia developed these resources, tools, and tip sheets](#) for homeless liaisons and early childhood educators.
- Do you know your [state policies for removing barriers so that families experiencing homelessness can access programs](#)? Many states offer extended time for providing documentation such as immunization requirements, and waivers for work requirements and co-payments. Check to see how your state makes it easier for families experiencing homelessness so that you can reassure them.

3. Reporting and Follow-up

- How do you track and share data about younger siblings experiencing homelessness?
- How do early development programs in your community share their data with you? Head Start, Early Head Start, and federally-funded child care programs are required to collect data on homelessness, and many home visiting programs also collect this information.

Where to start?


Find your local providers:

- [Home Visiting](#)
- [Child Care](#)
- [Head Start and Early Head Start](#)
- [Early Intervention](#)



Reference Sheet

Access all of the resources shared in today's session, and more!



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**

Supporting Young Children Under Age Six Experiencing Homelessness

Reference Sheet

This reference sheet is designed to provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons with various resources related to supporting young children under age six experiencing homelessness. Links and descriptions within this document are organized by resources provided by the Arizona Department of Education, SchoolHouse Connection, and the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE).

Reach us at homeless@azed.gov for any questions or technical assistance.

From the Office of Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Education Programs, Updated May 2024

Resources from the Arizona Department of Education

These resources from the Arizona Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE) are designed to assist families and local education agencies with connecting to quality early childhood education programs, organizations, and resources in Arizona.

Link & Description of Resource

Within [ADE's Office of Early Childhood Education \(ECE\)](#) website, the following resources can be found:

ECE Program Locator Tools

- [Head Start Locator](#) - While the Arizona Department of Education does not oversee enrollment at any Head Start programs, families can locate a Head Start / Early Head Start program in their area at this link.
- [Read on Arizona's Explore AZ Schools Locator Tool](#) - Read On Arizona has created an interactive tool to help families learn more about the education options in their community. The Explore AZ Schools tool allows individuals to search for schools offering pre-k utilizing criteria important to them on a variety of criteria.
- [First Things First: Quality Childcare in Arizona Locator Tool](#) - First Things First funds Quality First to help early care and education providers in our state improve the quality of their programs through professional development and coaching, specialized assistance and funding to improve their facilities and learning materials. Locate a quality program with this locator tool.
- [Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral](#) - This tool is designed to help families in locating quality child care.

homeless and their families, including the impact of homelessness on health, development, early learning, and well-being.

dated program for children aged 3-5
care and education for their young
from birth through age 5 through child
young children looking for the latest child
service.

ing to students and families

House Connection on:

Homelessness

experiencing homelessness understand
programs.

reach out to:

[Contact](#) for support!

[Homelessness](#) - This resource outlines
needs with young children below age

d requirement to support families with

date at homelessness among infants

[Act Funds](#) - This resource is designed
for COVID-19 relief, which includes

[Programs](#) - Homeless liaisons have a
programs and are uniquely positioned
side for ensuring young children

existing data on young children who are



Let's Connect!

Facebook: SchoolHouse Connection

Facebook Group: Homelessness & Education - A SchoolHouse Connection Group

Instagram: @SchoolHouseConnection

Twitter: @SchoolHouseConn

Linkedin: SchoolHouse Connection

RESOURCES



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.

Contact Information



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Technical Assistance

Homeless Education Program

(602)542-4963

homeless@azed.gov

www.azed.gov/homeless



Early Childhood Education

(602)364-1530

ECEInbox@azed.gov

www.azed.gov/ece

Feedback Survey & Certificates

Feedback survey

- Will only populate once you click **“Leave Meeting”**
- Must complete to receive PL certificate in APLD Blackboard

Recording and slides

- APLD session Blackboard
- HEP website



Optional Office Hours
