

EDUCATING
CHILDREN WHO ARE
EXPERIENCING
HOUSING INSECURITY

Centennial Board of Cooperative
Educational Services
- Federal Programs
Title IX



McKinney-Vento (MV) Homeless Assistance Act

- i. Federal law since 1987 via
Community for Creative Non-
Violence www.theccnv.org
- ii. Every district must designate a
Homeless Education Liaison
- iii. Public Pre-Kindergarten – 12th grade
/ High School Equivalency Diploma
 - i. Additional competitive grant in 5% of
U.S. school districts = CBOCES



Main themes:

- School access
- Student stability
- Academic and social success
- Child-centered



What is housing insecurity?

**“children who lack a fixed, regular,
and adequate nighttime residence”**

http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_legis



Housing transition?

- **Living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations**
- **Emergency or transitional shelters**
- **Abandoned in hospitals**



Alternative living situations?

- **Living in cars, parks, fields, forests, public spaces, garages, barns, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and**

At least 1.35 million children are without secured housing; representing 39% of the overall houseless population – Some scholars scream 3 million!



Temporarily living with others?

- **Sharing the housing of other persons due to *loss of housing, economic hardship, and / or affordable housing not available***
- **Most students are “Doubled up”**



Migrant Education Program (MEP)

- **Migratory children of agricultural workers living in circumstances as listed 3-4 times more likely to be houseless**

Only 35% of children who are homeless are in shelters; the rest are staying temporarily with others, in cars, campgrounds, motels, etc



Inadequate

- Extensive mold, disease spreading vermin, leaking ceilings, etc
- Missing windows, doors, etc
- Dangerous = holes, vital missing parts
- Always, often or sporadic loss of electricity, heat, water, etc
- Garages, buildings not for humans, etc



Youth, Unaccompanied

- Runway = full-time, often, sporadically
- Living on own due to family entropy
- Couch crashing / snowboarding
- Staying with girl / boy friend
- Attempting to survive in any above situation
- Deported parent, now living elsewhere
- Case by case, like all MV students



Causes of housing instability

- Colonialism, historic racism, oppressive systems
- Domestic violence = Feminization of Poverty
- Imbalanced capitalism
- Loss of job
- Health problems = exorbitant health costs
- Mental illness concerns
- Institutional racism
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse / neglect / dysfunction
(youth, unaccompanied) – Sexual, physical, emotional, economical, & spiritual abuse



Origins & Continuation of Houselessness

Genocide, violent removal, theft of *livelihood land usage* of Native Americans...

Theft of Africans, 10-100 Million holocaust, 250 yrs of *unpaid* slave labor = \$1.7 Trillion, 90 yrs of Jim Crow law, 60 yrs of separate but equal & 35+ yrs of racist housing policy...

50% of Mexican country taken, *creating many as unlawful* via 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo when Europeans & Americans “purchased” and took their land...

Do math. Do equality. Do housing.

How long has she been working?

How much was she getting paid?

Formula is 25% less than her male counterpart.

Multiple it by 40 hours / wk, 50 wks / yr, & number of years working...equals?

What could she have done with the extra funds?



Key Provisions of McKinney-Vento

- Students can *stay in their school of origin*
- Best interest - keep students in housing crisis in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible

<http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/ibt.php>



Enrollment

- Enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents



Dispute Resolution

If school is at capacity, recent suspension/expulsion of student, etc = student is denied entry

“legal responsibilities of districts to notify parents/guardians/unaccompanied youth written notification of school placement and the right to appeal.”



Transportation

- School districts must eliminate barriers to school enrollment and retention
- District reroute buses, pay, share costs with other district...even taxi to ensure student attends school
- Utilizing transportation budget, general funds, etc
- Preschool is included, even when transportation not provided to students



Nutrition

Automatically receive FREE MEALS,

without filling out the paperwork

District Homeless Education Liaison sends
student information request to district
Nutrition Director



All comparable, general school fees waved!

- ❖ Books, lockers, application fee, graduation, field trips, projects, cap/gown...
- ❖ Other school and community resources must be exhausted 1st
(20 USC 6315(e)(2), 2001).
- ❖ Can't: Extra curricular activities such as sports, prom dress, year book...



Title 1 Part A Homeless set aside funds

- ❑ Districts are mandated by federal law to set aside a minimum amount
- ❑ Used to remove barriers
- ❑ Funds used for basic human needs, school supplies, staff support, GED, birth certificate, defray medical, hygiene, shower \$ rec center...
- ❑ As an advocate, ask your business manager, Homeless Ed Liaison, Superintendent.!



ESSA

Mandated all students of MV must meet with Counselor to prepare and improve readiness for college, career selection, applications, financial aide and on campus supports!



College Cost Reduction & Access Act - Higher Education

Youth, Unaccompanied & Homeless

At some point mid Summer on or full time, youth was unaccompanied

Homeless Education Liaison verifies



Independent Status

Parent tax section on the FAFSA is waived (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – Do not need parent / guardian tax info

Increases access to free grant money, scholarships, work study & low-interest loans



FAFSA Question

“At any time on or after July 1, 2018, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?”

http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_highered



Special Point of Contact (SPoC) of MV

Every college in CO has a SPoC

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/spocontactlist-0>

CSU has the Fostering Success
Program. MSU does also!

<http://oas.casa.colostate.edu/fostersuccess>

Western Michigan University is a
national leader.

Free tuition for FL Youth of Foster Care!



Teachers

Adjust homework by limiting computer, television, telephone time

Provide portable desks, such as clipboard, pencils, paper & attachable light

Regularly communicate achievement



What Works

Never punish for behaviors beyond their control: Sleepiness, Tardiness & Erratic Attendance

Encourage self expression via journal writing / drawing, talking

Create limited napping place & shower and laundry usage



Runaway & Homeless Youth Act

- Colorado Rural Collaborative = **Basic Center Program** grant
- Up to 21 day of shelter support.
 - Host Home
- 12-17 year old youth, unaccompanied / previously

Runaway & Homeless Youth Act

- Counsel, Master Social Worker
- VISA debit card
- Youth Summit, 2 day, service learning, social emotional introspection, leadership & fun!

Resources

- Marc Fortney, Eclectic Master Social Worker & Regional McKinney-Vento Grant Consultant
Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services
mfortney@cbooces.org or 970.381.6321
www.cbooces.org – Federal Programs
- Kerry Wrenick, State Coordinator for the Colorado Department of Education - Homeless Children & Youth
wrenick_K@cde.state.co.us & 303.866.6930
www.cde.state.co.us



Resources

- National Center For Homeless Education
center.serve.org/nche
1.800.308.2145
- National Runaway Safeline
1800RUNAWAY.org
1.800.RUNAWAY

Your local 211 / United Way

Local Churches, places of worship



**346% higher increase to
become homeless if
graduation does not
occur!!!**

(United States Interagency Council on Homelessness,
NAEHYC conference, 2018)



Disproportionality &
intersectionality of
poverty, race, foster care,
migrant agricultural
workers and
homelessness

