

EDUCATING
CHILDREN WHO ARE
EXPERIENCING
HOUSING INSECURITY

Centennial Board
of Cooperative Educational Services
- Federal Programs
Title IX, part A of ESSA



McKinney-Vento (MV) Homeless Assistance Act

Federal Law since 1987 via

Community for Creative Non-Violence

www.theccnv.org

Public education portion of the law

Majority of the law provides funding for
homeless sheltering programs



MV

Public Pre-Kindergarten – 12th grade
/ High School Equivalency Diploma

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

July 1st to June 31st

Every school year



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”**
 - *There are no shelters in our small communities. The options in Greeley and Fort Collins are almost always full.*



Migrant Education Program (MEP)

- **Migratory children of agricultural workers living in circumstances as listed**

3-4 times more likely to be houseless

80% of new MEP were MV in 2018/19!



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 [surfing] crashing/snowboarding
- Staying with girl / boy / they friend
- Attempting to survive in any above situation
- Deported parent, now living elsewhere
- Exploited by adults offering “home”
- 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

Extinction of mass tribes, genocide of 90 population reduction of 1st Nation people, violent removal to Reservations, theft of *livelihood land usage* of Native Americans, still disproportionately houseless...

Homestead Acts alone in 13 Western states removed 33% of land from Native American Tribes. High land assets now with European Americans.


Origins & Continuation of Houselessness

Theft of Africans, 10-100 Million dies in holocaust, 250 years of *unpaid* slave labor = \$1.7 – 10 Trillion, 90 years of Jim Crow law, 60 years of “Separate but Equal” & 35+ years of racist housing policy (Red Lining), mass incarceration, still disproportionately not housed...



A vertical green leafy branch is positioned on the right side of the slide, extending from the top to the bottom.

 **Approximately half of homeless in US are Black, while making up 13% of general population!**

 (endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/inequality/)


Origins & Continuation of Houselessness

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






 **North CO youth homeless data: 44%
are Latino/a, 2020!**


 (Point in Time survey, Youth Unaccompanied)

 **21% of the state is Latinx**

 (census.gov)

 **Hispanic youth are overrepresented!**

A vertical green leafy branch is positioned on the right side of the slide, extending from the top to the bottom.

 In 2016, White families had median wealth of \$171,000, while Black families' median wealth was just \$17,000, and Latinx families' median wealth was \$21,000. (Equitable Growth calculations using Federal Reserve Board, "Survey of Consumer Finances" (2017) available at <https://equitablegrowth.org/the-distribution-of-wealth-in-the-united-states-and-implications-for-a-net-worth-tax/>)

Gender & Race Wage Inequality creates homelessness

Feminization of Poverty

🏠 Fact: on average, European American women make 0.79 cents to the \$1.00 European American males make when working in the same job, same credentials.



Compared to European American males:

📄 Women earners who are wonderfully:

📄 Asian American: 0.90 cents

📄 African American: 0.62 cents

📄 Native American: 0.57 cents

📄 Latinx: 0.54 cents

📄 (www.nationalpartnership.org/our-work/resources/economic-justice/fair-pay/quantifying-americas-gender-wage-gap.pdf, March, 2020)



Do math. Do equality. Do housing.

How long has she been working?

How much was she getting paid?

Formula is ___ 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?



Youth LGBTQI+

📖 Lesbian

📖 Gay

📖 Bi-sexual

📖 Transgender

📖 Questioning

📖 Intersex

📖 + meaning including everyone else



LGBTQI+

- 🏠 Approximately 50% or more of the youth who are without permanent housing are LGBTQI+
- 🏠 Youth are forced to leave
- 🏠 Leave for safety & respect



BANKRUPTCY!!!

- 📄 The number one reason people file for bankruptcy is medical debt, 67%.
- 📄 Some health professionals get ultra high pay; ill people get ultra high bills.
- 📄 A pillar of houselessness is a health care system not caring holistically for the whole human.



DSM -5

📖 The Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders – 5th edition

“Housing Problems:

This category should be used when lack of a regular dwelling or living in quarters has impact on an individual’s treatment or prognosis. An individual is considered to be homeless...or some other ad hoc housing situation.”



MV PILLARS:

Every district must designate
a Homeless Education
Liaison and apply the law



Key Provisions of McKinney-Vento

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

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



School of Origin

- 📁 On average, every move to a new district creates students falling behind 4-6 months
- 📁 Social relations with staff, students and special community people is either sustained and shredded



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
- Includes youth who are unaccompanied



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

 http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_resources-titlei



T1A homeless set asides

- 📁 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 Education 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!

(Every Student Succeeds Act)



College Cost Reduction & Access Act - Higher Education

Youth, Unaccompanied & Homeless

At some point, mid Summer to mid Summer, youth was unaccompanied

Homeless Education Liaison verifies via document to student / college

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



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

College programs for Independent students, TRiO, etc



FAFSA Question

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



Special Point of Contact (SPoC) of MV

Every college in CO has a SPoC

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

CSU has the Fostering Success Program. MSU does also!

<http://fosteringsuccess.colostate.edu/>

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



Fulfillment, Autonomy & Calm Atmospheres

- 📖 Laughter is medicine
- 📖 What are you feeling today?
- 📖 Talk about music, share music
- 📖 Create security, belonging
- 📖 Visual schedule & asking what works
- 📖 Highlight positives, trust, care
- 📖 Homelessness is traumatic!



Runaway & Homeless Youth Act

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

Runaway & Homeless Youth Act

- Counsel, Master Social Worker
- VISA debit card for survival needs, hobbies and wellness
- Youth Summit, 2 day, service learning, social emotional introspection, leadership & fun!



Resources

- Marc Fortney, Eclectic Master Social Worker
Regional McKinney-Vento Grant Consultant
Northeast quadrant of Colorado
Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services
mfortney@cboces.org or 970.381.6321
www.cboces.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

(District Professional Learning)

- National Runaway Safeline

1800RUNAWAY.org

1.800.RUNAWAY

Your local 211 / United Way

Local Churches, places of worship



Colorado Crisis Line

970.494.4200


Text “Talk” to 38255

Free 24/7/365 counsel

Spanish services too!



Statewide Eviction Prevention Support Map

 <https://dola-online.maps.arcgis.com/apps/ZoneLookup/index.html?appid=dadc979eb66f41fb96e9ac935292330c>



**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

