



Homeless Children & Youth

NEWSLETTER

Kristi Walter, Coordinator, Office of Student Support and Well-Being, kristin.walter@k12.wv.us

Training Opportunities

The beginning of the school year is a great time to train staff and district stakeholders about the McKinney-Vento Act and the referral processes within your county. It is vital that the personnel in your district are aware of the signs of homelessness and the services offered by your district if a student becomes McKinney-Vento eligible.

If you are interested in training materials or resources, please e-mail me at kristin.walter@k12.wv.us and I will be in touch to discuss your request.

The NCHE also offers self-paced online training sessions that can be shared with stakeholders. These sessions can be found here: <https://nche.ed.gov/self-paced-online-training/>. These sessions can be sent to school principals and other district administrators to use during staff development sessions. Most training sessions will issue a certificate of completion once the course has been completed. This is beneficial documentation to keep on-hand as evidence of professional development within your district.

ARP-HCY I & II Guidance

At the attendance director debrief, it was noted that some counties were seeking guidance on how to best spend their ARP-HCY funds.

As a general overview and reminder, ARP-HCY funds can be used for the following purposes under certain circumstances:

- Break down barriers regarding transportation
- Support Early Childhood Education initiatives
- Build staffing capacity to support homeless youth
- Assist students with accessing post-secondary educational opportunities
- Provide temporary housing or shelter

If you are interested in learning more about ARP-HCY funding, there is a School-House connection webinar that is being hosted in conjunction with the US Department of Education next week. The webinar will cover allowable and strategic uses of funds, with examples and tools from state and local educational agencies. The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12th from 3-4 pm, and you can register to attend by clicking this [link](#).

Additionally, several resources have been added to the Microsoft Notebook for homeless liaisons. These resources include:

- [Flexing the Flexibility of ARP-HCY Funding Series: Making the Most of Federal Relief Dollars to Help Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Allowable and Strategic Uses of American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth \(ARP-HCY\) Funds \(two-page reference guide\)](#)
- [Comprehensive School-House Connection Brief with Q & A](#)
- [American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth \(ARP-HCY\) Planning and Spending Tool](#)
- Use of Funds Tipsheet and ARP-HCY Needs Assessment (doc versions only)

These tools are great to utilize as you review district level data, barriers, and plan to meet the needs of the homeless population in your schools. As a reminder, you must ensure that all expenses are also within the allowable guidelines of WVBE policy.

The WVDE will conduct a webinar on October 10th that will provide an overview of ARP-HCY funding and allowable expenses. More information will be forthcoming soon.



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Submit a Story

The McKinney-Vento law asks the State Coordinator to gather and make information publicly available on progress by the state education agency (WVDE) and local education agencies (LEAs) in addressing problems and difficulties in homeless education. It also requires the sharing of successful programs in identifying homeless children and youths and assisting them in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. This newsletter is intended to provide a space for both.

Please send articles, best practices, sample forms, and other great ideas to kristin.walter@k12.wv.us. If you are hosting a special event related to your McKinney-Vento program and would like to be featured in this newsletter, I would love to share your story and possibly attend your event as well.

Updated Forms and Awareness Materials

Updated forms and sample awareness documents were sent out to local liaisons on Friday, September 1st via email. They are also located in the Microsoft Notebook for Homeless Liaisons.

Available form templates and awareness materials included:

- Sample Housing Survey
- Eligibility Determination Checklist
- Written Notification of Eligibility and Parent/Student Rights
- Written Notification of Eligibility and Rights for Unaccompanied Youth
- Needs Assessment for Services
- Dispute Resolution Form
- Parent Rights Poster
- Unaccompanied Youth Rights Poster
- McKinney-Vento Brochure
- Parent Informational Booklet

Homeless Education Mini-Manual (coming soon!)

The WVDE is working on a mini-manual for to act as guidance for McKinney-Vento programming. The mini-manual will be available in the coming weeks to assist you with your homeless education programs.

District Liaison Spotlight

Wayne County - Terri Lynn Queen

Wayne County has taken a proactive approach to enrolling homeless students within their district. Terri has created a template to guide stakeholders through the enrollment process. The document serves as a step by-step tool to help principals, school nurses, transportation directors, social workers, and other district points of contact enroll students quickly and efficiently. The table also contains a timeline with dates to expedite the enrollment and services for each student. It also designates who is responsible for carrying out each procedure, providing clear expectations for staff each step of the way. The template has been added to our Microsoft Notebook under the District Spotlight and will be sent via email. Thank you, Terri, for sharing this wonderful resource!