



## Homeless Children & Youth

# NEWSLETTER

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### WV CAD Community Network

West Virginia Community Advancement and Development (WV CAD) is dedicated to fostering strong civic engagement through initiatives related to infrastructure, sustainability, compliance, and resiliency. As an administrative body, WV CAD oversees both state and federal programs aimed at enhancing the quality of life for West Virginians.

One valuable resource provided by WV CAD is an online portal organized by local educational agencies (LEAs). These community organizations serve as excellent points of contact for building relationships that can positively impact homeless children and youth. Unlike the typical scope of LEA supports, the organizations listed in the portal can offer additional resources specifically tailored to families experiencing homelessness.

For quick access to district-specific information, visit the "Individuals Seeking Assistance" section on the WV CAD website, located here: <https://wvcad.org/resources/sustainability-program-service-providers>

## Supporting HCY in Pursuing Higher Education

Navigating post-secondary education opportunities is vital for homeless children and youth, impacting both their academic success and overall well-being. A valuable resource titled "[Housing Insecurity & College: A Resource for Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)" provides essential information about programs specifically designed for college-bound students facing homelessness. Below, a summary is included of a few of the key points from this resource, and other supports for homeless children and youth that are navigating their post-secondary education options.

### **Search Tool for Fee Waiver Programs:**

- Wondering which universities provide fee waivers? Use the Results of Your College Search tool on the Big Future College Board website.
- Select "affordability" and explore the "application fee waiver program" section. You'll find a list of colleges offering waivers.

### **SAT and ACT Testing Waivers:**

Students preparing for college admissions can receive waivers for SAT and ACT exams.

- SAT: Eligible students get two SAT fee waivers, covering test fees and sending scores to unlimited colleges. PSAT fee waivers are also available.
- ACT: Eligible students get up to two ACT fee waivers. These fee waivers cover the registration fee for up to four ACT tests, including the optional writing test for national testing. They are also eligible to send their scores to colleges and scholarship agencies at no cost.

### **McKinney-Vento and ARP-HCY Funding:**

- If the application fee waivers are not granted, consider using funds from the McKinney-Vento or ARP-HCY. These resources can cover the expense and ensure equal access to college applications.

### **Scholarship Opportunities:**

- Explore the Homeless/Formerly Homeless section of the Scholarships.com website. These scholarships support students navigating post-secondary education.

### **Food Assistance Benefits:**

- Once students enter college, they can access food assistance through programs like SNAP, campus food pantries, and local food banks. Ensuring that students are aware of where to find these resources and how to access them is crucial for their academic success during their college journey.



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## WVDE/DoHs and Educational Stability

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DoHS), formerly known as the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), are collaborating to update the educational stability guidance document. This document is crucial for students in foster care and those experiencing homelessness.

As we strive to enhance our current forms and potentially introduce new documents to aid your work, we value the insights of homeless liaisons across the state. Your feedback will be instrumental in shaping these updates.

If you wish to contribute, please complete [this Microsoft Form](#). We have extended the submission deadline to March 18th, 2024.

## FY25-27 McKinney-Vento Subgrant Information

The West Virginia State Department of Education (WVDE) is seeking applications from Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for a competitive three-year subgrant. This grant provides funds to districts to be used to establish educational programs and/or services that meet the purpose of the McKinney-Vento Act to promote the enrollment, attendance, and success in school for homeless children and youth. Districts are encouraged to use funds to encourage coordination and collaboration with other local agencies to provide comprehensive services to homeless children and their families.

Any local education agency serving students experiencing homelessness located within the state of West Virginia is eligible to apply for funds under this program. Grants will be awarded based on need and on the quality of the application submitted. The maximum amount any local educational agency can apply for is a grant award of \$75,000. However, LEAs may apply for more than one grant.

The grant application will concentrate on two key areas: program development or improvement and student success and well-being. Participating districts will be asked to create SMART goals aimed at enhancing the homeless education program within their Local Education Agency (LEA). Additionally, they will analyze data to identify effective strategies for addressing specific challenges faced by students experiencing homelessness.

If you are interested in applying for this funding opportunity, please join me for an informational webinar that will review the subgrant application in detail. Information about this session can be found below.

**Title:** *The Road to Success: Preparing for the Upcoming McKinney-Vento Subgrant Application*

**Date and Time:** *Monday, March 4th @ 10:00 am*

**Link to Join:** [TEAMS Meeting](#).

## District Liaison Spotlight

### Hal Van Metre - Berkeley County Schools

Recently, Hal Van Metre, representing Berkeley County Schools, hosted a community support convening to tackle the pressing issue of supporting families experiencing homelessness or those on the brink of homelessness with housing options. The gathering brought together over 10 agencies, including the Coalition to End Homelessness, WVDE, WV DoHS (DHHR), the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, United Way, Communities in Schools, the Martinsburg Initiative, the school counseling lead, and other dedicated local community members.

During the community convening, participants focused on assessing the needs of families facing housing instability and emphasized resource sharing. They also brainstormed ideas for future initiatives and partnerships to address this critical issue. With the impending loss of ARP-HCY funding in fall of 2024, engaging in stakeholder meetings to deliberate on future sustainability becomes crucial for ensuring full support for families experiencing homelessness.