



Connecting with Students Experiencing Homelessness through Outreach and Identification





Offered in Partnership By



Christina Dukes
Founder and Principal
Pearl Strategies
Education Consulting and Technical Assistance
christina@pearlstrats.com
<http://www.pearlstrats.com/>



Ken Howard
State Homeless Education Liaison
Nebraska Department of Education
McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program
ken.howard@nebraska.gov
[http://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/
title-vii-b/](http://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/title-vii-b/)



Patricia Julianelle
Senior Strategist for Program Advancement and
Legal Affairs
SchoolHouse Connection
Overcoming Homelessness Through Education
<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/>



Today's Roadmap

- Outreach and identification
 - McKinney-Vento Act provisions
 - Strategies for implementation
- Resources for more information





Warm-Up Question



True or False?

According to research by the University of Chicago, the rate of homelessness in urban areas is four times (4x) the rate of homelessness in rural areas.

McKinney-Vento Basics

- Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - Was reauthorized by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act
 - Establishes the definition of homeless used by U.S. public schools
 - Addresses the unique educational barriers and challenges faced by students experiencing homelessness
 - Requires state education departments to designate a State Coordinator for Homeless Education and school districts to designate a local homeless education liaison; access contact information at <https://www.education.ne.gov/federalprograms/title-vii-b/>





McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

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

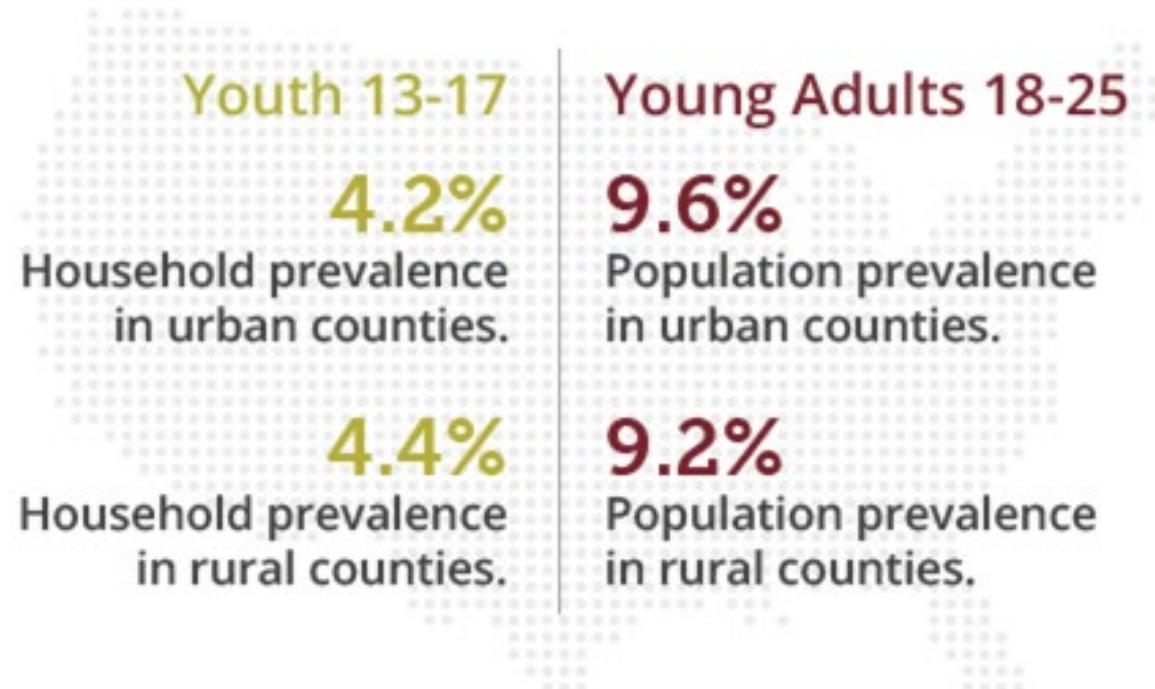
- Sharing the housing of other persons, *due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason*
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds *due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations*
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters, or abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth (children and youth experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian)

42 U.S.C. §11434a(2)

42 U.S.C. §11434a(6)

The Research: Rural v. Nonrural

Rates of youth homelessness are statistically identical in rural and nonrural areas



Identification under McKinney-Vento

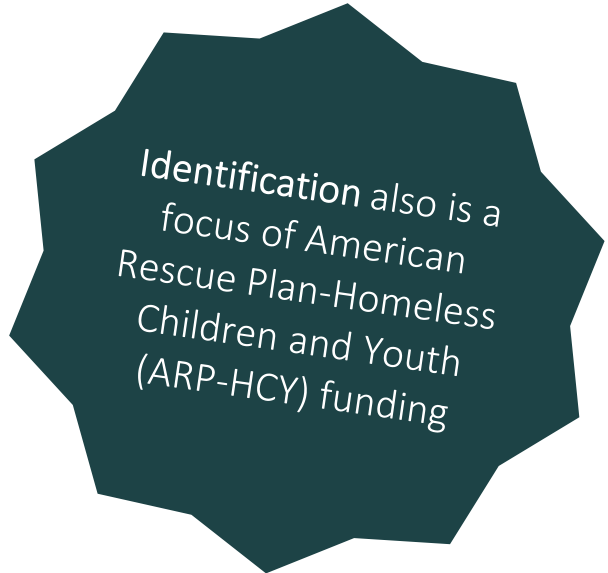
- **Identification is the first step** to ensuring educational access and success for students experiencing homelessness
- References to identification are woven throughout the McKinney-Vento Act, including as
 - A state and district responsibility
[42 U.S.C. §11431(2); 42 U.S.C. §11432(d)(2); 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(B); 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(7)]
 - A duty of the local liaison
[42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A)(i)]





Identification under McKinney-Vento

- A data collection and public posting requirement
[42 U.S.C. §11432(f)(1)(A)]
- A focus of professional development for local liaisons and district/school staff
[42 U.S.C. §11432(d)(5)(A)]
- A focus of school-community coordination
[42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(5)(C)(i)]
- A focus of district subgrant funds usage
[42 U.S.C. §11433(a)(1); 42 U.S.C. §11433(c)(2)(A)]



Identification also is a focus of American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funding

Outreach under McKinney-Vento

- Liaisons must ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are **identified by school personnel** through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(i)]
- Liaisons must ensure that **public notice** of homeless students' rights is posted in an understandable manner in locations frequented by parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(vi)]



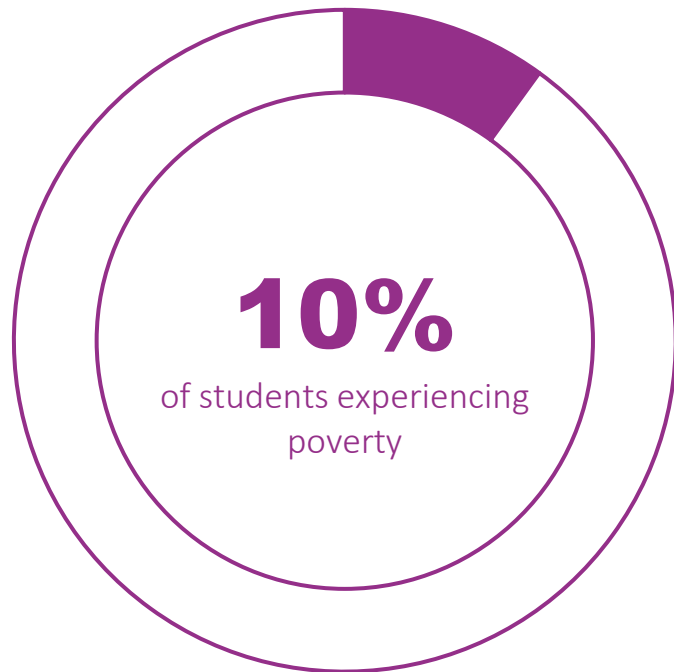
Outreach under McKinney-Vento

- State Coordinators and school districts must inform school personnel, community partners, and children, youth, and parents/guardians experiencing homelessness of the **duties of the local liaison** [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(B)]
- State Coordinators must publish an **annually updated liaison list** on the state education department's website [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(B)]

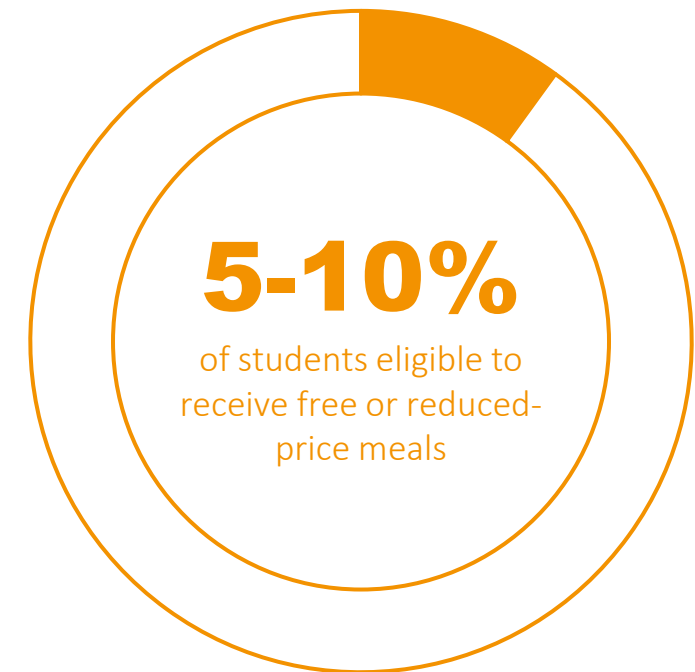


Identification “Benchmarks”

- Experiences of homelessness are correlated with experiences of poverty
- Consider the following benchmarks when assessing district identification efforts



Sources: Urban Institute, [What Will It Take to End Homelessness?](#)
Census Bureau: [Poverty Estimates by School District by School Year](#)



Source: Auditor of the State of California, [Youth Experiencing Homelessness: California's Education System for K-12 Inadequately Identifies and Supports These Youth](#)



Outreach and Identification Strategies

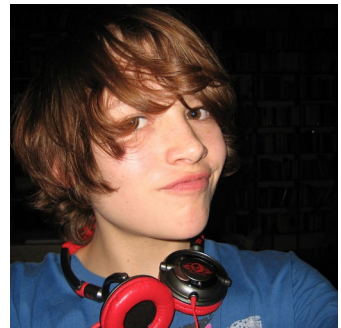


- Create a **centralized phone number and/or website** for accessing information and supports
- Reach out to **previously identified students** using information on file
- Create and distribute simple **awareness materials** (flyers, posters) where youth and families may congregate
- Leverage **community partners** to share information and refer children, youth, and families
- Leverage existing **distribution channels** to share information (school meals and other supports)
- Leverage **technology** (social media, text, email, etc.)



Outreach and Identification Strategies

- Include housing questions in **enrollment forms** (online and paper); ensure immediate enrollment without proof of residence
- Consider supporting **increased liaison capacity** and/or designating school-level points of contact to “extend” the liaison’s reach
- Consider engaging “**outreach teams**”, including school counselors, school social workers, school-based partner organization staff, and other appropriate staff
- Incorporate information into **district and school staff training** about recognizing homelessness and referring students in need to help





Outreach and Identification Strategies



- Use **sensitive and intentional language** in outreach materials
- Describe living situations rather than use the word “homeless”
- Create a safe space for accessing help
- Relieve concerns about child welfare involvement
- Be **consistent and persistent**; multiple outreach attempts may be needed
- Keep communications and awareness materials **clear and simple**
- Share information in **common languages** in your community
- **Check in regularly** once a connection has been made



Cool-Down Question



Consider...

Which outreach or identification strategy shared today might you use moving forward?

What next step do you need to take to implement this strategy?


Resources

- NCHE educational rights posters
 - [Youth version, English](#)
 - [Youth version, Spanish](#)
 - [Parent version, English](#)
 - [Parent version, Spanish](#)
- Order in hard copy (free in limited quantity) at <https://nchehelpline.org/>



Resources

- [SchoolHouse Connection “Know Your Rights” posters](#)
- [New Mexico Public Education Department Homeless Student Referral Form for Community Partners](#)
- Kern County Schools (CA) community partner student referral form [in PDF format](#) | [in online format](#)
- [Northwest New Mexico McKinney-Vento Facebook webpage](#)



CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS

• ¿TE ESTÁS QUEDANDO EN UN HOGAR QUE NO ES TUYO, TEMPORALMENTE?
• ¿QUIERES SEGUIR ASISTIENDO A LA ESCUELA?
• ¿ESTÁS ENFRENTANDO PROBLEMAS AL INSCRIBIRTE EN LA ESCUELA, O CON EL TRANSPORTE A LA ESCUELA?

La ayuda podría estar a tu disposición.

1. Si te estás quedando temporalmente con otras personas porque tuviste que dejar tu casa, o si estás durmiendo en un motel, campamento, refugio, o cualquier lugar no bajo techo ni adecuado para tu seguridad, tienes derechos especiales en la escuela.
2. Los derechos incluyen que tu puedas:
 - Mantenerte en la misma escuela aunque te cambies de casa o barrio, y recibir transporte gratis a la escuela, siempre y cuando sea mejor para ti.
 - Inscribirte y participar en la escuela de inmediato, aunque no presentes los documentos requeridos
 - Recibir comida en la escuela gratis
 - Recibir ayuda con los implementos escolares y otras necesidades
3. Pide hablar con la persona de tu distrito escolar que maneja el programa “McKinney-Vento,” que determinará cómo ese programa te puede ayudar.
4. Si no logras comunicarte con el distrito escolar, o si tienes más preguntas, contacta con la persona que maneja el programa “McKinney-Vento” del estado: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SC-Contact-list.pdf>.

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Thanks for Joining!



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