DOROTHY GALE WAS RIGHT: THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

MID-ALABAMA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
APRIL 28, 2022
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SCHOOL SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR HCY

Community Outreach

211 Cards

Presentations

Providing hands and feet as needed
SCHOOL SYSTEM SUPPORT: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HCY Compared with traditionally housed peers:

• Attendance rates are lower
• Graduation rates are lower
• Academic achievement rates in reading and math are lower
• Special education rates are higher
• Incidence of multi-faceted trauma are much higher
WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

• The term "homeless children and youths"--

• (A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence includes--

• (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;*

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

• (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).
THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS

“The sense of stigma and hopelessness that the children feel is corrosive and damaging to their self-esteem. It makes it hard for them to make friends with other children in school, as they fear being judged or excluded.”

• “I went from size 5 to 0. I just tried to not eat too much.”

• “We moved 7 times in 4-5 years.”

• “I felt like I was losing myself. My spirit died. I didn’t want to do anything.”
1. Immediate enrollment in either school of origin (school the student was attending when they became homeless) or locally zoned school, without fear of being treated differently due to their housing situation. In the event of a dispute, parents will be supplied with the System Dispute Policy.

2. Transportation to the school of origin for the regular school day.

3. Access to free meals, Title I and other educational programs, and transportation to extra-curricular activities to the same extent that it is offered to other students.

4. Additional support and resources as deemed necessary and appropriate to engage in school activities.

McKinney-Vento HCY can get help with

- Clothing for school
- Medical needs (including vision and dental)
- School supplies
- After-school-care and/or tutoring
- School fees
- Transportation
- Academic summer school type programs
- Toiletries
- Extracurricular Activities (band, sports, etc.)
MCKINNEY-VENTO – IDENTIFICATION

• What are ways districts notify families that they can access supports through McKinney-Vento?
A student’s unmarried parents share 50/50 legal custody. One parent has a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The other is experiencing homelessness. Does this student qualify for McKinney Vento services?
MCKINNEY-VENTO – ELIGIBILITY

- Can students who are doubled-up remain eligible for McKinney-Vento services over multiple school years?
MCKINNEY-VENTO – IDENTIFICATION

• Do we need to locate children experiencing homelessness younger than school-age if they do not have school age siblings? What if we are aware of the child through other means?
• Can school districts provide gas cards to parents or youth?
A McKinney-Vento family has split up, with mother staying in District A, child staying with a family member in District B, and the school of origin in District C. In which districts can the child attend school?
UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

• Should McKinney-Vento liaisons and other school staff refer all unaccompanied youth to our child welfare agency?
• Should McKinney-Vento students’ enrollment be delayed until transportation is put in place, to avoid absences that may occur due to lack of transportation?
• Can McKinney-Vento funds be used for educational field trips, such as the zoo and science museums? Food, transportation, and entrance fees would need to be included. We have a summer program and would like to take the students on a field trip.
“LET’S GO FEED HOPE.”
Giving homeless children the chance to be educated, giving them this ticket to their futures, is so wonderful. They will have the chance to not repeat the suffering of their childhoods in their own families. They can build secure and safe lives for themselves and their children.

Laura Bush