

Recording: <https://youtu.be/vECVbqFs5ZY>

# How to Support Families with Children or Unaccompanied Minors



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
Office of Education

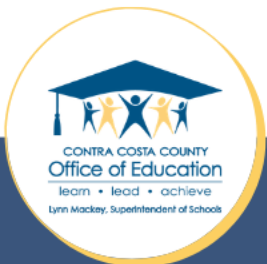
learn • lead • achieve

Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Schools

# Meet Your Presenters

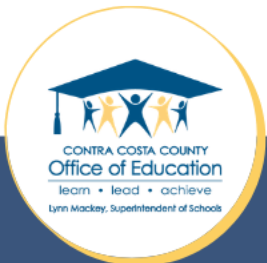
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# Our Time Today

- How to take the educational needs of children into account when placing families in housing
- How to inform families with children and unaccompanied youth of their educational rights as part of intake procedures
- What is and isn't required for children and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness
- How to coordinate with the CoC, Department of Social Services, County Office of Education, McKinney Vento Coordinator, McKinney Vento Educational Liaisons, and other mainstream providers as needed



# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

1987- The Stewart B. McKinney Act is signed into law, mandating states to review and revise residency requirements for the enrollment of homeless children and youth. It was created to address the problems that homeless children face when enrolling, attending and succeeding in school.

1990- Amended as the McKinney Act, requiring states to eliminate all barriers to enrollment and provide school supports for academic success.

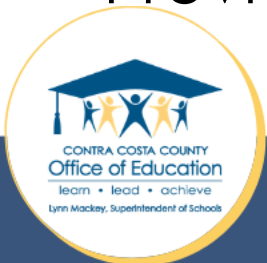
1994- The education portion of the McKinney Act is included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), adding preschool services, greater parental input and emphasis on interagency collaboration.

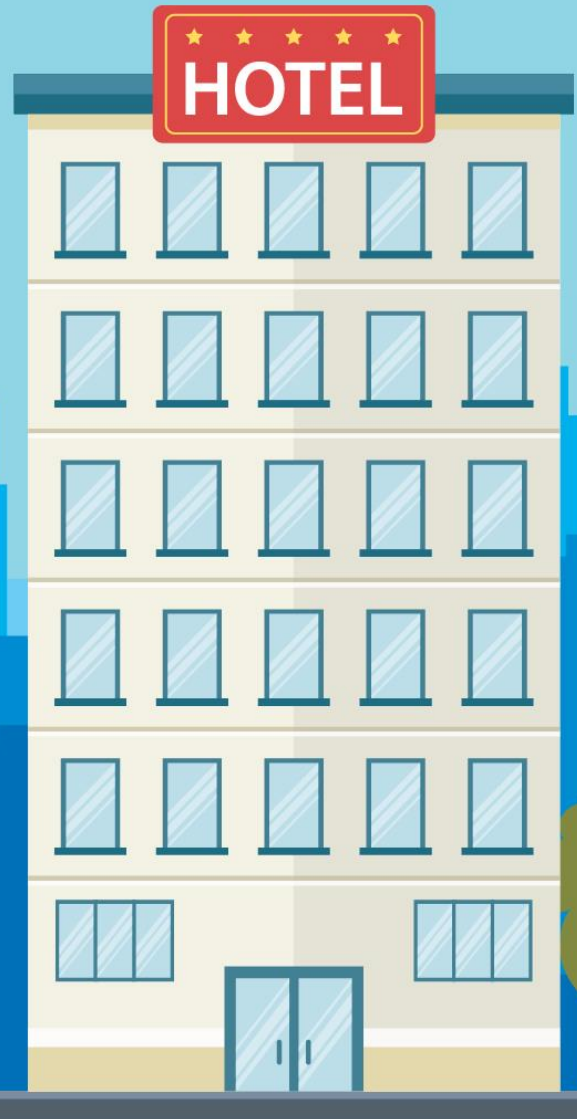
2002- Reauthorized as the McKinney-Vento Act, requiring all schools to appoint a local liaison to ensure that the law is effectively implemented.



# McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Federal Legislation that ensures the educational rights and protections of children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Authorizes funding for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth program (EHCY)
- Ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal and immediate access to public education
- Applies to LEA's, which are defined as public school districts, direct and locally funded charter schools and county offices of education
- Provides educational support to promote school success





Hotels/Motels



Doubled-Up

Sharing housing with family, friends, or others



Cars



Condemned Buildings



Shelters & Housing Agencies

# WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

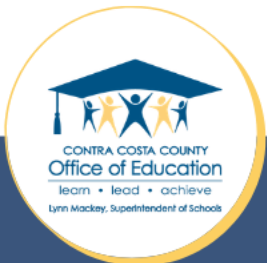
Individuals and families who lack a **fixed, regular, and adequate** nighttime residence are considered to be experiencing homelessness by definition of the McKinney-Vento Act.

# The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Includes children and youth who lack a **fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence**

*and includes....*

- Children and youth who are **sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason**





# What is Homelessness?



## Fixed

Stationary,  
permanent-  
used on a  
predictable  
ongoing basis



## Regular

Used on a  
regular,  
nightly basis



## Adequate

Sufficiently meets  
the physical and  
psychological  
needs for shelter



# “Sharing the Housing of Other Persons”

- Implies that the child or youth is staying in someone else’s residence

*Consider this:*

*Does the family or youth have any legal rights to be in the home?*

*Can the youth or family be asked to leave at any time without any legal recourse?*



# Eddie



# What Do You Think?

- Eddie lives with his mom and stepdad; he ran away from home when his stepdad began getting rough with him and things began getting a little tough at home. Eddie has been staying with his friend Sam and his family. Sam's parents have said that Eddie can stay in the guest bedroom, but he cannot stay longer than one month.

**Based on the information, is Eddie homeless?**



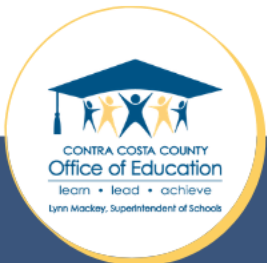
# Homeless?

**Based on what we know, Eddie is homeless.** While he can stay at Sam's house in the short term, there is no legal recourse that guarantees the right to stay in the home once Sam's parents ask him to leave. Eddie is sharing the home of other persons, so based on what we know, Eddie would be considered homeless under McKinney-Vento education.



# “Due to the Loss of Housing” Defined

- Implies that the student has no personal housing available:
  - Did the family or youth lose previous housing due to :
    - Destruction or damage to the previous home?
    - Unhealthy or unsafe living conditions?
    - Abuse or neglect?
    - Eviction or foreclosure?
    - Domestic violence?
    - Absence of a parent or guardian due to abandonment, incarceration or similar reason?



# The Williams Family





# What Do You Think?

- The Williams family was living in the home they owned for 5 years, until a category 4 hurricane caused severe damage to their home. Although unlivable, the family continued to shoulder the burden of the mortgage payments; they are unable to rebuild their home until the insurance claim is settled, which will hopefully be in their favor. Until then, the family is staying with Mr. Williams brother.

**Based on the information, is the family homeless?**



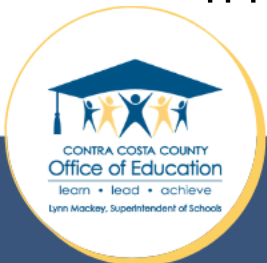
# Homeless?

**Based on what we know, the Williams family is homeless.**  
They are sharing housing with other persons due to loss of housing as a result of a natural disaster.



# “Economic Hardship”

- Implies that limited financial resources have forced the family or youth to leave the personal residence and share housing due to an inability to pay the rent/mortgage and other bills
- Clarifying question:
  - Did economic hardship occur due to an accident or illness, loss of employment, loss of public benefits, or a similar reason force the family or youth to share the housing of others temporarily?



# Kelly and Donna



# What Do You Think?

Kelly and her daughter Donna were living in a 2-bedroom apartment until Kelly lost her job due to layoffs and couldn't pay rent. They moved in with Kelly's parents to save money in order to get a place to live.

**Based on the information, are Kelly and Donna considered homeless?**



# Homeless?

**Based on what we know, Kelly and Donna would be considered homeless.** They are sharing housing with other persons due to economic hardship.





# Homeless Students Countywide

How many students were *identified as homeless* in Contra Costa County during the 2021-22 school year?



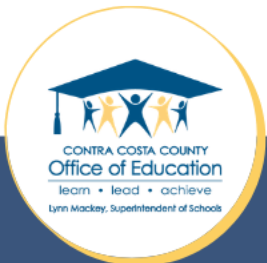
# 2,226 Homeless Students Enrolled in Contra Costa County for the 21/22 School Year

Acalanes High School District	7
<b>Antioch Unified School District</b>	<b>348</b>
Brentwood Union School District	60
Byron Union School District	3
Canyon School District	0
CCCOE	21
John Swett Unified School District	0
Knightsen School District	13
Lafayette School District	1
Liberty Union School District	193
Martinez Unified School District	19
Moraga School District	0
<b>Mt. Diablo Unified School District</b>	<b>481</b>
Oakley Union Elementary School District	20
Orinda Union School District	2
Pittsburg Unified School District	315
San Ramon Valley Unified School District	36
Walnut Creek School District	5
<b>West Contra Costa Unified School District</b>	<b>711</b>



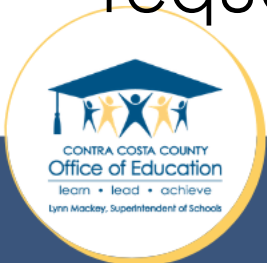
# Students have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student's need.



# Students have the right to:

- Enroll in the local attendance area school or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is the parent's, guardians', or unaccompanied youth's preference and is feasible. If the school district believes the school selected is not in the student's best interest, then the district must provide the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of its position and inform him/her of the right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.



# CCC Homeless Education Liaisons

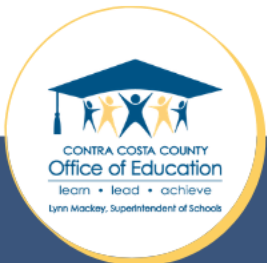
- Every school district must designate a local homeless education liaison to serve as the key homeless education contact in the district and to ensure that eligible students within the district receive the rights and services to which they are entitled.



**FOSTER CARE AB 490 &  
MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT  
DISTRICT LIAISON LIST 2022-2023**

<b>Acalanes Union High School District</b> 1212 Pleasant Hill Road Lafayette, CA 94549	<b>Liaison:</b> Amy McNamara <b>Title:</b> Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services  <b>Liaison:</b> Stephanie Thompson <b>Title:</b> Admin Assistant	<b>Phone:</b> (925) 280-3900 ext. 6622 <b>Fax:</b> (925) 280-3903 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:amcnamara@auhsdschools.org">amcnamara@auhsdschools.org</a>  <b>Phone:</b> (925) 280-3900 ext. 6629 <b>Fax:</b> (925) 280-3903 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sthompson@auhsdschools.org">sthompson@auhsdschools.org</a>
<b>Antioch Unified SD</b> 510 G Street Antioch, CA 94509	<b>Liaison:</b> Barbara Aguilar <b>Title:</b> Foster and Homeless Youth Liaison/Student Support Counselor	<b>Phone:</b> (925) 779-7500 ext. 53402 <b>Fax:</b> (925) 779-7514 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:barbaraaguilar@antiochschools.net">barbaraaguilar@antiochschools.net</a>
<b>Brentwood Union SD</b> 255 Guthrie Lane Brentwood, CA 94513	<b>Liaison:</b> Kirsten Jobb <b>Title:</b> Director, Student Services	<b>Phone:</b> (925) 513-6300 <b>Fax:</b> (925) 634-8583 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kjobb@brentwood.k12.ca.us">kjobb@brentwood.k12.ca.us</a>
<b>Byron Union SD</b> 14301 Byron Highway Byron, CA 94514	<b>Liaison:</b> Vickey Corker <b>Title:</b> Foster and Homeless Youth Liaison	<b>Phone:</b> (925) 634-6644 <b>Fax:</b> (925) 376-2343 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:vcorker@byron.k12.ca.us">vcorker@byron.k12.ca.us</a>
<b>Canyon SD</b> P.O. Box 187 Pinehurst Road, CA 94516	<b>Liaison:</b> Julie Patten <b>Title:</b> Principal	<b>Phone:</b> (925) 376-4671 <b>Fax:</b> (925) 376-2343 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jpatten@canyon.k12.ca.us">jpatten@canyon.k12.ca.us</a>
<b>Contra Costa County Office of Education</b> 77 Santa Barbara Road Pleasant Hill, CA 94523	<b>Liaison:</b> Alejandra Chamberlain <b>Title:</b> Youth Development Services Director	<b>Phone:</b> (925) 942-3308 <b>Fax:</b> (925) 942-3490 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:achamberlain@cccoe.k12.ca.us">achamberlain@cccoe.k12.ca.us</a>
<b>John Swett Unified SD</b> 400 Parker Avenue Rodeo, CA 94572	<b>Liaison:</b> John Angell <b>Title:</b> Attendance Supervisor	<b>Phone:</b> (510) 787-1088 ext. 1109 <b>Fax:</b> (510) 787-2184 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jangell@jsusd.org">jangell@jsusd.org</a>
<b>Knightsen SD</b>	<b>Liaison:</b> Veronica Polk	<b>Phone:</b> (925) 626-3303 ext. 3076

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:bbc68c50-4f76-392b-bdfb-37e49ceae693>



# Outreach and Awareness



#### Even if you have:

- Uncertain housing
- A temporary address
- No permanent physical address

#### You are guaranteed enrollment in school by the federal McKinney-Vento Act and California state law if you live:

- In a house or apartment with more than one family due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- With friends or family because you are a runaway or an unaccompanied youth
- In substandard housing (without electricity, water, or heat)
- In a shelter (family, domestic violence, or youth shelter or transitional living program)
- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- In an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the streets

#### You can enroll in school immediately even without the documents normally required for enrollment, such as:

- Proof of residency
- Immunization records or other required health records
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

#### Your child may:

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which he/she is eligible.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin if you request it.
- Continue to attend the school in which he/she was last enrolled even if you have moved away from that school's attendance area.
- Qualify automatically for school nutrition programs.

#### Your responsibilities are to:

- Make sure your child gets to school on time and ready to learn.
- Stay informed of school rules, regulations, and activities.
- Contact the homeless liaison for assistance in removing barriers to your child's education.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences, Back-to-School Nights, and other school-related activities.

*You can ENROLL in school!*

It is not a crime to live in one of the above situations and schools are here to assist you and your children with enrollment and appropriate services. This information will not be shared outside of the educational entity.

#### For questions about enrolling in school or for assistance with school enrollment, contact:

- Your local school district homeless liaison:
- Your county homeless liaison:
- Your homeless state coordinator:  
Leanne Wheeler  
State Coordinator  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street, Suite 6408  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 1-866-856-8214

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#### Incluso si:

- Tu situación de vivienda es incierta
- Tienes una dirección temporal
- No tienes una dirección física permanente

#### La ley federal McKinney-Vento y las leyes del estado de California te garantizan la inscripción en la escuela si vives:

- En una casa o departamento con más de una familia debido a la pérdida de tu vivienda o a dificultades económicas
- Con amigos o familiares porque huíste de tu hogar o eres un menor no acompañado
- En una vivienda precaria (sin electricidad, agua o calefacción)
- En un refugio (para familias, víctimas de violencia doméstica o jóvenes, o un programa de vivienda temporal)
- En un motel, hotel o vivienda que se paga semanalmente
- En un edificio abandonado, automóvil, campamento o en la calle

#### Puedes inscribirte en la escuela de inmediato incluso sin los documentos que normalmente se piden para la inscripción, como:

- Prueba de residencia
- Registros de vacunación y otros registros médicos
- Registros escolares
- Papeles de tutela legal

#### Tu hijo puede:

- Participar plenamente en todas las actividades y programas escolares para los que reúne los requisitos.
- Recibir transporte de ida y vuelta a su escuela de origen si lo solicita.
- Seguir asistiendo a la escuela en la que estuvo inscrito por última vez, incluso si se mudó fuera de la zona de asistencia de esa escuela.
- Reunir los requisitos automáticamente para participar en los programas de nutrición escolar.

#### Es tu responsabilidad:

- Asegurarte de que tu hijo asista a la escuela a tiempo y listo para aprender.
- Mantenerse informado de las reglas, normas y actividades de la escuela.
- Contactar al enlace designado para las personas sin hogar para obtener ayuda para eliminar las barreras a la educación de tu hijo.
- Asistir a reuniones entre padres y maestros, las noches de regreso a la escuela y otras actividades relacionadas con la escuela.

*¡Tú puedes INSCRIBIRTE en la escuela!*

#### Si tienes preguntas acerca de la inscripción en la escuela o para obtener ayuda con la inscripción, contacta a:

- El enlace designado para las personas sin hogar ("homeless liaison") de tu distrito escolar local:
- El enlace designado para las personas sin hogar de tu condado:
- El coordinador de las personas sin hogar de tu estado:  
Leanne Wheeler  
Coordinadora Estatal  
Departamento de Educación de California  
1430 N Street, Suite 6408  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Teléfono: 1-866-856-8214

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# Removing Barriers to Education

- Immediate Enrollment
- Transportation Assistance
- Tutoring
- Providing students with school supplies, hygiene kits, clothing as needed to attend and fully participate in school



# Immediate Enrollment

Students experiencing homelessness are entitled to immediate school enrollment:

- Even when lacking records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, proof of guardianship, or other documentation
- Even if having missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)

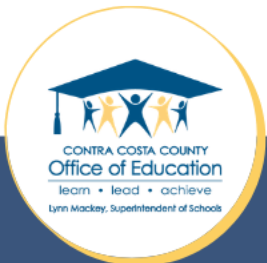
**Enrollment** is defined as “attending classes and participating fully in school activities”

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)



# True or False?

Students have the right to attend their school of choice even if they move around frequently due to housing instability.



# True or False?

**False:** Students have the right to attend their local attendance area school or their school of origin.



# School Selection

Homeless children and youth have the right to attend:

- **The local attendance area school**

- Any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is living are eligible to attend

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(I)(i)

- **The school of origin**

- The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed, or
- The school in which the child or youth was last enrolled
- School the student attended within the preceding 15 months
- Includes public preschools (district-administered) and receiving schools

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(ii)



# Best Interest Considerations

In determining best interest, the LEA shall:

- ❖ **Presume that keeping the student in the school of origin is in the student's best interest**  
(Unless contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth)
- ❖ Consider student-centered factors, including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health and safety (for preschoolers and kindergarteners- attachment to teachers, availability of services in the new area, travel time)
- ❖ Give priority to the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth's request
- ❖ **Provide written explanation if you determine school of origin is not in the best interest**
  - including information on the right to the appeals process
  - provide in a manner and form understandable to parents, guardians and unaccompanied youth





# School of Origin Transportation

- Transportation must be provided to and from the school of origin, in the case of an unaccompanied or homeless youth, at the request of the local liaison.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)

- School of origin transportation rights extend to public preschools and receiving schools.
- The local LEA of origin and the LEA in which the McKinney-Vento eligible youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs of providing the student with transportation to and from the school of origin.
- In addition to providing transportation to the school of origin, LEA's must provide students experiencing homelessness services comparable to the provided to other students.
- When a formerly homeless student obtains permanent housing, the LEA must continue to provide school of origin transportation for the remainder of the academic year.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A); EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-5

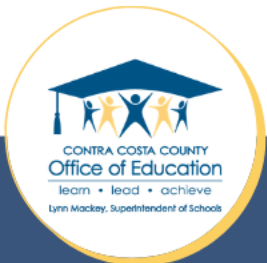


# Dispute Resolution

- When a dispute arises between the school and a student over **eligibility**, **school selection**, or **enrollment**, the student must be:
  - Enrolled immediately in the requested school, pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals
  - Provided with a written explanation of any dispute-related decisions made by the school, the district, or the state educational agency involved, including the rights of the youth to appeal
  - Referred to the local liaison, who will carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible, and ensure that the youth is enrolled immediately in the requested school pending the resolution of the dispute
- Students must receive all services for which they are eligible until final resolution of all disputes and appeals.

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(E)(i) and (iv); EHCY Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question K-7



# Defining Unaccompanied

- The term *unaccompanied youth* is defined as children and youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- In order to be McKinney-Vento eligible, the student must be both homeless and unaccompanied
- A guardianship issue alone (without homelessness) does not qualify a student for McKinney-Vento services



# “But the Student Chose to Leave”

- Youth can be eligible regardless of whether the student was forced from the home, asked to leave or ran away.
- Sometimes what has caused the separation between the student and the student’s parents may not be readily disclosed due to its sensitive or private nature.
- Determinations of McKinney-Vento eligibility for unaccompanied students should be made on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the nature of the student’s current nighttime residence.



# “They Have a Roof Over Their Heads”

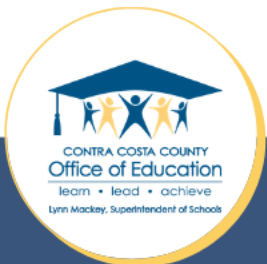
- Shelters are often not an option
- Limited shelters in many suburban and rural areas
- Restrictive shelter rules- eligibility and time limits
- Youth may be afraid or unaware of shelters; live in unsafe or inadequate circumstances
- Roughly 1/3 of homeless youth identify as LGBTQIA+
- Approximately 10% of homeless teens are pregnant



# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



*Students must meet both criteria (unaccompanied and homeless)  
to be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth*



# Maritza



# What Do You Think?

Maritza is 16 and has a mother who struggles with substance abuse. As a result, she often has strangers in the home and participates in activities that cause Maritza to feel anxious and unsafe. Eventually, Maritza concluded that she would be safer living on her own. She ran away and is now crashing on the couch of an older friend that she met at a party last week.

**Based on the information, how would you identify Maritza?**





# Homeless? Unaccompanied?

**Based on what we know, Maritza is homeless.** She left home because she felt physically and emotionally unsafe there. Because she is sleeping on the couch of a friend she met at a party last week, that does not qualify as a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

**Because Maritza is not in the physical custody of her parent, she is also an unaccompanied homeless youth.**



# CoC Program Staff: Tips for Successful Partnerships

- Learn more about the education portion of the McKinney-Vento Act. The more CoC program staff learn about the education portion of the Act, the more they will understand about available services and be able to “speak the same language” as their education partners.
- Share information and data on housing programs to increase awareness of challenges and highlight opportunities to address gaps in services through collaboration with local liaisons.



# CoC Program Staff: Tips for Successful Partnerships (cont.)

- Become familiar with the educational challenges that homeless children and youth face; identify ways that your CoC program can support these children and youth.
- Invite local liaisons to CoC meetings and institute a recurring agenda item focused on education. Consider establishing an education subcommittee.
- Develop a protocol for case managers and local liaisons to evaluate the best interest of the child in terms of school placement.



# CoC Program Staff: Tips for Successful Partnerships (cont.)

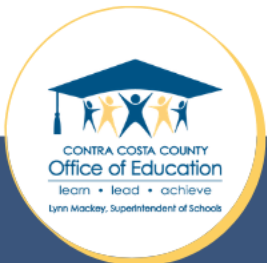
- Develop memoranda of understanding(MOUs).

*CoCs and their members and local school districts may wish to enter into MOUs to establish protocols for student identification, service referrals, and data or information sharing. These MOUs should specify mutually-accepted expectations, protocols, parameters, and best practices for achieving the shared goals of CoCs and school districts.*



# Why It Is Important For Service Providers To Identify MV Students?

- Youth cannot be served if we don't know who they are.
  - They have rights and services through Title I, McKinney-Vento Act, IDEA, Child Nutrition programs
- It can affect a student's eligibility for college financial aid
  - UHY are automatically eligible to apply for aid as independent students.
- It's the law for HUD funded service providers.
  - Continuums of Care & service providers to collaborate with districts to assist in the identification of homeless families and inform them of their eligibility for services.



# Consistent with the CoC Program Interim Rule 24 CFR §578.23, all CoC and ESG programs assisting families with children or unaccompanied youth must:

- A. Take the educational needs of children into account when placing families in housing and will, to the maximum extent practicable, place families with children as close as possible to their school of origin so as not to disrupt such children's education.
- B. Inform families with children and unaccompanied youth of their educational rights, including providing written materials, help with enrollment, and linkage to McKinney Vento Liaisons as part of intake procedures.
- C. Not require children and unaccompanied youth to enroll in a new school as a condition of receiving services.
- D. Allow parents or the youth (if unaccompanied) to make decisions about school placement.
- E. Not require children and unaccompanied youth to attend after-school or educational programs that would replace/interfere with regular day school or prohibit them from staying enrolled in their original school.
- F. Post notices of student's rights at each program site that serves homeless children and families in appropriate languages.
- G. Designate staff that will be responsible for:
  - 1. Ensuring that homeless children and youth in their programs are in school and are receiving all educational services they are entitled to.
  - 2. Coordinating with the CoC, the Department of Social Services, the County Office of Education, the McKinney Vento Coordinator, the McKinney Vento Educational Liaisons, and other mainstream providers as needed.
- H. In order to ensure compliance and to assist providers in meeting these requirements, the CoC will provide training on these issues annually and will include these in the funding competition review and ranking process.





# Thank You for Joining Us!

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