



“10 in 10” Orientation Tutorial for New State Coordinators

Module 9: State-Level
Coordination and
Collaboration



10 10-Minute Modules to Orient You to Your New Position



About the “10 in 10” Module Series



NCHE’s “10 in10” module series for new State Coordinators for homeless education

- ❑ Provides 10 short modules that cover essential topics to orient you to your new position;
- ❑ Is based on information in NCHE’s more comprehensive *State Coordinators’ Handbook* available for download at http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/sc_hb_2010.php;
- ❑ Includes links to additional resources; and
- ❑ Includes Questions to Consider and a Wrap Up to reinforce key points and help you develop your work plan.



Module 9: Overview



In Module 9, new State Coordinators will learn about

- ❑ What the McKinney-Vento Act requires with regard to state-level collaboration;
- ❑ Goals of state-level collaboration; and
- ❑ Specific programs and agencies with which to collaborate, including
 - The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),
 - Child welfare,
 - Head Start,
 - Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs, and
 - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs.



What the McKinney-Vento Act Requires



The law requires

- ❑ Coordination between the state education agency (SEA), the state social services agency, and other agencies (including agencies providing mental health services) to provide services to homeless children and youth, including preschool-aged homeless children and youth, and to families of such children and youths. [42 USC § 11432(f)(4)]



What the McKinney-Vento Act Requires



The State Coordinator must coordinate and collaborate with

- A. Educators, including child development and preschool program personnel;
- B. Providers of services to homeless and runaway children and youths and homeless families (including domestic violence agencies, shelter operators, transitional housing facilities, runaway and homeless youth centers, and transitional living programs for homeless youth);



What the McKinney-Vento Act Requires



The State Coordinator must coordinate and collaborate with (cont.)

- C. LEA liaisons; and
- D. Community organizations and groups representing homeless children and youth and their families. [42 USC § 11432(f)(5)]





Goals of Collaboration



Effective collaboration

- ❑ Facilitates the coordination of services and efficient use of resources;
- ❑ Enables homeless education programs to refer homeless families, children, and youth expeditiously to services beyond the scope of the McKinney-Vento program;
- ❑ Increases the awareness of other agencies of the educational needs of and services for homeless children and youth; and
- ❑ Increases the awareness of local homeless education program staff of community services available to homeless families.



Examples of State Coordinator Collaboration Activities



- ❑ Advisory boards for specific programs and issues (e.g., Individuals with Disabilities Education Act State Advisory Panel and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Advisory Committee)
- ❑ State-level initiatives for an interagency approach to addressing homelessness (e.g., state homeless coalition)
- ❑ State cross-program or cross-agency trainings for local-level programs
- ❑ The issuing of joint memos
- ❑ Policy development or revision to improve cross-agency coordination



Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) State Office



- ❑ IDEA, Part B requires representation on its State Advisory Panel from the office of coordination for the McKinney-Vento program.
- ❑ IDEA, Part C requires participation of the State Coordinator on the Interagency Coordinating Council.
- ❑ Benefit: to clarify roles of each program in serving homeless students with disabilities to improve services at the SEA and LEA levels.



Links to Resources



- ❑ Issue Brief: *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004: Provisions for Homeless Children and Youth*
<http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/idea.pdf>
- ❑ *Questions and Answers on Special Education and Homelessness*, U.S. Department of Education
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/spec-ed-homelessness-q-a.pdf>



State Child Welfare Agency



- ❑ Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act includes provisions to promote the educational stability for children in foster care.
- ❑ State Coordinators should be in touch with state level child welfare agency representatives who provide services to homeless and runaway children and youths and homeless families.
- ❑ Links for every state's child welfare agency are at https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/reslist/rl_dsp_website.cfm?rs_ID=16&rate_chno=AZ-0004E.



Benefits of State Child Welfare Agency Collaboration



- ❑ Coordination of services for children in foster care and those who are homeless.
- ❑ Exploration of the connection between children in foster care who later experience homelessness.
- ❑ Clarification of the definition of awaiting foster care placement as it pertains to the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless for the benefit of LEAs and social service agencies.



Link to Resources



- ❑ Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act
<http://center.serve.org/nche/legis/fc.php>
- ❑ Brief: *Clearing the Path for School Success for Students in Out-of-Home Care*
<http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/ctp.pdf>
- ❑ Factsheet: *Foster Care and Education Q & A*
http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/child/education/publications/qa_fostering_connections_final.authcheckdam.pdf



Head Start State Collaboration Office



- Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007
 - Specifies that homeless children are categorically eligible for Head Start services,
 - Requires new applicants for Head Start grants to include a plan to meet the needs of homeless children, and
 - Requires the issuance of regulations requiring programs to coordinate individual Head Start centers and programs with efforts to implement the educational provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act. (As of 2014, no regulations have been issued.)



Benefits of Collaboration with Head Start



- ❑ Identification of areas for LEA cross-program coordination
- ❑ Opportunities for cross-program training at state conferences
- ❑ Development of expectations and accountability for local level coordination

Note: In January 2013, the U.S. Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued a memorandum to Head Start Programs, Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) administrators, and other programs receiving ACF funds with the goal of increasing services for homeless children. (See ACF resources on the next slide.)



Links to Resources



- ❑ Issue Brief: *Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness*
<http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/early-childhood.pdf>
- ❑ Fact Sheet: *Policies & Procedures to Increase Access to ECE Services for Homeless Children & Families*
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/acf_homeless_policies_and_procedures.pdf
- ❑ HHS Fact Sheet: *Strategies for Increasing ECE Services for Homeless Children*
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/acf_homeless_strategies.pdf



Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Programs



- ❑ Enable community-based organizations and shelters to serve and protect runaway, homeless, missing, and sexually exploited youth.
- ❑ Are required to increase access to education for youth and coordinate with local homeless liaisons.



Benefits of Coordination with RHYA



- ❑ Local programs receive information on each other's services and contact information.
- ❑ Expectations and accountability for local-level coordination are set.
- ❑ Cross-agency approach to addressing the needs of homeless youth is discussed at the state level.



Link to Resources



- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family and Youth Services Bureau, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth/about>



Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Programs



- Continuum of Care and homeless service grantees must
 - Collaborate with LEAs to identify homeless families and inform them of their educational rights,
 - Consider the educational needs of children and place them when practicable close to their school of origin,
 - Establish policies consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act, and not restrict their rights provided therein, and
 - Designate a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to services.



Benefits of Collaboration with HUD Programs



- ❑ Greater awareness and understanding of the needs of homeless children among HUD programs.
- ❑ Greater understanding of housing programs for LEAs.
- ❑ State-level discussions of HUD policies that are consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act.
- ❑ Assurance that education is at the table in broad discussions of initiatives to address homelessness.



Link to Resources



- Issue Brief: *Housing and Education Collaborations To Serve Homeless Children, Youth, and Families*, <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/hud.pdf>



State Higher Education Organizations



- ❑ The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) of 2007 includes specific provisions designed to remove barriers for unaccompanied homeless youth accessing financial aid for college.
- ❑ Unaccompanied homeless youth may be qualified as independent students for the purpose of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) without parental signatures and financial information.



Benefits of Collaboration with Higher Education Organizations



- ❑ Joint development of a consistent approach for financial aid administrators to determine independent student status for unaccompanied homeless youth
- ❑ Provision of information and contacts to local liaisons to help unaccompanied homeless youth apply for college and obtain federal financial aid
- ❑ Participation in a state-level college and homeless education network to address challenges for homeless students accessing and succeeding in post-secondary education in a systemic way



Links to Resources



- ❑ Issue Brief: *Increasing Access to Higher Education for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: Information for Colleges and Universities*
http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/higher_ed.pdf
- ❑ National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) webpage on State Higher Education Networks:
<http://www.naehcy.org/legislation-and-policy/state-he-networks>



Questions to Consider



1. With what agencies does the SEA Office of Coordinator currently collaborate?
 - What is the nature of the collaborations?
2. With what agencies does the SEA Office of Coordinator need to strengthen collaboration?
 - What steps will you take to strengthen collaborations?



Wrap Up



Upon completing Module 9, State Coordinators should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What coordination does the McKinney-Vento Act require of State Coordinators?
2. How can coordination with IDEA benefit homeless students?
3. What law addresses the educational needs of children in foster care?
4. What does Head Start require regarding serving homeless students?



Wrap Up



Upon completing Module 9, State Coordinators should be able to answer the following questions (cont.):

5. In what ways are RHYA programs required to meet the educational needs of homeless youth?
6. In what ways are HUD programs required to collaborate with LEAs and SEAs?
7. In what ways does the CCRAA remove barriers for unaccompanied homeless youth to access federal financial aid?