

Chapter Seventeen: Additional Resources



Section 17.1 Importance of National Resources and Disclaimer

A wealth of expertise and resources exists in national organizations that can increase your capacity to serve homeless children and youth. The organizations listed in this section provide help with services, advocacy, and research-based information dissemination. We encourage you to explore and utilize the resources offered through these organizations.

Keep in mind, however, that each organization has its own philosophical foundation related to homelessness; perspectives reflected in resources, trainings, and other information provided by the organization may not align with those of the U.S. Department of Education or your state educational agency (SEA). The greater your familiarity with the McKinney-Vento Act, the more discerning you will be in determining the extent to which these organizations' resources will be useful for you.

Because the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) is a contractor with the U.S. Department of Education and works closely with the federal program officer for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, all NCHE publications and training materials have been reviewed and approved by the Department. Should you have any questions about resource materials from NCHE or any other organization, you are urged to contact NCHE staff or your State Coordinator to discuss the materials.

The inclusion of the organizations in the following section does not indicate endorsement of their products or materials. The intent is to familiarize you with a range of resources to supplement your work.

Section 17.2 National Resources

Institute for Children, Homelessness, and Poverty

Website: www.icphusa.org

The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness (ICPH) is an independent nonprofit research organization based in New York City. ICPH conducts research on homeless families and those living in extreme poverty that examines the demographics of this growing population, the challenges these families face in becoming self-sufficient, and the programs that are most effective in helping them transition out of poverty. In addition to its published research, ICPH produces an array of products and materials to engage the public and support professionals working with homeless families.

Legal Center on Foster Care and Education, American Bar Association

Website: www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/what_we_do/projects/education.html

The Legal Center on Foster Care and Education serves as a national technical assistance resource and information clearinghouse on legal and policy matters affecting the education of children in the foster care system.

The Legal Center for Foster Care and Education

- provides expertise to states and constituents,
- facilitates networking to advance promising practices and reforms
- provides technical assistance and training to respond to the ever-growing demands for legal support and guidance, and
- offers briefs and resources on the Fostering Connections Act and other laws that impact children in foster care.

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Website: www.naeh.org

The National Alliance to End Homelessness analyzes policy and proposes policy solutions. The Alliance works collaboratively with public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity to help communities achieve their goal of ending homelessness. In order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide, the Alliance provides data and research to policymakers and elected officials. It offers a wide range of publications on homelessness in America, which are available for download from the organization's website.

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Website: www.naehcy.org

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) is a leader in advocacy and policy development in the area of homeless education. NAEHCY provides publications and activities to keep its members abreast of emerging issues. An annual conference brings State Coordinators, local homeless liaisons, shelter and service providers, researchers, and advocates together to learn and network. Local homeless liaisons may find NAEHCY's Frequently Asked Questions on various issues related to McKinney-Vento implementation particularly useful (www.naehcy.org/sites/default/files/images/dl/naehcy_faq.pdf).

National Center on Family Homelessness

Website: www.familyhomelessness.org

The National Center on Family Homelessness is dedicated to helping families who are homeless. The Center conducts research, and develops, shares, and implements innovative solutions to end family homelessness in America. The Center offers trainings and technical assistance materials on a variety of topics relating to homeless families, including trauma informed services.

National Center for Homeless Education

Website: www.serve.org/nche

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) is the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center in the area of homeless education. NCHE provides a comprehensive website, webinars, onsite trainings, and publications that are updated regularly to reflect the growing body of knowledge regarding homeless education. Updates, announcements, and links to resources are also provided via a NCHE hosted listserv. Assistance with understanding and implementing the law is provided to parents, caregivers, and those who serve homeless children and youth via a Helpline (800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org).

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)

Website: www.nctsn.org

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network was established to improve access to care, treatment, and services for traumatized children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events. NCTSN raises awareness of the impact of child traumatic stress, promotes trauma-informed services, works with established systems of care, and fosters collaboration to ensure that knowledge and skills related to the issue becomes a sustainable national resource.

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Website: www.nlchp.org

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) provides legal expertise and support in the nationwide movement to end homelessness. Key areas of work include: impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education. NLCHP offers a variety of publications on issues related to homelessness, poverty, and the education of homeless children and youth.

Section 17.3 Federal Programs and Resources

U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Healthy Students

Website: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oshs/aboutus.html

The Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS) administers, coordinates, and recommends policy for improving the quality and excellence of programs and activities that are designed to address drug and violence prevention, student health and well-being, and emergency preparedness. OSHS supports the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (<http://rems.ed.gov>), which provides emergency management resources, training, and publications.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Families and Youth Services Bureau Help for Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative

Website: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth

Through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHY), the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) supports street outreach, emergency shelters,

and longer-term transitional living and maternity group home programs to serve and protect young people experiencing homelessness.

FYSB supports several technical assistance initiatives, in addition to its grant programs, to support professionals working with homeless youth including the

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/rhyttac>),
- National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/ncfy>),
- National Runaway Safeline (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/runaway-safeline>),
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/rhymis>).

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center
Website: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>

The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center provides a wealth of information on Head Start and early learning. The website includes a locator for Head Start Programs and online training opportunities, including a series of interactive lessons for Head Start staff working with homeless families. The lessons include useful strategies; parent stories; experiences and lessons learned by Head Start and Early Head Start programs as well as LEA liaisons; sample documents; and much more. The training series on working with homeless families is available at <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/Crisis%20Support/Homelessness/homelessness.html>.