



Homeless Program



Mrs. Morgan Lynch
Lawrence County CTC

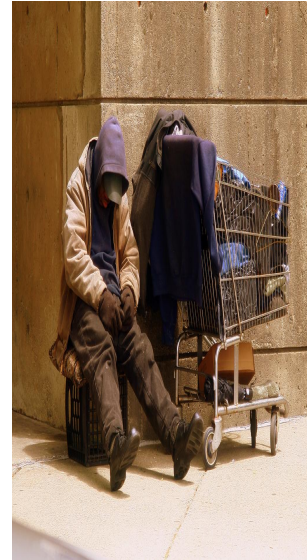
School Counselor

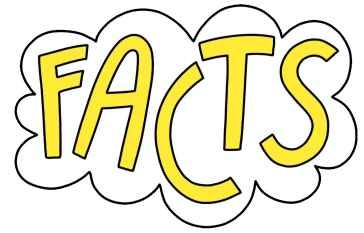
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Liaison

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What people think “Homelessness” is...





Here are the FACTS...

- Program funds and guidance are provided by the McKinney-Vento Act that was originally passed in 1987. This was the first comprehensive law dealing with problems of homelessness in America.
- Each school district in the state of Pennsylvania has a person designated as the Homeless Liaison to serve their homeless population.
- According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Development, there were an estimated 12,691 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in PA in 2022.
- During the 2021-2022 School Year, 214 students in Lawrence County were identified as Homeless.

The Significant and Lasting Impacts of Homelessness...

- Homeless students experience greater school mobility than their non-homeless peers. School mobility can cause interruptions to a child's education and is associated with lower school achievement and increased risk of dropping out of school.
- Homeless students are at a greater risk of being chronically absent than their non-homeless peers. Chronic absenteeism is associated with lower academic achievement and higher dropout rates.
- Homeless students face significant gaps in high school graduation rates compared to their peers, according to data from the States that disaggregate graduation rates for homeless youths.

What is the Role of the Homeless Liaison...



- Identification and Reporting
- Ensuring immediate enrollment and access to services
- Referrals to health care, mental health, substance abuse, housing and other needed/required services
- Making sure students, parents and families are informed of their educational rights
- Inform the public of the rights of students experiencing homelessness by posters, emails, school webpage, letters and other outreach materials
- Attend professional development and provide information and training to CTC staff

How do we determine Homelessness...

Was there a specific event?

- Domestic Violence
- Eviction
- Fire
- Flood
- Mold
- Runaway
- Thrown Out



Is it considered Substandard Housing?

- No Utilities (heat, water, electricity)
- Tarp over the roof
- Windows boarded
- Overcrowded Living
- Dirt Floors
- Holes to the outside
- Motel/Hotel
- Camper
- Tents
- Pest Infestation



So, who is considered Homeless?

1. Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:
 - a. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reasons; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
 - b. 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;
 - c. Children and youths who are living in cars, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
 - d. "Migratory children" who qualify as homeless under federal law because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii) above. The term "migratory children" means children who are (or whose parent(s) or spouse(s) are) migratory agricultural workers, including migratory dairy workers or migratory fishermen, and who have moved from one school district to another in the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain (or accompany such parents or spouses in order to obtain) temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural or fishing work; and,
 - e. "Unaccompanied homeless youth" including any child who is "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian." This includes youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or guardians, or separated from their parents for any other reason.

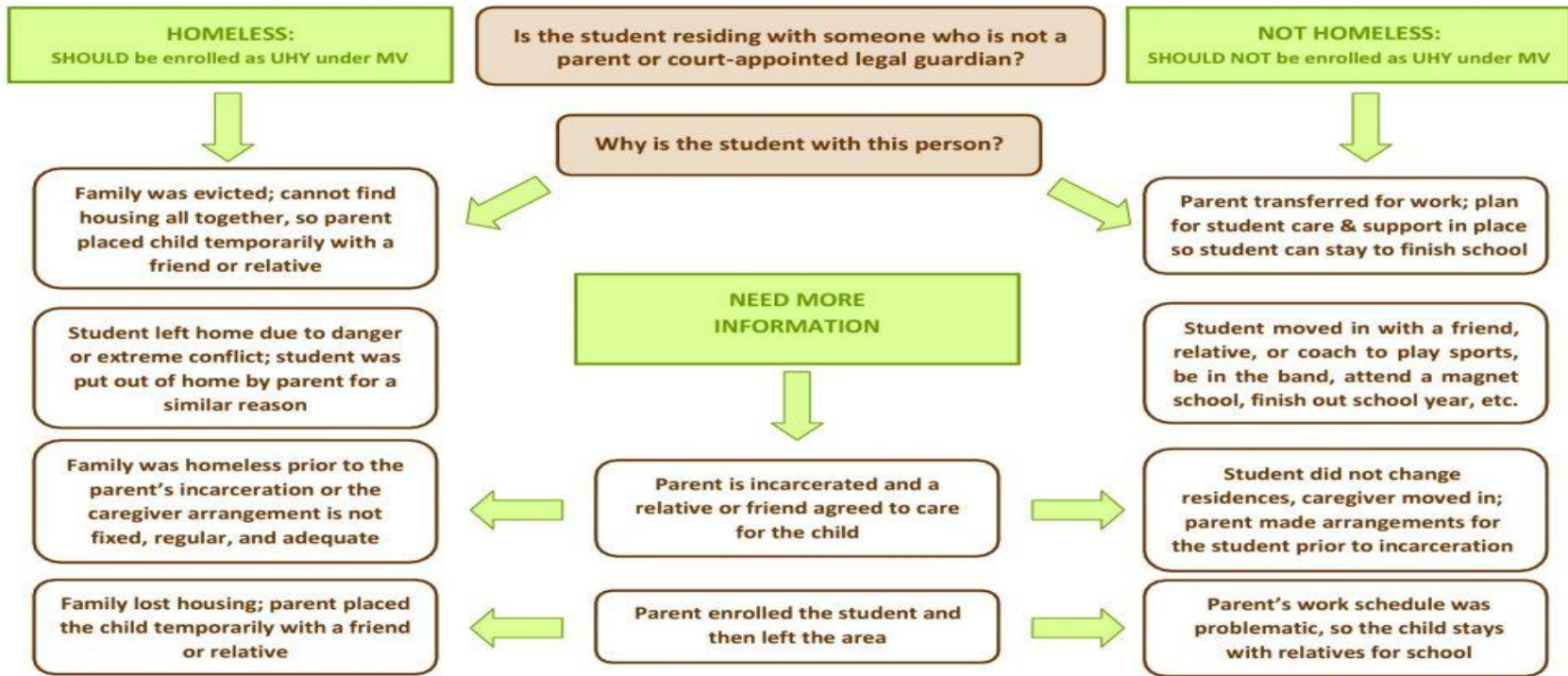
Homelessness can look like so many things...



How do you define an “Unaccompanied Youth?”



Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart



NOTE: The information contained in this flowchart is intended to serve as a general guide. All McKinney-Vento eligibility determinations should be made on a case-by-case basis weighing the individual circumstances of each student. To be eligible for McKinney-Vento services as an unaccompanied homeless student, the student must meet the criteria of both homeless and unaccompanied.

In Simpler Terms...

“Unaccompanied Youth” are children and youth who are ***not*** in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Many ***under the age of 18*** who temporarily reside with someone who is not a parent or guardian falls under this definition.

The BEC (Basic Education Circular for Homelessness) states that this situation can be for ***“any reason.”***

Children ***over the age of 18*** who have been “thrown out,” or have left due to safety reasons or who are “doubled up” meet this definition.

Rules and Regulations to Follow in Regards to Education

- ★ There is no interruption in their enrollment at the CTC. However, a student's homeschool can remain in their school of origin the entire time they are considered homeless AND until the end of the academic year of which they move into a permanent residence.
- ★ Homeschools will provide transportation to the CTC at the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth's request. This is a shared responsibility amongst districts to transport them to the CTC.
- ★ For new students, they can be enrolled immediately, even without school records, medical records, proof of residency, notarized proof of guardianship or other normally required documents. (If a student does not have immunization or medical records, the liaison must immediately assist in obtaining them).
- ★ All homeless students are entitled to free meals.



RESOURCES

Lawrence County Community Action Partnership (LCCAP)

<https://lccap.org/>

Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

<https://directory.center-school.org/homeless>

McKinney-Vento Act <https://www.education.pa.gov/K12/Homeless%20Education/mckinneyvento/Pages/default.aspx>

National Center for Homeless Education

<https://nche.ed.gov/>

Pennsylvania Department of Education – Homeless Education

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K12/Homeless%20Education/Pages/default.aspx>

American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youths

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K12/Homeless%20Education/ARP/Pages/default.aspx>

