Educating the New Congress:
Step-by-Step Advocacy Training Series for Homeless Educators and Service Providers

6-PART SERIES

Part VI - How to Apply These Lessons Closer to Home
MARCH 23, 2021; 3:30PM EASTERN
HAVE A QUESTION?

This webinar is for you. Enter your questions in the questions pane and click ‘Send’.

RECORDING & HANDOUTS

An archive of this webinar and all materials will be posted here.

This PowerPoint is available in your “Handouts” panel.

If you’ve signed up for this webinar, you will receive a link to the recording in an email after the webinar is over.
About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website: http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org
- Newsletter: https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
1. Getting Grounded: Advocacy in the New Congress
2. How to Effectively Communicate with Congress
3. What Does Successful Advocacy Look Like? Learning from Peers
4. Shining a Light: Using Media (and Social Media) to Boost Legislative Advocacy
5. How To Engage Parents and Youth with Lived Experience in Advocacy
6. How to Apply These Lessons Closer to Home: State Policy Advocacy

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/webinars/upcoming-webinars/
Objectives of Part VI:
How To Apply Advocacy Lessons Closer To Home

1. Federal and state--Different but complementary
2. Word from a state legislator
3. Successful state advocacy efforts
4. State policy 101
5. Word from a peer
6. State policy Community for Practice
Special Guest Presenters

State Representative Mary Gonzalez
El Paso, TX

Alex Slabosky
Board Director
Family Promise, IN
## Federal + State Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timing</strong></td>
<td>Slower pace</td>
<td>Quick-paced</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Issues</strong></td>
<td>Funding levels for fed programs</td>
<td>Minor consent for UHY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If and how funds are targeted to specific populations</td>
<td>Graduation requirements</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eligibility rules</td>
<td>higher education access</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Instructions to federal agencies for how aid is delivered and carried out, or how federal law is (or isn’t) enforced</td>
<td>Child care access</td>
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<td>State requirements</td>
<td>State preK eligibility</td>
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<td>Eviction, rental assistance</td>
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<td>Access to vital documents</td>
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<td>Employment programs</td>
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<td>State funding for services</td>
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<td><strong>Opportunities for Advocacy</strong></td>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>Even more!</td>
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Words from State Rep. Mary Gonzalez
Advocacy: Any activity to influence policy. Includes:

- Educating on the issues
- Providing information and data
- Arguing a cause - ie showing the impact of a policy or resource, negative or positive

Lobbying: Activities that ask legislators to take a specific position on a specific piece of legislation, or urge others to do the same (IRS definition for non-profits).
Orientation to Your State Legislature

● What party is in control of each chamber?
● Who chairs relevant committees?
● How often does your legislature meet?
● When does your legislature convene and adjourn?

www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites
https://ballotpedia.org/State_legislature
Meeting with Key Legislators

- **Who should meet?**
  - Constituents
  - Key stakeholders
  - Anyone with personal or professional connections

- **With whom?**
  - Key legislative influencers
  - Key committee chairs
  - Your representative

- **When should meetings happen?**
  - Both during and outside of legislative sessions
  - When issues appear in the press or influential spaces

- **To bring with you:**
  - Issue brief/One-Pager
  - Pointed anecdotes
  - One or two specific requests
  - Contact information
Constructing Legislative Issue Briefs and One-Pagers

- Keep them short
- Provide compelling data connected to current priorities
- A simple “ask”
- Reference comparable states with policies similar to your “ask”

SHC CAN HELP!
Reach out to the office to find the email of the legislative director and scheduler for the Representative:

Send an email including the purpose of your meeting, who will be joining you (if anyone), and the times that you are available to meet.
Ask to meet with the Representative!

Subject Line: Request Meeting about Homeless Youth

“Hello Anna,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Barbara, and I am a McKinney Vento at XX school district. I’m reaching out to set up a meeting with Representative __ to discuss minor consent laws for unaccompanied homeless youth in Texas. I’d like to include representatives from the XX school district and Head Start program.

We’re available after 3pm on Monday, Thursday, and Friday of the next few weeks. Thanks very much for your consideration.”
Note: As a result of the pandemic, most offices have made the switch to virtual and socially-distanced meetings.

- Staff will reply with a time they can meet, or find another staff in the office who is available at that time.

- You are more likely to meet directly with a legislator at the state level, but if they are not available, you will meet with a member of staff who can provide them with details of your meeting.
Key Stakeholders

- McKinney-Vento school district liaisons
- Early childhood providers (Head Start, child care, early intervention preschool)
- Higher ed liaisons
- Youth and family service providers
- Pregnant & parenting youth providers, maternity group homes
- General child and youth advocacy organizations
- Foster care advocates
- Housing providers
- Employment programs
- Faith-based organizations
- Other community organizations
- CoC’s and homeless coalitions
- Policymakers
- Attorneys/Legal aid

NOTE: Stakeholders may increase once group settles on an advocacy plan
SHC Theory of Change

- Listen and learn, then advocate
- Grassroots and consensus based
- Non-partisan
Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis
Of major large cities, Indianapolis is 2nd highest in the COUNTRY, for the NUMBER of evictions occurring in a year – only New York City had a higher number of evictions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Evictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NEW YORK</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>36,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>INDIANAPOLIS</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>11,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HOUSTON</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>11,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PHILADELPHIA</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>10,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SAN ANTONIO</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>9,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>CHARLOTTE</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>9,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>COLUMBUS</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>9,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>JACKSONVILLE</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>7,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>CHICAGO</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>6,877</td>
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</table>
Indy’s Eviction Problem (and what can be done about it)
Renters would have more power to fight bad landlords under Hogsett proposal
Indiana lawmakers put Hogsett's tenant protection proposals in jeopardy
Letter to Speaker & Members of the Indiana House of Representatives Indiana General Assembly

Signed by nearly 300 organizations and individuals who advocate on landlord/tenant issues, directly serve populations affected by landlord/tenant laws, or are individuals affected by these changes, and who are opposed to the bill.
Holcomb vetoes controversial landlord-tenant legislation

March 25, 2020 | Lindsey Erdody
Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition

The HHNC Steering Committee is comprised of members from AARP Indiana, the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention (CHIP), Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Indiana Institute for Working Families – INCAA, Prosperity Indiana, and The Ross Foundation.
Editorial: Holcomb got it right, so let his veto stand

January 8, 2021

KEYWORDS EDITORIALS / ERIC HOLCOMB / OPINION
Urge State Legislators to Oppose Overriding Gov. Holcomb’s Veto of the Eviction Bill SEA 148 during this COVID-19 Winter!

The Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance and the Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition are very concerned about the potential override of Governor Holcomb’s veto of 2020’s eviction bill, SEA 148. An override of the veto will result in increased and expedited evictions and homelessness and a domino effect of negative impacts on Hoosiers’ public health and local and statewide economic recovery efforts.

We are asking our partners and friends to call their state legislators and

Enter Your Information

We just need few pieces of information to connect you with your representatives.

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

555-555-5555
House overrides Gov. Holcomb's veto of landlord-tenant bill

Kaitlin Lange  Indianapolis Star
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2021

Coalition Contact: Andrew Bradley, Policy Director, Prosperity Indiana, abradley@prosperityindiana.org

Housing Coalition: New data and stories reveal dangers of SEA 148 that imperil NCAA visitors and Hoosiers alike
SHC and Partners’ Successes at the State Level:

Higher Education

Nevada:
- Designates a homeless liaison for IHE’s

California:
- Ensures priority enrollment for classes
- Ensures priority enrollment for on-campus housing
- Registration, tuition, and fee waivers

Maine:
- Designates a homeless liaison for IHE’s
- Ensures priority enrollment for on-campus housing
- Registration, tuition, and fee waivers

Tennessee:
- Designates a homeless liaison for IHE’s
- Ensures priority enrollment for on-campus housing

Maryland:
- Registration, tuition, and fee waivers
SHC and Partners’ Successes at the State Level:
Health, Mental Health, Shelter/Housing, and Other Services

Utah:
- Unaccompanied youth consent for shelter and supportive services

Wyoming:
- Unaccompanied youth consent for shelter and supportive services

Maine:
- Minor consent for medical, mental health, and related services

Maryland:
- Unaccompanied youth consent for shelter and supportive services
- Minor consent for medical, mental health, and related services
- Medicaid coverage

Missouri:
- Minor consent for medical, mental health, and related services
- Unaccompanied youth consent for shelter and supportive services
SHC and Partners' Successes at the State Level: Promoting High School Graduation

California:
- Partial credits
- Diploma awards for students who have transferred from other districts

Nevada:
- Partial credits
- Diploma awards for students who have transferred from other districts

Texas:
- Partial credits
- Diploma awards for students who have transferred from other districts

Connecticut:
- UHY access to school of choice

Indiana:
- UHY access to high school equivalency exam without parental consent or fee

Kentucky:
- Partial credits
- Diploma awards for students who have transferred from other districts
SHC and Partners’ Successes at the State Level:
Empowering Youth Experiencing Homelessness To Access Vital Documents

- **Kentucky:**
  - Waivers for fees for identification/birth certificates

- **Tennessee:**
  - Waivers for fees for identification/birth certificates

- **Utah:**
  - Waivers for fees for identification/birth certificates

- **Indiana:**
  - Waivers for fees for identification/birth certificates
  - Waiver for consent requirements for UHY to receive birth certificates

- **Missouri:**
  - Waivers for fees for identification/birth certificates
  - Waiver for consent requirements for UHY to receive birth certificates

- **Nevada:**
  - Waivers for fees for identification/birth certificates
  - Waiver for consent requirements for UHY to receive birth certificates

- **Kentucky:**
  - Waivers for fees for identification/birth certificates
Pending Legislation and Advocacy Opportunities

- SHC is working on pending legislation in California, Maine, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, Nevada, North Dakota, Texas
- Recently passed bills in Kentucky, New Mexico, Montana
- Looking toward 2022 in Alabama, Florida, New York
- Find out more about our current and past state legislation here.
Building Teams for Change Community of Practice

Gain knowledge of specific policy issues impacting children and youth experiencing homelessness and key strategies in legislative advocacy campaigns.

Virtual sessions will be facilitated by SchoolHouse Connection staff and experts in state policy and homelessness. Virtual sessions will be held the fourth Thursday of every other month from 3:00 – 4:30 PM (EST) beginning March 25, 2021.

Register here.
Questions?