ESTABLISHING A HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISON & SUPPORT PROGRAM IN YOUR SCHOOL: A CONVERSATION W/ MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SchoolHouse Connection

MONDAY, JUNE 28
2PM-3PM EASTERN
Housekeeping

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.
HELLO! I’m Jillian Sitjar.
Senior Program Manager, Higher Education

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

About SchoolHouse Connection

Webinar and implementation tools
Youth leadership and scholarship

Website
Federal and state policy advocacy
Q&A from our inbox
Webinars and implementation tools
Youth leadership and scholarship
Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness During COVID-19

- K-12 liaisons and shelter providers are working remotely (K-12) and/or overwhelmed with need
- Difficulty with identification
- Youth lack devices, minutes, places to charge, and quiet, stable, safe places to learn
- Youth have either lost jobs, or are working in groceries, convenience stores
- Youth are being kicked out of “doubled up” situations, and cannot self-isolate
- Students aren’t considering postsecondary options and focusing on jobs/basic needs insecurity
New Report from the Hope Center

Taken from nearly 200K students from 202 colleges and universities

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<tr>
<th>NEARLY 3 IN 5 experienced basic needs insecurity</th>
<th>FOOD INSECURITY AFFECTED 39% at two-year institutions</th>
<th>HOUSING INSECURITY AFFECTED 48%</th>
<th>THE BLACK/WHITE GAP IN BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY WAS 16 percentage points</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>29% at four-year institutions</td>
<td>HOMELESSNESS AFFECTED 14%</td>
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WHO WE ARE

Becca Smitty; MT One Stop-Associate Director

Danielle Rochelle; Outreach and Support Programs Coordinator

Middle Tennessee State University
NEXT STEP

What we’re doing to assist students
HISTORY OF NEXT STEP

- Began in 2008 as a resource for foster youth
- Transitioned in 2010 to include homeless youth
- Served 400+ youth
- Rely on community partners for identification and support of these youth
The mission of Next Step is to encourage and empower former foster, homeless, and unaccompanied youth as they strive to attain higher education while enabling them to sustain and succeed beyond their college career at MTSU.
WHAT WE DO

CONNECT STUDENTS WITH ON-CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CONNECT STUDENTS WITH APPROPRIATE CONTACTS IN VARIOUS OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS ACROSS CAMPUS

PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS DURING A BASIC NEEDS CRISIS
WHO WE HELP

- As of Fall 2020, MTSU total headcount 22,080
  - Students that have aged out of foster care (70)
  - Those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness (9)
  - Unaccompanied youth (27)
DAY TO DAY

- Petition for homeless status (homeless verification)
- Housing during winter break
- Identifying students
- Community relationships
- Food pantry access
IN CRISIS

● Referrals
● Face to face meetings
● Finding appropriate resources in the moment
● Emergency funding
NEW LEGISLATION

Public chapter 266
Senate bill 763
House bill 1000
IN A NUTSHELL

A degree-granting post secondary institution shall designate a staff member to serve as homeless-student liaison.

Develop a plan to provide homeless students access to housing resources during and between academic terms.
This amazing labor of love is finally complete

This manual outlines the who, what, when and how of the development of a program like Next Step
CHALLENGES/GAPS

- Housing
  - Affordability
  - Availability
- Transportation
  - Access
CHALLENGES/GAPS

▪ Relationship building
  ▪ Establishing trust

▪ Funding
  ▪ Having the funding available to assist where financial aid can’t help
  ▪ Break Housing costs
  ▪ Meal plans
GOALS

● Host homes/ designated emergency dorm spaces
  ○ Nesterly (Homeshare)
  ○ 30 day emergency housing (Sacramento State Univ.)

● Increased emergency funding
  ○ To cover break housing
  ○ Provide a bigger scope of assistance

● Housing/meal plan scholarships
  ○ Year round on-campus housing
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY IS THAT LITTLE EXTRA

-Jimmy Johnson
Resources

SchoolHouse Connection Higher Education Page
- Gearing up for Summer and Fall- Tips for Homeless and Foster Youth
- Tip Sheets for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed
- Do’s and Don’ts in COVID

SchoolHouse Connection Financial Aid Page

SchoolHouse Connection Archived Webinars

Hope Center Report

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<tr>
<th>DO's</th>
<th>DON'Ts</th>
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<td>Prioritize students experiencing homelessness for housing and conduct strategic outreach for students to share their extenuating circumstances.</td>
<td>Pressure students to make a decision about housing options weeks prior to school.</td>
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<td>Create contingency plans if campuses pilot to remote learning and work with students to identify housing options. Consider sharing these plans with students to help curb their nerves regarding what could happen if the campus were to close.</td>
<td>Wait until the last minute to notify students if they receive on-campus housing.</td>
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<td>Offer housing refunds if campuses switch to remote learning.</td>
<td>Require students to quarantine without providing a room for students to do so.</td>
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<td>Provide COVID-19 testing/health kits for students free of charge.</td>
<td>Require students to purchase and submit a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival.</td>
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<td>Individualized outreach to students experiencing homelessness.</td>
<td>Create FAFSA barriers like requiring additional documentation or notarized statements.</td>
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<td>Create a survey asking students what they need to be successful.</td>
<td>Bombard students with lengthy and confusing emails.</td>
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<td>Offer flexible class attendance policies. Include a basic needs paragraph and resources in all syllabi, and record/transcribe classes.</td>
<td>Enforce strict attendance policies that require students to have their webcam on.</td>
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<td>Train faculty and academic advisors on the distinct need of students experiencing homelessness.</td>
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EDUCATION LEADS HOME 2022

A NATIONAL CONVENING ON STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

MARCH 7-8, 2022 | AUSTIN, TEXAS

WWW.SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/ELH2022
WE WANT TEAMS!

- Why Teams?
- What constitutes a team?
- How do you register a team?

www.schoolhouseconnection.org/ELH2022
Contact Information

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  - jillian@schoolhouseconnection.org
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