McKinney-Vento Act, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program - Short Needs Assessment

This short assessment is based on objective information. If you are not able to obtain a certain data element, simply skip that portion of the assessment. As you consider needs and how to meet them, keep in mind that students experiencing homelessness should be fully included in all Educational Services programs, as well as being uniquely served through the Title I, Part A homeless set-aside. While McKinney-Vento and ARP-HCY funds offer an opportunity to provide innovative, supplemental services, they do not replace Title I, Part A supports.

1. Liaison capacity

- What FTE percent does your liaison(s) spend on McKinney-Vento duties?
- Divide the FTE (expressed as a decimal) by the number of identified McKinney-Vento students in the LEA. Then, multiply that number by 2400. The result is the number of minutes the liaison can spend per student, per week, on average.

	Yes	No
Based on FTE, is the liaison spending fewer than 15 minutes per McKinney-Vento student, per week, on average?		

If you checked "Yes," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to increase liaison capacity.

Additional indicators

	Yes	No
Does your liaison provide professional development about the McKinney-Vento Act to all LEA staff at least annually?		
Is the liaison able to carry out the ten liaison duties outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act [1], as required by law?		

If you checked any boxes "No," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to increase liaison capacity.

2. **Identification**

Ask your LEA data team to create a report for you of the following data:
- Numbers of identified McKinney-Vento students over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- Numbers of identified unaccompanied homeless youth over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- The percentage of the student body identified as homeless (we'll call this the McKinney-Vento identification rate) [2]
- The percentage of students receiving free or reduced meals

	Yes	No
Is the overall LEA McKinney-Vento identification rate below 5.4%?		
Is the McKinney-Vento identification rate grossly out of proportion to the percentage of students receiving free or reduced meals?		
Has the number of unaccompanied youth identified dropped by more than 10% over the past four years?		
Does every school in the LEA use a housing questionnaire to identify potential homelessness upon enrollment (for both new and continuing students) and at least one additional time in the school year?		

Are brochures, posters or other materials about the McKinney-Vento Act posted in schools and the community?		

If you checked any boxes "Yes," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to improve identification.

3. **Outreach and reengagement**

Ask your LEA data team to create a report for you of the following data:
- Participation numbers and rates for McKinney-Vento students in state assessments over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- Participation numbers and rates for unaccompanied homeless youth in state assessments over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- Participation data for economically disadvantaged students, to provide a comparison point.

	Yes	No
In both numbers and percentages, has the participation of McKinney-Vento students in assessments dropped more than economically disadvantaged students?		
Is the drop greater for unaccompanied youth?		

If you checked any boxes "Yes," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to reengage and conduct outreach to students experiencing homelessness.

4. **Attendance**

Ask your LEA data team to create a report for you of the following data:
- Attendance data for McKinney-Vento students over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)

- Attendance data for unaccompanied homeless youth over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- Attendance data for economically disadvantaged students, to provide a comparison point.

	Yes	No
Has the attendance rate of McKinney-Vento students dropped more than economically disadvantaged students and/or other groups?		
Has the rate of chronic absenteeism of McKinney-Vento students increased?		
Is the drop greater for unaccompanied youth?		

If you checked any boxes "Yes," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to improve attendance of students experiencing homelessness.

5. **Education outcomes**

Ask your LEA data team to create a report for you of the following data:
- Achievement data for McKinney-Vento students over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- Graduation data for McKinney-Vento students over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- Dropout data for McKinney-Vento students over the past four school years (2018-19 to current year)
- All of the above for unaccompanied homeless youth
- All of the above for economically disadvantaged students, to provide a comparison point.

	Yes	No
Have proficiency rates for McKinney-Vento students dropped more than economically disadvantaged students?		
Have graduation rates for McKinney-Vento students dropped more than economically disadvantaged students?		
Have dropout rates for McKinney-Vento students increased more than economically disadvantaged students?		
Are the changes greater for unaccompanied youth?		

If you checked any boxes "Yes," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to improve academic achievement of students experiencing homelessness.

Additional indicators

	Yes	No
Does your LEA provide any targeted academic coaching, mentoring, or academic support to McKinney-Vento students?		

If you checked "No," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to improve academic achievement of students experiencing homelessness.

6. Participation in early childhood education programs

Ask your LEA data team to create a report for you of the following data:

- Numbers of McKinney-Vento children participating in any LEA-administered early childhood education program, including early intervention, preschool special education, Head Start/Early Head Start, or preschool/preK
- Total number of identified McKinney-Vento children under age six

	Yes	No
Are fewer than half of identified McKinney-Vento children under age six participating in an early childhood education program?		

If you checked "Yes," consider suggestions for using ARP-HCY funds to increase participation of children experiencing homelessness in early childhood education programs.

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[1] 42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A): "(6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY LIAISON- (A) DUTIES- Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), shall ensure that-(i) homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
(ii) homeless children and youths are enrolled in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that local educational agency;
(iii) homeless families and homeless children and youths have access to and receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and other preschool programs administered by the local educational agency;
(iv) homeless families and homeless children and youths receive referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services;
(v) the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
(vi) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths;
(vii) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with paragraph (3)(E);
(viii) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, as described in paragraph (1)(J)(iii), and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected under paragraph (3)(A).
(ix) school personnel providing services under this subtitle receive professional development and other support; and
(x) unaccompanied youths—
1. are enrolled in school;
2. have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth, including through implementation of the procedures under paragraph (1)(F)(ii); and
3. are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv) and that the youths may obtain assistance from the local educational agency liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1090)."
[2] Surveys of high school students in 27 states indicate that over a thirty-day period, 5.4% of students experience homelessness.