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Collaboration with Community Partnerships and Service Providers to Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

September 2020



Presentation Outcomes

- State and national level data
- Building community partnership networks
- Definition differences
- Building a homeless network
- Best practices in interagency collaboration
- Resources

Why Collaborate with Partner Agencies?

School Supplies

Dental Care

Funding

Books

CLOTHES

Translation of Awareness Materials

Children and Youth

Field Trips

Medical Care

Help Finding and Identifying Homeless

School Uniforms

Social Work and Counseling

Payment of School Fees

Eyeglasses Tutoring

Mental Health

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

- Homelessness is a **community-wide problem** and requires a community-wide response.
- Effective implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act **requires a community-based approach** to homelessness and education.
- Collaborating with community organizations and agencies will make the **local educational agency (LEA) McKinney-Vento program stronger and more successful.**

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

The Tools

- **Getting started:** Identifying key players/stakeholders
- **Getting a seat at the table:** Joining community forums and inter-agency taskforces
- **Setting a new table:** Convening community forums and inter-agency taskforces
- **Getting prepared:** Designing a comprehensive disaster plan

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (1 of 9)

- Every member of the community is a stakeholder
- Consider agencies, organizations, and even individuals
- Build connections wherever you go - never let anyone get away without talking to them about homeless kids

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (2 of 9)

- CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- American Legion

- https://www.legion.org/?content=post_locator

- Boys' and Girls' Clubs Boys Scouts/ Girls Scouts of America

- Goodwill <https://www.goodwill.org/locator/>

- Junior League <https://www.ajli.org/>

- Kiwanis International <https://www.kiwanis.org/clubloc>

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (3 of 9)

- CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS (cont.)
 - Knights of Columbus <https://www.kofc.org/en/index.html>
 - Lions Club <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator>
 - Rotary International <https://my.rotary.org/en/club-search>
 - Women's Clubs YMCA/YWCA <https://www.ymca.net/> or <https://www.ywca.org/>

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (4 of 9)

- FAITH-BASED COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS
 - In many communities, these organizations provide the bulk of social services including:
 - Shelter
 - Food
 - Mental and physical health support
 - Legal assistance, and other services

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (5 of 9)

- SHELTERS FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH, AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
 - Most all counties have transitional shelters or family shelters that are supported through private funds, are faith-based, or public grants
 - Check the phone book or Internet site for local contact information.

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (6 of 9)

- HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)
 - McKinney-Vento Act programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **require communities to develop a CoC system.**
 - CoC coordinates a **community-based process** of identifying and addressing homeless needs.
 - Members **include all agencies, organizations, as well as LEAs**, providing services to homeless people in the community.
 - Local contact information:
<https://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/cont/coc>

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (7 of 9)

- SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS (Food banks, employment agencies, subsidized day care providers, health and dental clinics, mental health clinics, etc.)
- Check the phone book or Internet site of your town for local contact information.
- HOMELESS COALITIONS
 - To find local or state coalitions:
<https://nationalhomeless.org/references/directory/>

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (8 of 9)

- YOUTH SHELTERS, INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS, DROP-IN CENTERS, AND STREET OUTREACH PROGRAMS
- Visit the Administration for Children and Families web site, for local groups and programs: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/>

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Identifying Key Players/Stakeholders (9 of 9)

- AMERICAN RED CROSS
 - To find your local chapter: <https://www.redcross.org/>
- VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (VOAD)
 - Provides a venue for agencies to coordinate, collaborate, communicate, and cooperate on disaster planning, training and response. <http://www.nvoad.org/>

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Joining Community Forums and Inter-agency Taskforces

(1 of 3)

- LEA homeless education liaisons must prioritize networking.
- Superintendents must recognize the need for and provide time to accomplish community engagement by LEA liaisons.
- Strong collaborations are also the key to **gaining access to the people and activities** surrounding local and state disaster planning, response, and recovery.

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Joining Community Forums and Inter-agency Taskforces

(2 of 3)

- **Step One:** Introductions
- **Step Two:** Get to know each other
- **Step Three:** Address mutual interest and compatibility
- **Step Four:** Decide if a relationship is desirable
- **Step Five:** Negotiating how the relationship will work and keep it healthy and productive over time

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Joining Community Forums and Inter-agency Taskforces

(3 of 3)

- For an in-depth guide to building successful collaborations, download the National Children Homeless Education's publication, "Collaborations Between Schools and Social Service Agencies."
https://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/collab_school_social.pdf

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Convening Community Forums and Inter-agency Taskforces

- In many communities, local homeless **coalitions, disaster planning committees, and interagency taskforces are already in place** and functioning well.
- The LEA homeless education liaison's mission is to **work with these pre-existing groups** to engage in cooperative disaster planning and to maximize services for youth and families in homeless situations.
- To the greatest extent possible, local liaisons should **work with pre-existing groups before attempting to establish a new forum.**

Developing Strong Community Collaborations

Designing a Comprehensive Disaster Plan

- Every school district should have a **Safe School Plan**, that contains each phase, and individual schools should have corresponding plans.
- California disasters often involve **fires and result in families and students becoming homeless.**
- Check with your Safe School Plan development team to determine if your LEA includes community disasters that may result in families and students becoming homeless.

Local Educational Agency District of Residence Partnership Network



Homeless Definitions Comparing HUD and Education Definitions

Similarities

- Both education and HUD agencies consider people who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence to be homeless, and includes:
 - Camping grounds, emergency shelters, transitional housing
 - Public or private places not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
 - Cars, parks, abandoned buildings, and bus or train stations

Homeless Definitions

Comparing HUD and Education Definitions

Differences

EDUCATION

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodation

HUD

- Individuals and families who will imminently (within 14 days) lose their primary nighttime residence
- Unaccompanied youth or families with children or youth who meet the homeless definition under another federal statute

Best Practices in Interagency Collaboration

HUD Point-In-Time Count

- Suggestions for strategies of how schools can help ensure the most comprehensive and effective count of youth experiencing homelessness for the HUD's annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count.
- Resource: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/PIT-Count-Fact-Sheet-FINAL.docx>

Best Practices in Interagency Collaboration

Partnering to Support Runaway and Homeless Youth

- Reviews the McKinney-Vento Act and Runaway and Homeless Youth Act requirements related to cross-systems collaboration, noting cross-systems strategies that support the education of runaway and homeless youth
- Resource: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/rhy-lea-collab.pdf>

Best Practices in Interagency Collaboration

Supporting In- and Out-of-School Youth Education and Workforce Partnerships

- Designed for education and employment services providers, provides a brief overview of education and workforce programs that may serve youth experiencing homelessness, and suggests strategies for cross-system collaboration
- Resource: <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/labor-ed-collab.pdf>

Best Practices in Interagency Collaboration

Supporting School Success for Homeless Children of Veterans and Military Service Members

- Developed by NCHE and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for local VA staff; state McKinney-Vento coordinators, LEA homeless liaisons, educators, and other providers of services, to active members of the military and veterans, and their children. It provides basic information to assist school enroll and receive education services available to them.
- <https://www.va.gov/>
<https://nche.ed.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2018/10/vet.pdf>

Best Practices for Successful Partnerships (1 of 2)

- Share information and data on housing programs to increase awareness
- Invite CoC to local educational meetings and institute a recurring agenda item focused on housing
- Share in a protocol development for case managers and local liaisons to evaluate the best interest of the child in terms of school placement

Best Practices for Successful Partnerships (2 of 2)

- Become familiar with housing challenges and requirements for HUD programs
- Identify ways to streamline referrals to housing programs
- Learn more about the particular housing services available in the community, such as housing voucher programs

Considerations for Community Partnerships

- Continuum of Care
- State and Local Agencies
- Public Health
- Mental Health
- Child and Family Services
- Juvenile Hall
- Community Health Centers
- Law Enforcement
- Sheriff's Offices
- Missions
- Faith-based or community shelters
- Transitional Shelters
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- School Districts

National Center for Homeless Education Resources

- NCHE's General Web Site:
<https://nche.ed.gov/>
- Developing Strong Community Collaborations Toolkit:
https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/tool_1.pdf
- California Department of Public Health:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>
- Behavioral Health Services:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/BHS.aspx>

California Department of Education

Resources

Contact the California Department of Education Homeless Education with homeless education program questions by phone at 1-866-856-8214 or by email at HomelessEd@cde.ca.gov

Certificate of Completion

Collaboration with Community Partnerships and Service Providers to Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

I hereby certify that I have fully reviewed the contents of this training with individual effort and agree to implement the provisions of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act.

Participant's Name and Signature

Date of Completion