

McKinney-Vento Basics: Grantee K-20

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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Basics of the McKinney-Vento Act



How many children and youth experience homelessness?

- **1.35 million children**
- **10% of all children living in poverty**
- **733,000-1.3 million youths**
- **Over 40% of all children who are homeless are under the age of 5**
- **Washington State school districts reported 18,670 homeless students enrolled/attending during the 2007-08 school year.**

Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—
 - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
 - Abandoned in hospitals

Eligibility— Who is Covered? (cont.)

- **Awaiting foster care placement**
- **Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live**
- **Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.**
- **Migratory children living in above circumstances**

Homeless Liaisons

Local Homeless Education Liaisons

Every LEA must designate a liaison for students in homeless situations and their duties include:

- **Ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified**
- **Ensure that homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school**
- **Link with educational services, including preschool and health services**

Local Homeless Education Liaisons (cont.)

- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of educational and parent involvement opportunities
- Post public notice of educational rights (For posters contact Tami Johnson at tami.johnson@k12.wa.us)
- Resolve disputes
- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of transportation services, including to the school of origin

School Stability— Key Provisions

- **Children and youth experiencing homelessness can stay in their school of origin or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, according to their best interest**
- **School of origin—school attended when permanently housed or in which last enrolled**
- **Best interest—keep homeless students in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless this is against the parents' or guardians' wishes**

Feasibility—Best Interest USDE Sample Criteria

- **Continuity of instruction**
- **Age of the child or youth**
- **Safety of the child or youth**
- **Length of stay at the shelter**
- **Likely area where family will find permanent housing**
- **Student's need for special instructional programs**
- **Impact of commute on education**
- **School placement of siblings**
- **Time remaining in the school year**

School Selection— Key Provisions

- **Students can stay in their school of origin the entire time they are homeless, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing**
- **If a student becomes homeless in between academic years, he or she may continue in the school of origin for the following academic year**
- **If a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, the district must provide a written explanation to the parent or guardian of its decision and the right to appeal**

Transportation

Transportation—Key Provisions

- LEAs must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaisons request for unaccompanied youth)
- If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same LEA, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation; if the student is living outside of the school of origin's LEA, the LEA where the student is living and the school of origin's LEA must determine how to divide the responsibility and share the cost, or they must share the cost equally

Transportation— Key Provisions (cont.)

- In addition to providing transportation to the school of origin, LEAs must provide students in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students
- School districts must eliminate barriers to the school enrollment and retention of students experiencing homelessness (including transportation barriers)

Enrollment and Disputes

Enrollment—Key Provisions

- **Children and youth in homeless situations can stay in their school of origin (to the extent feasible) or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend**
- **The terms “enroll” and “enrollment” include attending classes and participating fully in school activities**

Enrollment— Key Provisions (cont.)

- **Children and youth have the right to enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have required documents, such as school records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documents**
- **If a student does not have immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the liaison must immediately assist in obtaining them, and the student must be enrolled in the interim**

Enrollment— Key Provisions (cont.)

- Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained
- Schools must maintain records for students who are homeless so they are available quickly
- Federal law supercedes state and local laws where there is a conflict [U.S. Constitution, Article VI]
- SEAs and LEAs must develop, review, and revise policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations

Resolution of Disputes— Key Provisions

- **Every state must establish dispute resolution procedures**
- **When a dispute over enrollment arises, the student must be admitted immediately to the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved**
- **Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are enrolled immediately while the dispute is being resolved**

Resolution of Disputes— Key Provisions (cont.)

- Whenever a dispute arises, the parent or guardian must be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision, including the right to appeal
- The school must refer the child, youth, parent, or guardian to the liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible
- Documentation should be kept for all local liaison interventions with parents—not just formal disputes (NCLB)
- **The Washington State Homeless Dispute Resolution Policy can be found at:**
www.k12.wa.us/homelessed/default.aspx

Youth

Homeless Unaccompanied Youth—Key Provisions

- **Definition:** youth who meets the definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- **Liaisons** must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's wishes, and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights
- **School personnel** must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.

Preschool Students

Preschool-Aged Children

- **Liaisons must ensure that families and children have access to Head Start, Even Start, and other public preschool programs administered by the LEA**
- **State plans must describe procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs**
- **U.S. HHS issued a memo in 1992 describing how Head Start grantees should collaborate and adjust their programs to serve homeless children; this memo remains in effect**
- **Pending changes to the Head Start Act**

Preschool—Strategies

- **Keep slots open for homeless students**
- **Provide awareness training for preschool providers**
- **Collaborate with preschools not operated by the LEA or SEA (including Head Start)**
- **Ask parents about preschool-aged children when they enroll their school-aged children in school**
- **Coordinate with IDEA Child Find**

Access to Services

Access to Services

- **Students who experience homelessness must have access to educational services for which they are eligible, including special education, programs for English learners, gifted and talented programs, voc./tech. programs, and school nutrition programs**
- **Undocumented children and youth have the same right to attend public school as U.S. citizens and are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act to the same extent as other children and youth (Plyler v. Doe)**

Access to Services (cont.)

- **USDA policy permits liaisons and shelter directors to obtain free school meals for students by providing a list of names of students experiencing homelessness with effective dates**
- **The 2004 reauthorization of IDEA includes amendments that reinforce timely assessment, inclusion, and continuity of services for homeless children and youth who have disabilities**

Segregation

- States are prohibited from segregating homeless students in separate schools, separate programs within schools, or separate settings within schools
- SEAs and LEAs must adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youth are not segregated or stigmatized on the basis of their status as homeless
- Services provided with McKinney-Vento funds must not replace the regular academic program and must be designed to expand upon or improve services provided as part of the school's regular academic program

Title I, Part A

Title I and Homelessness— Key Provisions

- A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is automatically eligible for Title IA services
- **LEAs must reserve (or set aside) funds as are necessary to provide services** comparable to those provided to children in Title IA schools to serve homeless children who do not attend participating schools, including providing educational support services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children may live

Strategies for Determining the Title I Set-Aside Amount

- Review needs and costs involved in serving homeless students in the current year and project for the following year
- Multiply the number of homeless students by the Title IA per pupil allocation
- For districts with subgrants, reserve an amount greater than or equal to the McKinney-Vento subgrant funding request
- Reserve a percentage based on the district's poverty level or total Title IA allocation

Title I—Services for Homeless Students

- **Services for homeless students in both Title I and non-Title I schools comparable to those provided to non-homeless students in Title I schools**
- **Services that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I students and that are not available from other sources**

McKinney-Vento Grant Funding

McKinney-Vento Competitive Grants

- **Provided annually to OSPI from USDE**
- **Typically, around \$850,000 for the state of Washington**
- **Grants are awarded to LEAs based on need as well as quality of proposal**
- **EVERY district in the state is eligible and encouraged to apply for the competitive grants**
- **Grant awards are not to exceed three years in duration. (LEAs may re-apply.)**

McKinney-Vento Competitive Grants, cont.

- There are currently 24 McKinney-Vento competitive grants in Washington
- Next competition will be in the spring of 2010 via the OSPI iGrant system
- Currently, competitive grant awards range in size from \$10,000 to \$50,000 (depending on size of district and overall reviewer scores.)

McKinney-Vento ARRA Funding

- As part of the federal stimulus, an additional \$70M was appropriated at the national level for McKinney-Vento grant funding to LEAs.
- Additional \$1,298,061 in ARRA funds came to Washington State for LEAs
- This is in addition to Washington's "regular" (competitive) allocation
- Funds accessible via the OSPI iGrant system

McKinney-Vento ARRA Funding, cont.

- Funds were allocated in June, 2009, on a formula allocation.
- Check the allocation table found on the “log-in” page of the iGrant system to determine the amount for your district.
- Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2011.
- **Accountability:** Additional reporting requirements as per USDE, including quarterly reports via iGrants, and additional accountability, TBA.

McKinney-Vento ARRA Funding, cont.

- 134 districts received McKinney-Vento ARRA funding. (Many districts have not yet claimed.) Application deadline was August 3, 2009.
- iGrant application is being held open until August 31, 2009. Unclaimed funds will be re-allocated at that time.
- Funds were provided to districts that reported 20 or more homeless students in the 2007-08 annual homeless data collection
- McKinney-Vento ARRA grant awards range in size from \$3,500 to \$30,000

Allowable Uses of McKinney-Vento Funds

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

1. The provision of **tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services** that are linked to the achievement of the same challenging State academic content standards and challenging State student academic achievement standards the State establishes for other children and youths.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

2. The provision of **expedited evaluations** of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths, including needs and eligibility for programs and services (such as educational programs for gifted and talented students, children with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency, services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar State or local programs, programs in vocational and technical education, and school nutrition programs).

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

3. Professional development and other activities for educators and pupil services personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths, the rights of such children and youths under this subtitle, and the specific educational needs of runaway and homeless youths.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

4. The provision of **referral services** to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

5. The provision of assistance to **defray the excess cost of transportation** for students under section 722(g)(4)(A), not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, where necessary to enable students to attend the school selected under 722(g)(3).

(Note: No more than 65% of your McKinney-Vento grant may be used for this activity.)

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

6. The provision of **developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs**, not otherwise provided through Federal, State, or local funding, for preschool-aged homeless children.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

7. The provision of services and assistance to **attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths**, in public school programs and services provided to nonhomeless children and youths.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

8. The provision for homeless children and youths of **before- and after-school, mentoring, and summer programs** in which a teacher or other qualified individual provides tutoring, homework assistance, and supervision of educational activities.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

- 9 . If necessary, **the payment of fees and other costs associated with tracking, obtaining, and transferring records** necessary to enroll homeless children and youths in school, including birth certificates, immunization or medical records, academic records, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs or services.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

10. The provision of **education and training to the parents of homeless children and youths** about the rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

11. The development of **coordination between schools and agencies** providing services to homeless children and youths, as described in section 722(g)(5).

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

12. The provision of **pupil services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals** for such services.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

13. Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from **domestic violence.**

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

14. The adaptation of space and purchase of supplies for any nonschool facilities made available under subsection (a)(2) to provide services under this subsection.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

15. The provision of **school supplies**, including those supplies to be distributed at shelters or temporary housing facilities, or other appropriate locations.

Allowable Uses for McKinney-Vento Funds

16. The provision of other **extraordinary or emergency assistance** needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school.

And what about...?

Can McKinney-Vento grant funds pay for any of these?

- **Salaries and benefits?**
- **Housing?**
- **Medical treatment?**
- **Prescription medications?**
- **Food?**
- **Buying a van?**

What next?

Timelines, Training, and other Details...

- **The first ARRA reporting period is mid-September, 2009. (Applies to all ARRA funds and will be found in iGrants.)**
- **McKinney-Vento Grantee Workshop will be held in Vancouver, WA, on September 29-30, 2009.**
- **Annual NAEHCY Conference, Denver, CO, November 14-17, 2009.**
- **OSPI Annual Liaison Training: February 2010.**

Timelines, Training, and other Details...

Just to clarify, you may have received messages about any/all of the following...

- **Annual Homeless Data Collection:** EDS System. Required of ALL districts. Due August 31, 2009.
- **ARRA Applications:** iGrant System. For those districts that reported 20 or more homeless students in 2007-08. Deadline extended to August 31, 2009.
- **Competitive McKinney-Vento Applications:** iGrant System. Only for the 24 existing grant recipients. Due August 3, 2009.

For More Information

- **Melinda Dyer, Program Supervisor**
Education of Homeless Children and Youth
melinda.dyer@k12.wa.us
- **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)**
www.naehcy.org
- **National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)**
www.serve.org/nche/