Welcome

• Today’s webinar:
  • Current links and resources
  • Discuss what is known (and not known) regarding issues pertaining to students experiencing homelessness during the school closures
  • State and federal grant funding (McKinney-Vento and HSSeP funds)
  • Discuss some frequently asked questions coming to OSPI
  • SchoolHouse Connection: National perspectives, strategies, etc.
  • Virtual strategy session
  • Next steps
COVID-19 Guidance

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Washington Department of Commerce
https://www.commerce.wa.gov/covid-19-homeless-services/

Washington Department of Health
https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus
Supports for Districts

• OSPI guidance
• National partners
• Homelessed@k12.wa.us
• Send email directly to program staff as appropriate
• Case by case responses
• Plan for future documents, webinars and other resources
McKinney-Vento Grants

• Currently 38 (federal) McKinney-Vento grants in WA

• Respond to student needs: Flexibility of funds
  • The 16 allowable uses of grant funding have not changed
  • At the state level, trying to be as flexible as possible
  • Internet access, hot-spots, tablets, etc.
  • Refer to #16: “The provision of other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school and participate fully in school activities.” [Sec.723(c)(3)(d)]

• Work with Melinda Dyer for M-V budget revisions as needed

• ALL districts: Continue providing core supports for students experiencing homelessness (whether or not your district receives M-V grant funding.)

• Districts that do not receive M-V funds should use Title I homeless set-aside.
Homeless Student Stability education Program (HSSeP) Updates

• Flexibility and limited additional funding.
• Technical assistance for application development.
• New Timeline and FAQ document:
  • Search “homeless education grants” on OSPI site.

https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/grants-grant-management/homeless-education-grants
New HSSeP Timeline

• Wednesday, April 15  Current grantee response required re: budget revisions and additional funds

• Monday, May 18  Final day to request disproportionality data from OSPI student information.
  • Email eric.seely@k12.wa.us (3 business day response)

• Tuesday, May 26  HSSeP applications due by 4pm in iGrants.

• Week of June 15  Review panel convenes for scoring.

• Tuesday, June 23  2020-2022 grant award notifications.
Virtual Conversation with SHC on COVID-19:
Questions, Strategies, Information

Wednesday, April 8, 1-2PM

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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.

- Website: http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org
- Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/SchoolHouseConnection/
- 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
Today’s Agenda: Listen, Learn, Share

- Where to Find SHC Resources
- Facilitated conversation:
  - Outreach and communications
  - Health, Safety, Basic Needs
  - Access to Learning
  - Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- Federal Legislative Update
- Resources links
Education Week Map: Coronavirus and School Closures

*https://www.edweek.org/ew(section/multimedia/map-coronavirus-and-school-closures.html*
As COVID-19 disrupts education, services and life across the country, children and youth experiencing homelessness are exceptionally vulnerable. This page offers resources to help meet their needs as we respond to this global crisis.

- FAQ on COVID-19 and Homelessness
- Five Ways to Protect Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19
- Checklist for Local Education Agencies and Early Childhood Providers
- Strategies for Schools and Early Learning Programs
- Higher Education Resource: COVID-19 Response for Youth Who Are Homeless or in Foster Care
- Upcoming Webinars
- Archived Webinars
- Policy Updates
- [Guest Perspective] Supporting Our Students Amidst the Unknown: Evolving Lessons During COVID-19
- News on COVID-19 and Homelessness
- Other Resources
Facilitated conversation on known challenges/responses
Outreach, Identification, Communication

CHALLENGES

- McKinney-Vento students staying outside of school district.
- Maintaining contact with M-V students, including Unaccompanied Youth.
- Identifying families and youth who become homeless after schools closed.

STRATEGIES

- Coordinating with area liaisons to get resources to MV students living in their attendance areas (resource lists)
- Pre-paid cell phones
- Coordinated outreach to families, students, campgrounds, motels
Health, Safety, Basic Needs

CHALLENGES

- Access to temporary housing for self-isolation/recovery/safety
- Food: access, delivery
- Access to hygiene and health services
- Providing food and materials safely

STRATEGIES

- Motel vouchers, RVs, dorms
- Gift cards
- Repurposing bus drivers for delivery of items
- Community foundations, faith-based supports
- Leaving items outside doors, in bins
E-Learning

CHALLENGES

- Mobile hotspots
- Devices (laptops, tablets, phones)
- Places to charge devices
- Stable environment conducive to learning

STRATEGIES

- Spectrum internet
- Comcast offer
- Xfinity offer
- Cox offer
- Wifi in school parking lots and on school buses
- Donations to cover insurance on devices
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

CHALLENGES

- Isolation
- FAFSA determinations
- Consent to health care for minors
- Access to Recovery Rebates

STRATEGIES

- Regular check-ins
- Prepare FAFSA determinations in advance for all identified UHY, and also as new UHY are identified
- State Laws on Minor Consent for Routine Medical Care
- State Laws to Support Youth Experiencing Homelessness

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Young Children (Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers)

**CHALLENGES**
- Appropriate food items
- Safety of physical environment are shelters, other temporary locations
- Preschool enrollment for next school year (deadlines, etc.)

**STRATEGIES**
- Ask about the presence of young children
- Connect to WIC and CACFP and Head Start about appropriate food
- Child-proofing checklist: electric sockets, removal of sharp objects and toxics, and provision for adequate security
Challenges & Responses
COVID-19 Bills Overview

Phase 1

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, enacted March 6, 2020

$8.3 billion emergency funding bill designed to treat and prevent the spread of COVID-19

Phase 2

Families First Coronavirus Response Act, enacted March 18, 2020

Provides for free testing, paid sick leave, some food assistance and waiver authority, and unemployment provisions

Phase 3

The CARES Act, enacted Friday, March 27, 2020

$2.2 trillion for coronavirus response and economic stimulus

Phase 4

In progress

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$13B to SEAs based on Title IA formula.

Timing: Application from ED to SEAs within 30 days; applications approved 30 days from receipt.

Awards to LEAs also based on Title IA formula.

Allowable uses of funds specifically include activities authorized under the McKinney-Vento Act and activities to address the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness, including how outreach and service delivery will meet their needs.
Other allowable uses of funds include:

- Planning for and coordinating how to provide meals and technology.
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software and connectivity) for students.
- Mental health services and supports.
- **Ensuring access to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs for students experiencing homelessness.**
Third Coronavirus/Economic Stimulus - H.R. 748
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

- $14B to higher education institutions based primarily on percent of Pell Grant recipients.
- Institutions must use at least 50% of funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students.
- Preliminary analysis of amounts distributed to institutions may be found here (courtesy of National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
$3B to states, based on combination of number of children and youth ages 5-24, and Title IA-eligible children.  
For grants to LEAs most significantly impacted by coronavirus.  
For grants to institutions of higher education.  
For grants for emergency educational services for K-12, higher education, child care and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and protection of education-related jobs.
$3.5B for Child Care and Development Block Grant
$750M for Head Start
$45M for Family Violence and Prevention Act
Children and youth experiencing homelessness retain all educational rights under current federal law.

- Secretary is permitted to waive various sections of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act related to assessments, accountability, state plans, and allocation of funding.
- Does not allow Secretary to waive:
  - McKinney-Vento Act requirements
  - Title I Part A reservation of funds for homeless students
  - Requirements to serve children/youth with disabilities who are homeless
  - Independent student status for unaccompanied youth on the FAFSA
New funding flexibility to allow funds from previous fiscal years to be spent over the next school year. Specifically, states can request waivers to allow LEAs to:

- Carry over more than 15 percent of their FY 2019 Title I, Part A funds into FY 2020 (to be used after September 30, 2020); and
- Extend the availability of FY 2018 Title I, Part A and McKinney-Vento funds until September 30, 2021. (This extension also applies to funds under: Title I, Part C; Title I, Part D; Title III, Part A; 21st Century; and several other ESEA programs.)
Third Coronavirus/Economic Stimulus - H.R. 748
Housing/Homelessness: Top Line Summary

- $4B in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
- $5B in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Can be used for rental assistance.
- $685M Public Housing
- $1.25B in Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- $1B in Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)
- An additional $30B in Disaster Relief Funds. Can supplement some ESG and CDBG uses.
HUD: A Closer Look at Emergency Solutions Grant

- $4 billion in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
  - Up to $2 billion to 2020 grantees under same formula, allocations to be made within 30 days.
  - Remaining $2 billion to be allocated to states or local units of government by formula determined by Secretary.
  - Includes “at risk of homelessness” for prevention activities. Per HUD, it would include those defined as homeless by ED and HHS.
- $1 billion in ESG announced today under the existing formula. Eligible uses include emergency shelters, motels/vouchers, and essential services.

View specific state and grantee allocations here.

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**Third Coronavirus/Economic Stimulus - H.R. 748**

**Recovery Rebates and Unaccompanied Youth**

- Recovery Rebate is only available to individuals who cannot not be claimed as a deduction on someone else’s tax return (tax years 2018 and 2019).
- SHC is working on advocacy so all unaccompanied homeless youth, and all students considered independent on the FAFSA, can receive the benefit regardless of whether their parents claimed them on their taxes.
- **Strategy**: Work with unaccompanied youth to file 2019 taxes as soon as possible.
  - Free tax return software is available.
  - Unaccompanied homeless youth with no income can complete an online registration offered by TurboTax, in partnership with the IRS.

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Federal Waivers and Other Action as of April 8, 2020

More from ED

- By April 10, all payments on federally held student loans will be suspended, without interest or penalties, through Sept. 30.

USDA

- [Waived requirement to provide school meals in group setting](#)
- [Waived meal time requirements](#)
- [Allowing delivery of school meals](#)
- [Allowing parents/guardians to pick up meals without children present](#)
- Districts can provide food to students in their area who are not enrolled in the district.
Federal Waivers and Other Action as of April 8, 2020

### HUD/FHA

- Foreclosure and eviction moratorium for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages for the next 60 days (effective March 18, 2020)
- Waivers for Homeless Assistance Programs (Continuum of Care and Emergency Shelter Grants) (April 1, 2020)

### ACF

- ACF Information Memorandum - March 30, 2020
  - Provides short-term relief for administrative, financial management, and audit requirements
  - Applicable to human service activities conducted by recipients in areas affected by COVID-19
  - 12 specified areas of flexibility
  - [ACF Information Memorandum: IM-ACF-OA-2020-01](#)
Questions
SchoolHouse Connection and Other Education Resources

- [SchoolHouse Connection] COVID-19 and Homelessness: Strategies for Schools, Early Learning Programs, and Higher Education Institutions
- Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Questions to Consider | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
- COVID-19 ("Coronavirus") Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel
- COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information
- AASA Provides Resources on Coronavirus
- Chronic Absenteeism in the Time of Coronavirus
- ACF-HS-IM-19-01 General Disaster Recovery Flexibilities
Mental Health Resources

- Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19 | CDC
- Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health During an Infectious Disease Outbreak
- Coping With Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks
- Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource
Thank you!

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Join the conversation - https://www.facebook.com/SchoolHouseConnection/groups/
From the OSPI Homeless Education Inbox
Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Do we continue to enroll students experiencing homelessness while schools are out?

A: Yes, this has not changed. Each LEA shall, according to the child’s or youth’s best interest:

- Keep the student in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness, and until the end of the academic year in which the student becomes permanently housed; or
- Enroll the student in any public school that housed students living in the attendance area where the student is living are eligible to attend.  11432(g)(3)(A)

Q: I was just wondering about ways to help our McKinney-Vento families pay for their internet or help them get internet so that our students have access to their emails, and out of school work. Please advise whether or not this is an allowable expense.

A: All students need access to internet, chrome books, etc. Some districts have provided free internet for all students, to ensure equal access. Others have purchased hot-spots, laptops, etc. with their McKinney-Vento grant funds (if they receive that fund source) or with their homeless Title I set-aside funds. Distribution of these supports has varied from personal delivery, to handing them out with meal pick-up, etc. The main issue right now is access and inclusion for all students, and of course, the federal McKinney-Vento Act has not changed, so the “usual” McKinney-Vento supports and services remain in place.
Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Can a district utilize the Title I Set-Aside or their McKinney-Vento grant to purchase hotel or motel vouchers for high risk unsheltered youth and families?

A: No, though you should be as flexible as possible, the allowable uses for the two grant programs have not been expanded.

Q: Do students have to travel to their school of origin for food distribution? Can we give families gas voucher for transportation?

A: If a family is already receiving a gas voucher or reimbursement to drive their McKinney-Vento eligible student to school, and that is also where school-sponsored meals are available, you should continue to provide a gas voucher or reimbursement during school closure. Some districts and schools are electing to deliver food using existing bus routes, and if this is the case it would be harder to show the need to pay for a gas voucher if the food is being delivered but it should be looked at on a case by case basis.
Virtual Strategy Session...
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