

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The H.E.L.P. Program can assist with many resources for students, including but not limited to:

- » School supplies
- » Clothing/school uniforms
- » Hygiene items
- » Birth Certificate Fee Waivers
- » Enrollment assistance
- » Transportation to school of origin
- » Setting up tutoring services
- » Free breakfast and lunch
- » Community agency referrals
- » Assistance with referrals to Special Education or 504 services
- » Assistance acquiring immunizations/medical records
- » Assistance acquiring school records
- » Summer programming
- » Verification of Independent Status for FAFSA (Unaccompanied Youth)

\*\* The H.E.L.P. Program cannot provide monetary assistance for housing. We are happy to provide referrals to our local community agencies.



**H.E.L.P. Program**  
HOMELESS EDUCATION | LINKING PARTNERS



[WWW.FWISD.ORG/HELPPROGRAM](http://WWW.FWISD.ORG/HELPPROGRAM)

[HELPPROGRAM@FWISD.ORG](mailto:HELPPROGRAM@FWISD.ORG)

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**RESOURCE REFERRAL FORM**

[www.fwisd.org/referral](http://www.fwisd.org/referral)



FORT WORTH ISD

# H.E.L.P. PROGRAM

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS  
EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



**H.E.L.P. Program**  
HOMELESS EDUCATION | LINKING PARTNERS

## WHAT IS THE H.E.L.P. PROGRAM?

The H.E.L.P. program supports students experiencing homelessness through the funding of the McKinney-Vento Act. We work with schools to help identify, enroll, and connect students to services.

## DOES MY STUDENT QUALIFY?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness as any individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

This can happen for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to:

- » **Economic Challenges**  
Loss of job, poverty, affordable housing availability
- » **Health challenges**  
Mental health, physical health, substance abuse
- » **Trauma**  
Natural disasters, abuse, domestic violence

## POSSIBLE LIVING SITUATIONS



### DOUBLED-UP

Living with friends or relatives



### UNSHELTERED

Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, or substandard housing



### SHELTERS

Living in emergency or transitional housing



### HOTEL / MOTEL

Includes trailer parks, campgrounds, or similar settings

## STUDENT RIGHTS

- » The right to **immediate enrollment** in school, even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment.
- » The right to **attend school in his/her school of origin** (if this is requested by the parent and is feasible) or in the school in the attendance area where the family or youth is currently residing.
- » Automatic eligibility for **free breakfast and lunch**.
- » The right to **receive transportation** to his/her school of origin, if this is requested by the parent/guardian and is feasible.

## UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

If you are a student experiencing homelessness, **AND** you are not living with a parent or guardian,

You qualify as an Unaccompanied Youth.

- » *Liaisons can verify your independent status for the FAFSA Application*

## POSSIBLE LIVING SITUATIONS



ARE COUCH SURFING



HAVE BEEN KICKED OUT OF THE HOME



HAVE RUN AWAY

## CAN THE H.E.L.P. PROGRAM HELP PAY FOR HOUSING?

Unfortunately, no. The H.E.L.P. Program cannot pay for housing. We are happy to refer families to our local community agencies for shelter:

- » **ACH Youth Emergency Shelter (Ages 10-17)**  
**817-335-4673**
- » **Salvation Army Emergency Shelter**  
**817-344-1801**
- » **Tarrant County Homeless Coalition**  
This coalition partners with many local resources (including shelter information, rental information, health and medical referrals, etc.) through TCHC.  
**817.509.3635**
- » **Safe Haven (Domestic violence victims)**  
**877-701-7233**
- » **United Gospel Mission**  
**817-338-8475**
- » **Presbyterian Night Shelter**  
**817-632-7429**

## OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

This is a small list of available community resources in Tarrant County. For more resource information, scan the QR code or visit [www.fwisd.org/helpresources](http://www.fwisd.org/helpresources).

- » **211**  
Texas Directory to available resources including housing/shelter, employment, food, clothing, legal aid, and crisis/emergency support.  
**Dial 211 for assistance.**
- » **Tarrant Area Food Bank**  
Find local food pantries and apply for food benefits.  
**817.857.7100**

### RESOURCES

[www.fwisd.org/helpresources](http://www.fwisd.org/helpresources)

