#### 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

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



- » 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)





# WWW.FWISD.ORG/HELPPROGRAM

## HELPPROGRAM@FWISD.ORG

817.814.2875

SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR **Patricia Sutton** 

COORDINATOR FOR HOMELESS/ FOSTER CARE STUDENTS

#### Itzia Oscos

AREA 1 LIAISON **Isis Caldera** 

AREA 2 LIAISON Lydia Cagnolatti

AREA 3 LIAISON **Christy Alvarez** 



# FORT WORTH ISD

# H.E.L.P. PROGRAM

# **INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS** EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS





**RESOURCE REFERRAL FORM** www.fwisd.org/referral

# 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

# R

# 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.

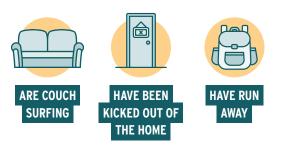
# UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

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



# 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**.

» **211** 

Texas Directory to available resources including housing/shelter, employment, food, clothing, legal aid, and crisis/emergency support. **Dial 211 for assistance.** 

RESOURCES

Tarrant Area Food Bank
Find local food pantries
and apply for food benefits.
817.857.7100



www.fwisd.org/helpresources