





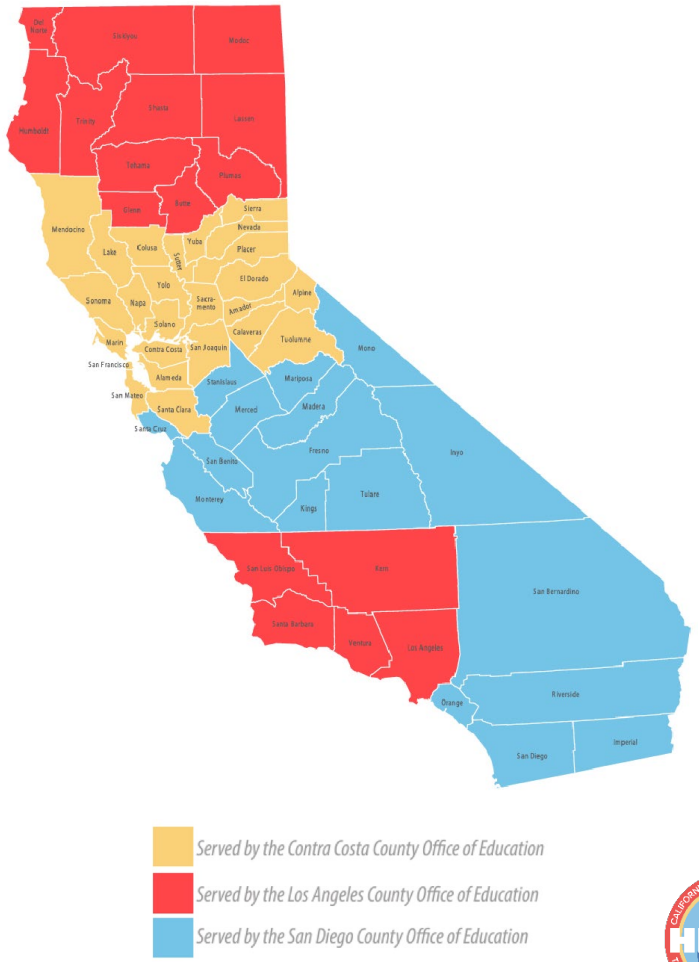
Cooperative Approaches to Identify and Support Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Welcome! We will begin momentarily.

Please say hello in the chat!

About the HETAC

- The California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)
  - Is funded by the California Department of Education to serve as the state's homeless education technical assistance center
  - Is operated jointly by the Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and San Diego County Offices of Education
- Learn more about the HETAC that serves your county



Webinar Logistics

- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted within one week to the HETAC website at www.hetac.org/resources/hetac-resources
- The webinar recording and materials also will be sent to webinar attendees following the webinar
- All attendees are muted
- Please use "Q&A" to submit questions
- Attendees may turn on or disable closed captioning

Recording...





Cooperative Approaches to Identify and Support Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)

April 2, 2025

Today's Objectives

1. Gain insight into the impact of homelessness and the challenges families encounter when accessing early childhood programs.

2. Examine data on the prevalence of homelessness and participation in early childhood programs.

3. Learn about the rights of homeless children to access preschool.

3. Explore effective strategies, best practices for collaboration, outreach efforts and ways to improve early childhood program accessibility.

Presenters



Cathi Nye
Homeless Education
Program Coordinator
Ventura County Office of
Education



Kerstin Morell
Community Homeless Liaison
Sacramento County Office
of Education

National Data

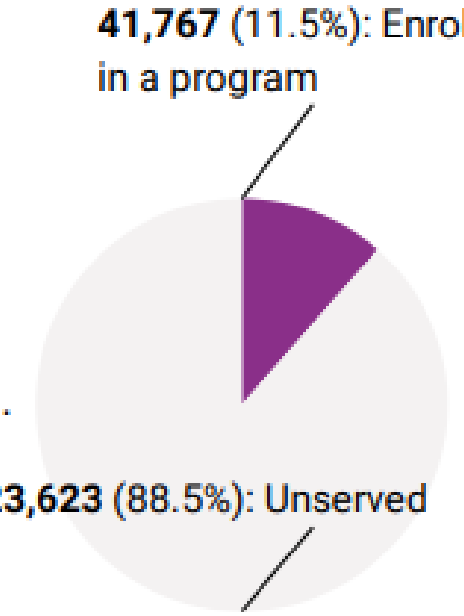
What does the available data tell us about the participation of young children experiencing homelessness in early childhood programs?

Total Population Birth Through Age Three:
14,786,455

Estimated Total Population Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness:
364,390 (2.5%) of all infants and toddlers

Total population Birth Through Age Three experiencing homelessness enrolled in a program:
41,767

Among the 364,390 infants and toddlers identified, only 41,767, which accounts for a mere 11.4%, are currently enrolled in a program.



SchoolHouse Connection Report: Infant & Toddler Homelessness Across 50 States: 2021-2022

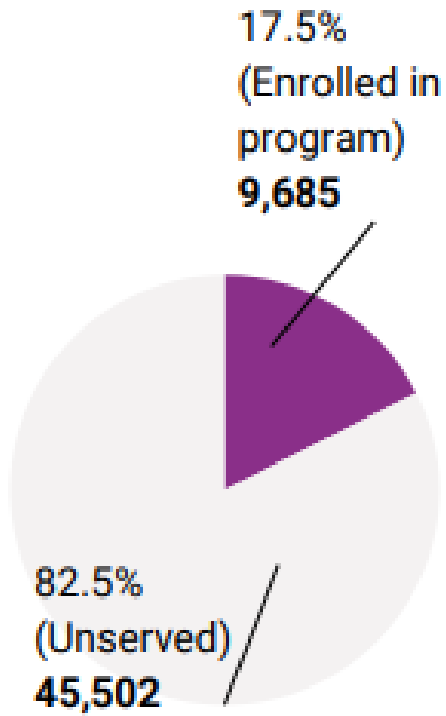
State Data

Total Population Birth Through Age Three:
1,685,996

Estimated Total Population Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness:
55,187, or 3.27% of all infants and toddlers

Total population Birth Through Age Three experiencing homelessness enrolled in a program:
9,685

Among the 55,187 infants and toddlers identified, only 9,685, which accounts for a mere 17.5%, are currently enrolled in a program.



SchoolHouse Connection Report: Infant & Toddler Homelessness Across 50 States: 2021-2022

What Do You Think?



Share in the chat:

What are some of the barriers families experiencing homelessness may face to enrolling their children in early childhood programs?

Barriers that prevent families from learning about early childhood programs:

- Lack of awareness of the homeless definition or of early education programs
- Lack of outreach by teachers and program staff
- Limited cross-system collaboration
- Stigma and fear about being reported to Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Invisibility in communities due to unstable living situations
- Families may lack trust and worry about leaving their children with someone they do not know, especially parents who have experienced trauma themselves

Barriers that prevent families from enrolling in early childhood programs:

- Eligibility requirements
- Lack of slots and long waiting lists
- Lengthy or complex enrollment processes
- Lack of documentation or ability to meet enrollment requirements
- High rates of mobility
- Lack of navigation support for families
- Lack of transportation

What Do You Think?



Share in the chat:

What are some of the impacts homelessness can have on young children?

Effects on Young Children

- Poor nutrition
- Chronic and acute health problems
- Lack of health care access
- Exposure to illness
- Language and developmental delays
- Trauma
- Continual stress such as insecurity, fear, and distrust
- Behavioral and emotional problems
- Depressed, withdrawn, anxious or aggressive
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- Regression in development



McKinney-Vento Act and Preschool

McKinney-Vento Act

- Originally passed in 1987 and reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)of 2015.
- Defines homelessness as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Provides stability, access, and support for academic success for homeless children and youth, **including preschool-aged youth.**
- Under ESSA, the definition of school of origin now includes preschool.
- Additional liaison duties around identification of preschool aged children and access to early education programs were also added.

McKinney-Vento Act

Preschool Programs are required to:

- Enroll homeless children immediately, even if parents or guardians lack required paperwork such as immunization records or proof of residence. The program and local liaison shall provide support to gather what is need for program enrollment.
- Offer comparable services, including transportation to preschoolers who are homeless and coordinate these services with LEAs and other providers.

Definition of Preschool (LEAs)

Per the U.S. Department of Education's data collection, preschool programs that meet the definition include the following early childhood education programs for children aged 0-5:

- Preschool programs operated or administered by a local education agency (LEA)
- Head Start and Early Head Start programs receiving LEA funding or for which an LEA is the grant recipient
- Preschool special education service operated or funded by an LEA or mandated under IDEA
- Home-based early childhood service funded and administered by an LEA

Public Preschool Programs

- California State Preschool Programs
- State-funded Programs
- Federal Head Start
- Early Head Start
- American Indian Early Childhood Education Program
- Federal Title I Preschool
- State Alternative Payment Programs



Head Start and Early Head Start

- Automatic eligibility for families experiencing homelessness
- Must coordinate with McKinney-Vento Act LEA homeless liaisons and other community partners
- Programs must prioritize homelessness
- Programs may choose to set aside up to three percent of their funded capacity for children who meet McKinney-Vento Act definition



FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HOMELESSNESS				
EARLY HEAD START	**EARLY INTERVENTION/ CHILD FIND**	**CHILD CARE**	**HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE**	**MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING (MIECHV)**
Homeless families are categorically eligible. Also requires proactive outreach, grace periods for immunizations, and prioritized enrollment. Allows programs to reserve slots for homeless infants and toddlers	States must make early intervention services available to homeless infants/toddlers; LEAs must identify and evaluate children with disabilities experiencing homelessness.	Requires lead agencies to prioritize children experiencing homelessness and use funds for outreach and enrollment of homeless families and expedited enrollment. Lead agencies also must use some grants/contracts to expand the supply of child care for all infants and toddlers.	Requires programs serving families experiencing homelessness to designate a staff person to ensure that young children (including infants and toddlers) are enrolled in early childhood programs.	Some data collection on homelessness is required by the Health Resource and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Homeless Liaison

- All LEAs must designate a homeless liaison to assist homeless children and youth with identification, enrollment, accessibility, and success in school.
- 42 United States Code Section 11432(g)(6)(A) requires homeless liaisons to **identify preschool aged children** experiencing homelessness through outreach and coordination activities with outside agencies.
- LEA homeless liaisons must ensure that homeless children have **access** to Head Start and Early Head Start programs, early intervention services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA.

Homeless Liaison

LEA Liaisons must ensure that:

- Homeless children and youth are identified including infants, toddlers and preschool age children.
- Access is provided for enrollment and retention.
- Families are informed of and receive educational services.
- Children and youth who do not have immunizations are assisted.
- Public notice of educational rights are posted in locations frequently by parents and guardians of children and youth.



Outreach Strategies

Outreach Strategies

- Initiate interagency communication and collaboration
- Incorporate questions on housing questionnaire to identify younger siblings
- Build awareness by training family advocates
- Train early intervention staff, regional centers, and LEAs about homeless rights and provisions
- Identify all infant/toddler programs, both public and private, within the community

Outreach Strategies

- Ensure that educational rights are at each "parent area" within each early education program or any other prominent area accessible to families.
- Public notice of educational rights should be posted in locations frequented by parents and guardians of such children and youth, including schools, shelters, libraries, and soup kitchens, in a form understandable to the parents and guardians.



Outreach Strategies

- Work with school personnel, including registrars in identifying children under five in the community.
- Work with shelters, medical outreach programs and programs serving young homeless parents.
- Ensure that families receive information about preschool programs such as, Head Start, Early Head Start, and state-funded preschool programs.
- Partner with early education programs on enrollment fairs and information events.
- Participate in various events such as health fairs, parent activities, and other events to share information.

Outreach Strategies

- Become familiar with the California Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) Network
- This is a coordinating entity that provides support, technical assistance, training, and a unified voice to the local R&Rs. For more information, please visit their web site at https://rrnetwork.org/

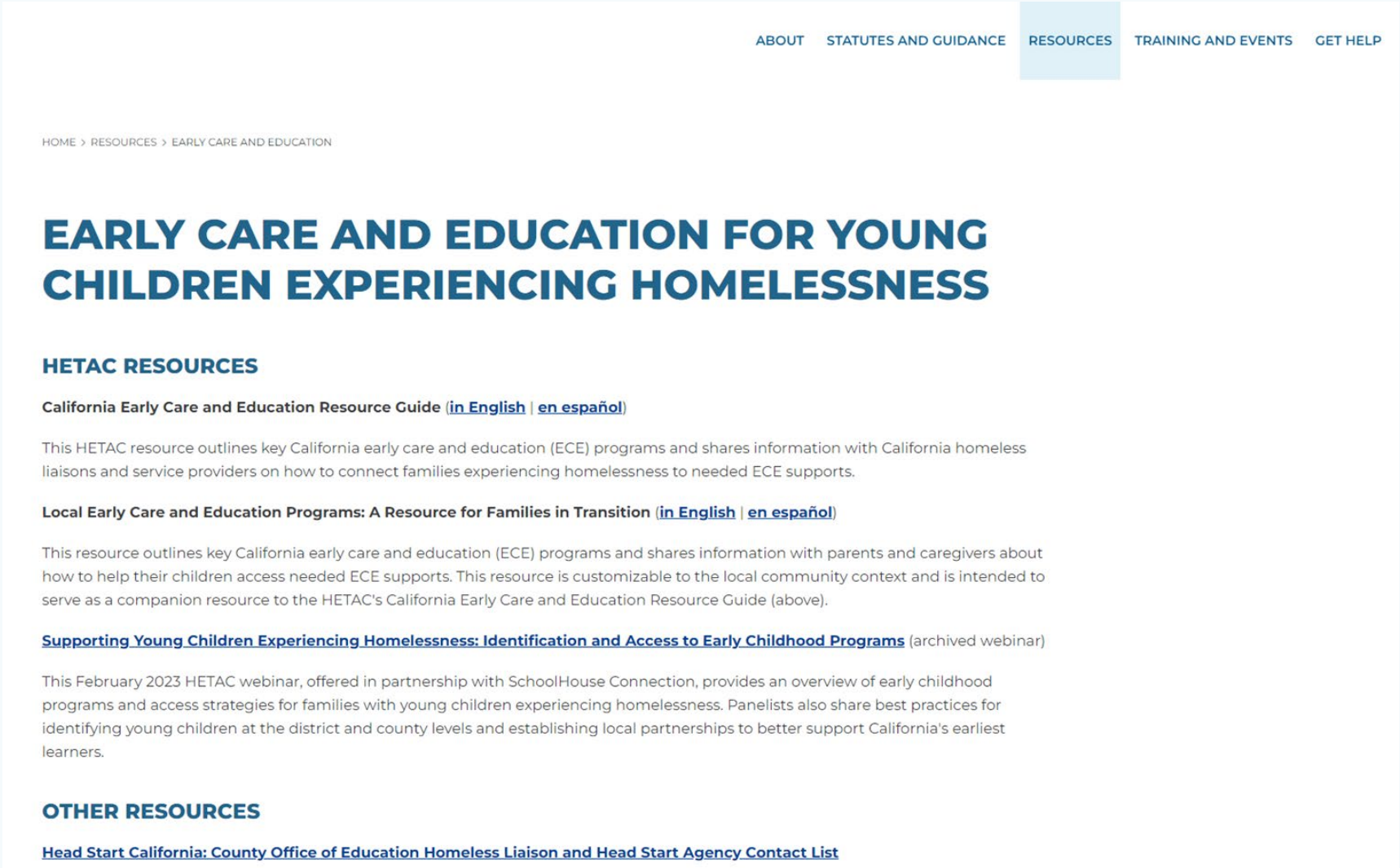
California Child Care Resource & Referral
NETWORK



Resources

HETAC Resources

www.hetac.org



ABOUT | STATUTES AND GUIDANCE | RESOURCES | TRAINING AND EVENTS | GET HELP

HOME > RESOURCES > EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

HETAC RESOURCES

California Early Care and Education Resource Guide (in English | en español)

This HETAC resource outlines key California early care and education (ECE) programs and shares information with California homeless liaisons and service providers on how to connect families experiencing homelessness to needed ECE supports.

Local Early Care and Education Programs: A Resource for Families in Transition (in English | en español)

This resource outlines key California early care and education (ECE) programs and shares information with parents and caregivers about how to help their children access needed ECE supports. This resource is customizable to the local community context and is intended to serve as a companion resource to the HETAC's California Early Care and Education Resource Guide (above).

Supporting Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: Identification and Access to Early Childhood Programs (archived webinar)

This February 2023 HETAC webinar, offered in partnership with SchoolHouse Connection, provides an overview of early childhood programs and access strategies for families with young children experiencing homelessness. Panelists also share best practices for identifying young children at the district and county levels and establishing local partnerships to better support California's earliest learners.

OTHER RESOURCES

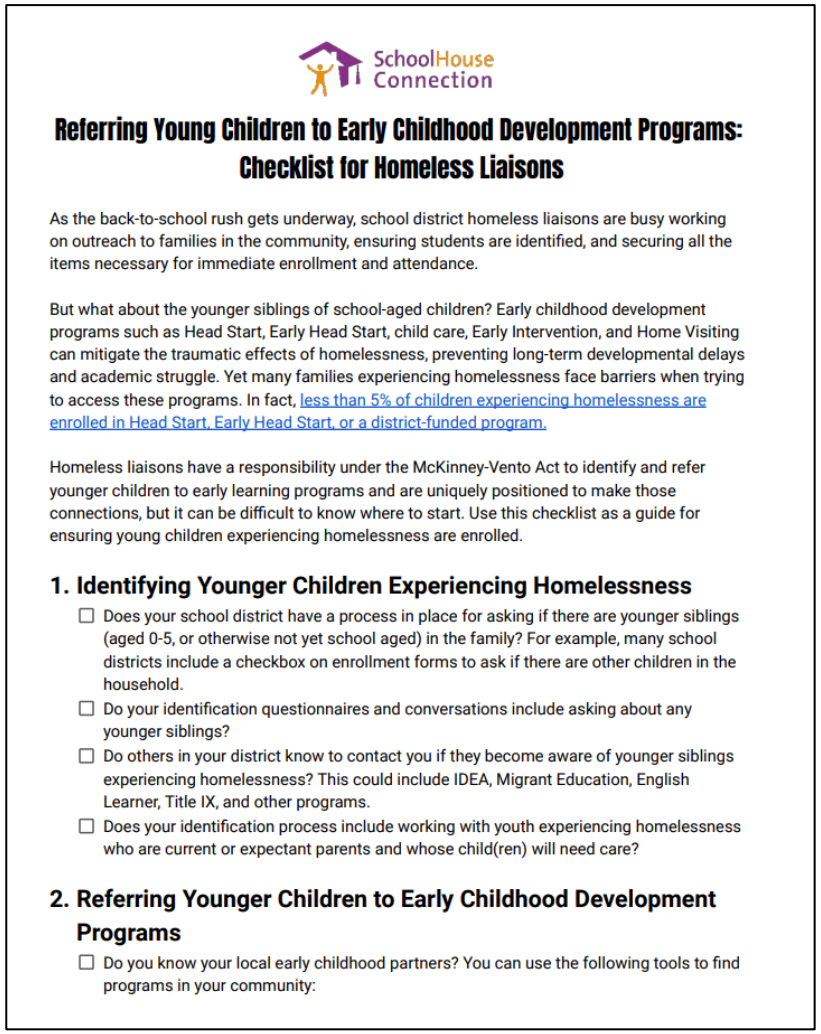
Head Start California: County Office of Education Homeless Liaison and Head Start Agency Contact List

SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection (Early Childhood Resources):

https://schoolhouseconnection.org/program/early-childhood

- Referring Young Children to Early Childhood Development Programs: Checklist for Homeless Liaisons
- Data, Laws, Policies, and Funding
- New report on infant and toddler homelessness across the U.S launches on **April 30th**



SchoolHouse Connection

Referring Young Children to Early Childhood Development Programs: Checklist for Homeless Liaisons

As the back-to-school rush gets underway, school district homeless liaisons are busy working on outreach to families in the community, ensuring students are identified, and securing all the items necessary for immediate enrollment and attendance.

But what about the younger siblings of school-aged children? Early childhood development programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, child care, Early Intervention, and Home Visiting can mitigate the traumatic effects of homelessness, preventing long-term developmental delays and academic struggle. Yet many families experiencing homelessness face barriers when trying to access these programs. In fact, less than 5% of children experiencing homelessness are enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start, or a district-funded program.

Homeless liaisons have a responsibility under the McKinney-Vento Act to identify and refer younger children to early learning programs and are uniquely positioned to make those connections, but it can be difficult to know where to start. Use this checklist as a guide for ensuring young children experiencing homelessness are enrolled.

1. Identifying Younger Children Experiencing Homelessness

- ☐ Does your school district have a process in place for asking if there are younger siblings (aged 0-5, or otherwise not yet school aged) in the family? For example, many school districts include a checkbox on enrollment forms to ask if there are other children in the household.
- ☐ Do your identification questionnaires and conversations include asking about any younger siblings?
- ☐ Do others in your district know to contact you if they become aware of younger siblings experiencing homelessness? This could include IDEA, Migrant Education, English Learner, Title IX, and other programs.
- ☐ Does your identification process include working with youth experiencing homelessness who are current or expectant parents and whose child(ren) will need care?

2. Referring Younger Children to Early Childhood Development Programs

- ☐ Do you know your local early childhood partners? You can use the following tools to find programs in your community:

New Website Just Launched!



Thrive From the Start

- Developed collaboratively by SchoolHouse Connection, Housing Is, Prevent Child Abuse America, and ZERO TO THREE
- Offers resources and insights on uniting early childhood development, housing and homeless sectors to address homelessness among infants and toddlers, and expectant parents.
- https://thrivefromthestart.org/

For More Information

- California Department of Education, Homeless Education website: https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/
- National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), Preschool and Early Childhood: https://nche.ed.gov/preschool-early-childhood/
- NCHE brief: *Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness* https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Early-Care-and-Education-for-Young-Children-Experiencing-Homelessness.pdf
- The Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/

“Finding the Littles”



Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



"Finding the Littles"

21CSLA - Problem of Practice

Presentations on McKinney Vento Act to Early Education Groups

Utilizing Residency Forms that capture siblings data

Local Planning Council of Ventura County

Linking CDE with CDSS to ensure the McKinney Vento Definition

Coordinating with LEAs to contact families with "littles" for referrals

Contacting Agencies for MKV enrollment data

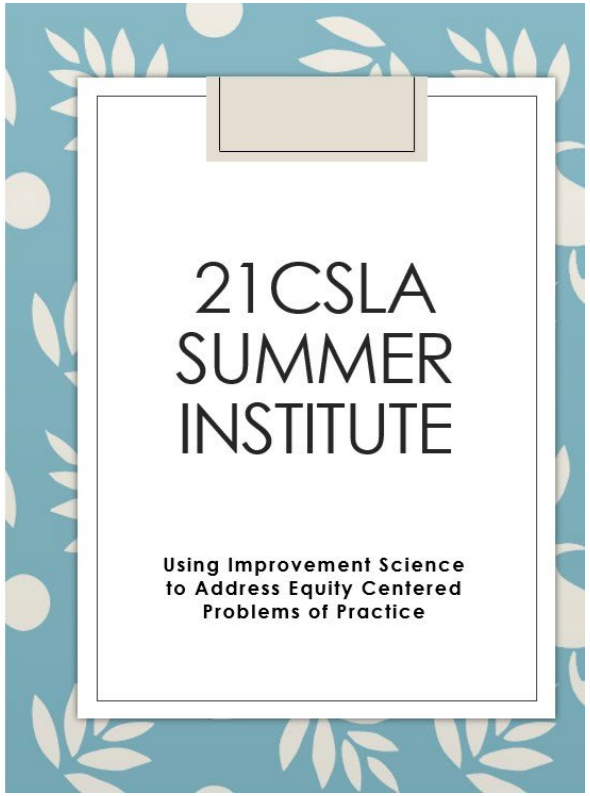
Contacting Family Childcare Homes and Educating on MKV

Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program

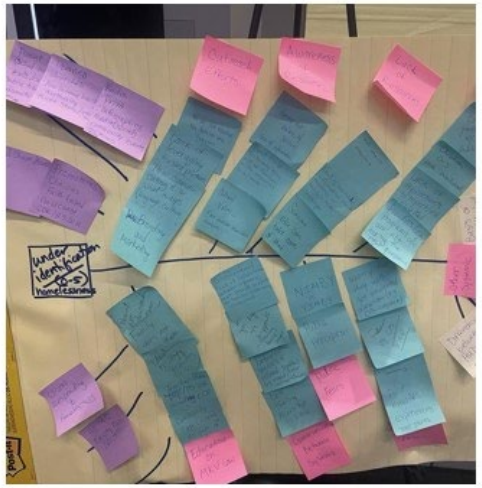


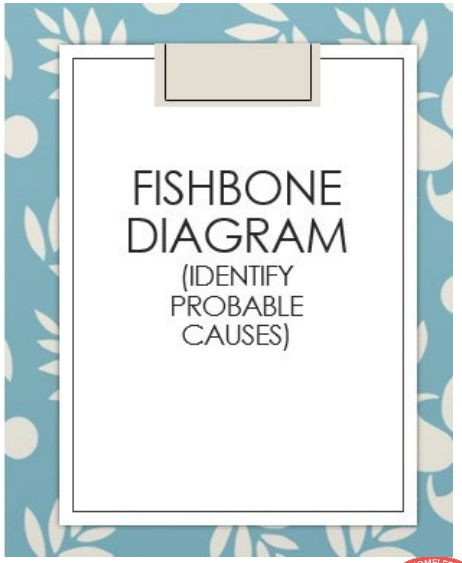
21CSLA - Problem of Practice





To increase the identification of young children experiencing housing insecurity in Ventura County by December 2025.





Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



Presentations on McKinney Vento Act to Early Education Groups

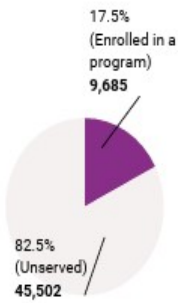
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1,685,996

Estimated Total Population Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness:
55,187, or 3.27% of all infants and toddlers

Total population Birth Through Age Three experiencing homelessness enrolled in a program:
9,685

Only 1 in 6 infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness is enrolled in a program.

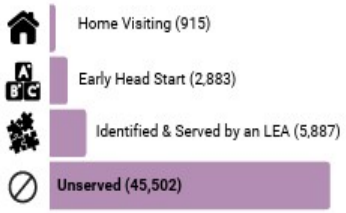
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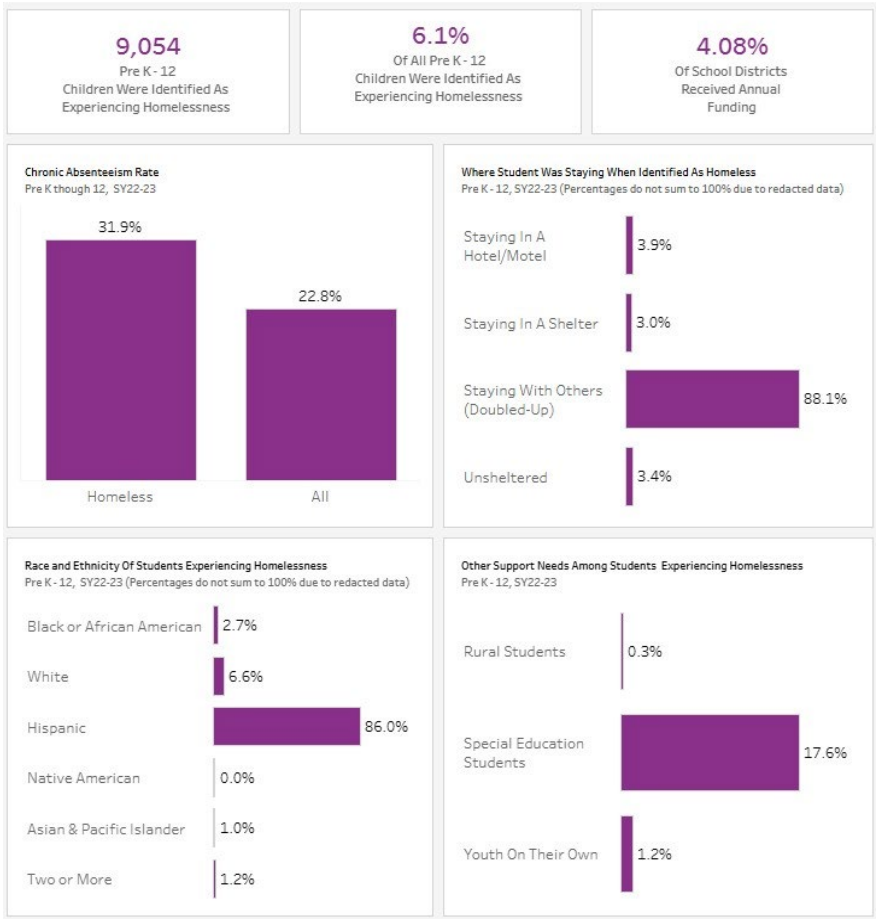


Prioritizing Children Experiencing Homelessness through State Policies

Automatic or streamlined eligibility for children experiencing homelessness?	YES
Priority for children experiencing homelessness to receive child care subsidies?	YES
Exemptions from work requirements for parents experiencing homelessness?	YES
Co-payments waived for parents experiencing homelessness?	NO
Exemption or grace period for children experiencing homelessness to submit eligibility/enrollment documentation?	30 Days
Grace period for children experiencing homelessness to meet immunization requirements?	30 Days
State laws to prioritize children experiencing homelessness for preschool?	NO

Estimated Total Population of Children Birth Through Age Three Experiencing Homelessness Enrolled in an Early Childhood Program:





Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



Utilizing Residency Forms that capture siblings data

2024-25 McKinney-Vento Housing Questionnaire

School_____

This form is included in the student enrollment packets to help identify the students that maybe eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11435. The information provided below will help us determine what services you and/or your child may be eligible to receive. This could include additional educational services through Title I, Part A and/or the federal McKinney-Vento Assistance Act. The information provided on this form will be kept confidential and only shared with appropriate school district and site staff.

Name of student: _____ **DOB:**_____ **Grade:**_____

Your child or children may have the right to:

- Immediate enrollment in the school they last attended (school of origin) or thelocal school where you are currently staying, even if you do not have all the documents normally required at the time of enrollment.
- Continue to attend their school of origin, if requested by you and it is in the bestinterest.
- Receive transportation to and from their school of origin, the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children, including freemeals and Title I.
- Receive the full protections and services provided under all federal and statelaws, as it relates to homeless children, youth, and their families.

The student lives with:

- ☐ Parent(s) or legal guardian
  - ○ Both parents
  - ○ Mother only
  - ○ Father only
- ☐ A relative, friend, or other adult
- ☐ I am a student under the age of 18 and living apart from parent(s) or guardian
- ☐ Other: _____

Presently, are you and/or your family living in any of the following situations?

____ Staying in a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter) or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer

____ Sharing housing with other(s) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, lack of adequate housing, or similar reason

____ Living in a car, park, campground, abandoned building, or other inadequate accommodations (i.e. lack of water, electricity, or heat)

____ Temporarily living in a motel or hotel due to loss of housing, economic hardship, natural disaster, or similar reason

____ Living in a single-home residence that is permanent (House, apartment, mobile home, condo)

Please list all other children currently living with you.

Name	Gender	Birthdate	Grade	Preschool or School

The undersigned parent/guardian certifies that the information provided above is correctand accurate.

Print Parent/Guardian Name	Signature		Date
Mailing Address	City	Zip	Phone numbers

Program Consent for Services (Optional) : This district partners with local agencies to support families experiencing homelessness. Your signature gives consent to provide relevant and necessary information to these agencies to contact you to provide supportive services **Yes, I Consent (signature)**_____ **No, I Decline:** _____

This form was completed by (circle) : Parent/Guardian Student Office Staff: _____
Name

Please list all other children currently living with you.

Name	Gender	Birthdate	Grade	Preschool or School

The undersigned parent/guardian certifies that the information provided above is correctand accurate.

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This form was completed by (circle) : Parent/Guardian Student Office Staff: _____
Name

Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



Local Planning Council of Ventura County

The United Voice for Early Care and Education

Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



Ensure the McKinney Vento Definition

is the same for all state funded programs

Contract Terms and Conditions (CT&C)

FISCAL YEAR 2024–25 - updated language to match the MKV definition

"Families experiencing homelessness" means parents, children, and youths as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in 42 USC 11434a(2). This includes children and youths who:

1. share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
2. live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
3. live in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
4. have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
5. live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
6. are migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above. (42 USC 11301 et seq.)

Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



EDUCATING the Providers that serve "The Littles"



Contacting Agencies for MKV enrollment data

- Head Start & Early Head Start -CDR
- Head Start & Early Head Start - Easter Seals
- Catalyst
- First 5 Programs

Regional Center Early Start Providers

Licensed Family Childcare Homes

Coordinating with LEAs to contact families with "Littles" for referrals

Posters

Designed in English & Spanish

Distributed to:

WIC Offices

CAL SAFE Program

Alternative Schools

Adult Education Programs

Local Shelters

Family Home Care Providers

Community Based Organizations



ARE YOU STAYING IN ANY OF THESE SETTINGS AT NIGHT WITH YOUR CHILD (under 5 Years)?

Staying with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up," or "couch-surfing")

Staying in motels/hotels due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations, regardless of who pays for the room.

Staying in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or other similar settings.

Staying in a shelter or transitional housing, including domestic violence shelters or homeless shelters.

Ventura County Early Education Partners that can HELP!

Early Start: 805-437-1560

CDR HeadStart: 805.485.7878

Easter Seals: 805.647.1141

Help Me Grow: 805.244.6911

First Five: 805.869.1317

Regional Center: 805.485.3177

Your Local School District

Infants and children who experience homelessness for more than six months are at a greater risk for developmental delays, poor health outcomes, hospitalization, and being overweight than children who were never homeless or homeless for less than six months.

50% of homeless children under the age of four have developmental delays, a rate which is 3 to 4 times higher than that of children who do not experience homelessness.

Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



CDR HEAD START

Outreach Efforts to Identify Homeless Children (Ages 0-5)

CDR engages in targeted outreach to ensure families experiencing homelessness are aware of and have access to Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Key efforts include:

- **Collaboration with Local Agencies:** Partnering with **homeless service providers, social service agencies, and McKinney-Vento liaisons** to identify and refer homeless children to Head Start programs.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Disseminating information about **Head Start eligibility for homeless children** through **public notices, posters, and community outreach events** in locations where homeless families might access services.
- **Direct Outreach to Shelters and Community Centers:** Visiting **shelters, soup kitchens, and other community centers** to connect with families experiencing homelessness and inform them about Head Start opportunities.
- **Staff Training:** Ensuring **Head Start staff are trained** to identify and assist homeless families, understand **eligibility requirements**, and navigate the **McKinney-Vento Act** to provide appropriate support.

Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



CDR HEAD START

Identification of MKV Students in CDR's Head Start & Early Head Start Programs

CDR identifies children as eligible under the **McKinney-Vento (MKV) Act** through the **HS/EHS Waiting List and Enrollment Application (WLEA)** process, specifically in the **Family Living Situation** section. The steps are as follows:

1. Upon completion and review of the **HS/EHS (WLEA) Application**, if a family indicates that their living arrangements fall under one of the five categories listed in the **Family Living Situation** section, further assessment is conducted.
2. The reviewing **HS/EHS staff member** completes the **Participant Residency Questionnaire** with the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must sign and date the form to verify the accuracy of the information provided.
3. The signed **Participant Residency Questionnaire** is then forwarded to the **Family Engagement Coordinators** for review and verification of eligibility based on the criteria outlined in the **McKinney-Vento Assistance Act**.
    - If the Family Engagement Coordinators are unavailable, the application is forwarded to the **ERSEA Coordinator**.
    - If the ERSEA Coordinator is unavailable, the **Early Care and Family Services Manager** will review the application.
4. If approved by the **Family Engagement Coordinators**, the child is categorized as **homeless** under the **Eligibility Criteria**, making homeless expectant mothers and homeless children automatically **income-eligible** for participation in HS and EHS programs.
5. The **Family Engagement Coordinators** complete the **Eligibility Verification Form**, and the application is forwarded to the **PSSS Unit** for entry into the CP system.
6. Staff refer to established guidance and scenarios when reviewing the family's living situation and completing the **Participant Residency Questionnaire** to ensure consistency and accuracy in identifying MKV-eligible families.

Ventura County Office of Education
Homeless Education Program



CDR HEAD START

Head Start Programs in Ventura County

- **Total number of sites:** 25 center-based sites
- **Total number of enrolled children:** 680 enrolled in center-based programs, 40 enrolled in a home-based program
- **Total number of enrolled children identified as MKV:** 23 families currently enrolled

Early Start Programs in Ventura County:

- **Total number of sites:** 3 toddler sites in center-based options, 25 home visitors
- **Total number of enrolled children:** 200 children enrolled (180 in the home-based option, 20 in the center-based option)
- **Total number of enrolled children identified as MKV:** 10 families currently enrolled
- **Meeting locations for families experiencing homelessness (MKV):** If a home visit cannot take place at the location where the family is staying, the home visitor and family coordinate a mutually agreed-upon location such as a park, library, or another suitable space. If transportation is needed, arrangements are made to support the family.



CONTACT:

Cathi Nye

cnye@vcoe.org
805-437-1559

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

Early Childhood Program Team - VCOE
https://www.vcoe.org/ecp

Sharon Elmensdorp
First 5/Help Me Grow
https://helpmegrowvc.org

Suzanne Godinez
Child Development Resources
https://cdrv.org/

Cindy Mendoza & Lydia Barajas
Special Populations -VCOE
https://www.vcoe.org/sp











Project Teach:
Connecting Families to Early Learning Programs



Sacramento County Office of Education
EDUCATION EMPOWERS

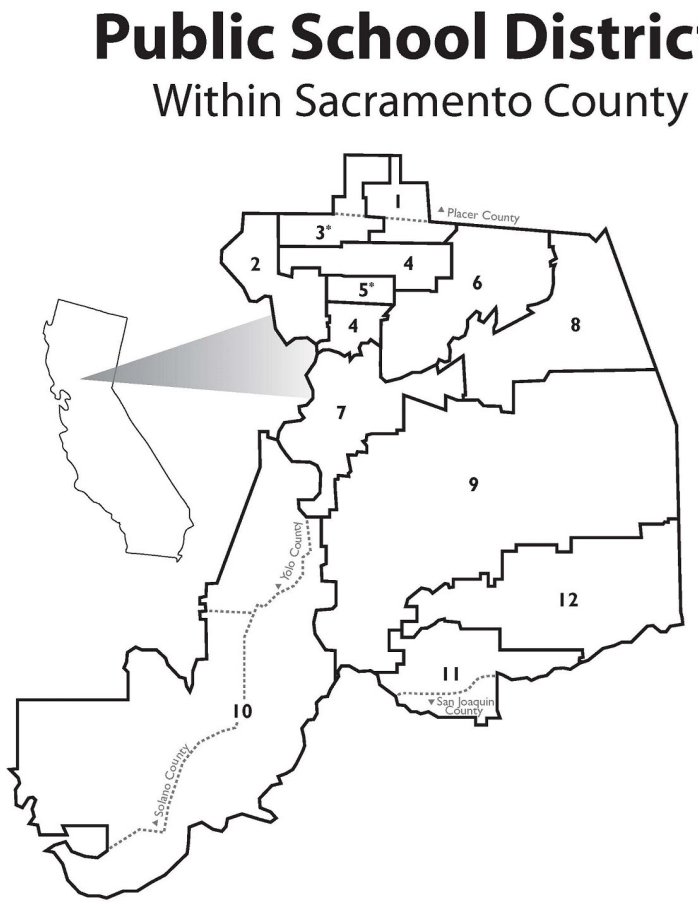
Cooperative Approaches to Identify and Support Young Children Experiencing Homelessness, Enhancing Education Access

April 2, 2025

Kerstin Morell
Project Specialist I
Project Teach
kmorell@scoe.net

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Sacramento County LEA Overview



- Sacramento County Office of Education
- **13** School Districts
- **53** Charter Schools

2023-24 School Year

- **278,746**-Total Students Enrolled
- **15,447**-Students Identified as Homeles

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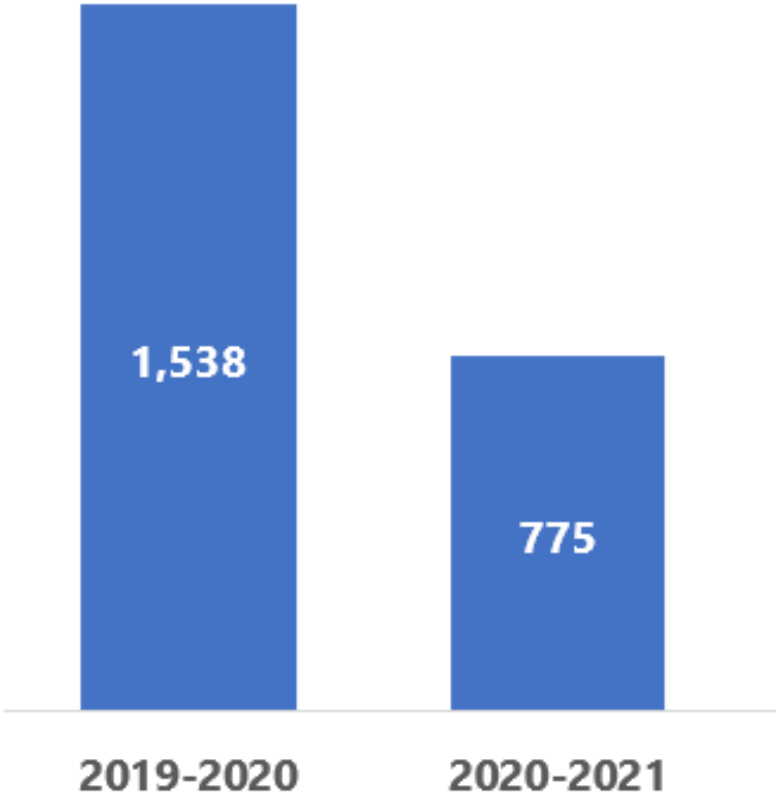
Why We Focus on Children Ages 0-5

- 50% decrease in identification during COVID
  - ARP-I allocated

- HETAC/CDE released an outreach tool



- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program
  - Supported Sacramento's grant-awarded HUD funding
  - Project Teach participated in the Coordinated Community Plan



Children ages 0-5 identified by K–12 local education agencies, includes siblings of K–12 enrolled students and children enrolled in an LEA-funded preschool

My Role

Position:

- Project Specialist I

Funding:

- YHDP funds a program that focuses on children ages 0-5 experiencing homelessness

Focus:

- To increase identification and connect children ages 0-5 experiencing homelessness to an early learning program

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Activities to Increase Identification

- Training
- Outreach
- Technical Assistance & Resources
- A Focus on Developmental Resources

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Education Partners Trained

SCOE Programs

- Help Me Grow
- SCOE Early Head Start
- Infant Development Program

Community Agencies

- CPS
- Crisis Nursery
- Family Resource Centers
- Nurse Partnership

Education

- School Districts
- Charter Schools
- Higher Education

Early Learning Programs

- Early Childhood Directors
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- State Preschool
- First 5 Sacramento

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Housing Providers Trained

CAS

- Frontline
- Elica Health/CAN Team
- 211
- County (BHS, etc.)

YHDP

- College Initiative
- Youth Action Board

Shelters

- Bridges, Inc.
- Outreach and Engagement Center
- Vista Nueva
- Lao Family
- Next Move
- Step Up
- WEAVE
- Wind Youth Services
- Women's Empowerment

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Cross-System Collaboration Within Education

- **Partner with SCOE Early Learning Department staff**
- **Cross-departmental referrals for pregnant and parenting SCOE-enrolled students**
- **Connect LEA Early Childhood Education Directors to LEA Liaisons**
- **Invite early learning partners to our monthly collaboratives**
- **Annually conduct a collaborative focused on ages 0-5**



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Shelter Outreach Program

Goals:

- To strengthen relationships between education and housing systems
- To connect Homeless Liaisons and Early Learning Advocates to local shelters
- To inform shelter agencies and their residents of their rights under McKinney-Vento



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Shelter Outreach Activities

- Training for shelter staff
- Presentations to shelter residents
- Inviting Homeless Liaisons and Early Learning Advocates to collaborate
- Providing posters and brochures
- Distributing tangible items
- Creating a community listserv



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Moving Toward Systemic Change

Problem:	Goal: Create Systemic Change
• K-12 tracking-not in Student Information System	• Liaisons share tracking best practices
• No HMIS questions	• Advocacy for HMIS questions
• Education and housing siloed	• Webinar with Schoolhouse Connection to train housing and homeless liaisons

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HMIS Questions Focused on 0-5

EDUCATION STATUS

Currently Enrolled in School	Select
Last Grade Completed	Select
Is the Child Connected to the Homeless Liaison?	Select

PLEASE INDICATE ANY PROGRAMS THE CHILD IS CONNECTED TO:

- Head Start
- Local Educational Agency (LEA) Affiliated Preschool
- Home Visiting Program
- Child Care
- Early Intervention Services

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Focus on Development

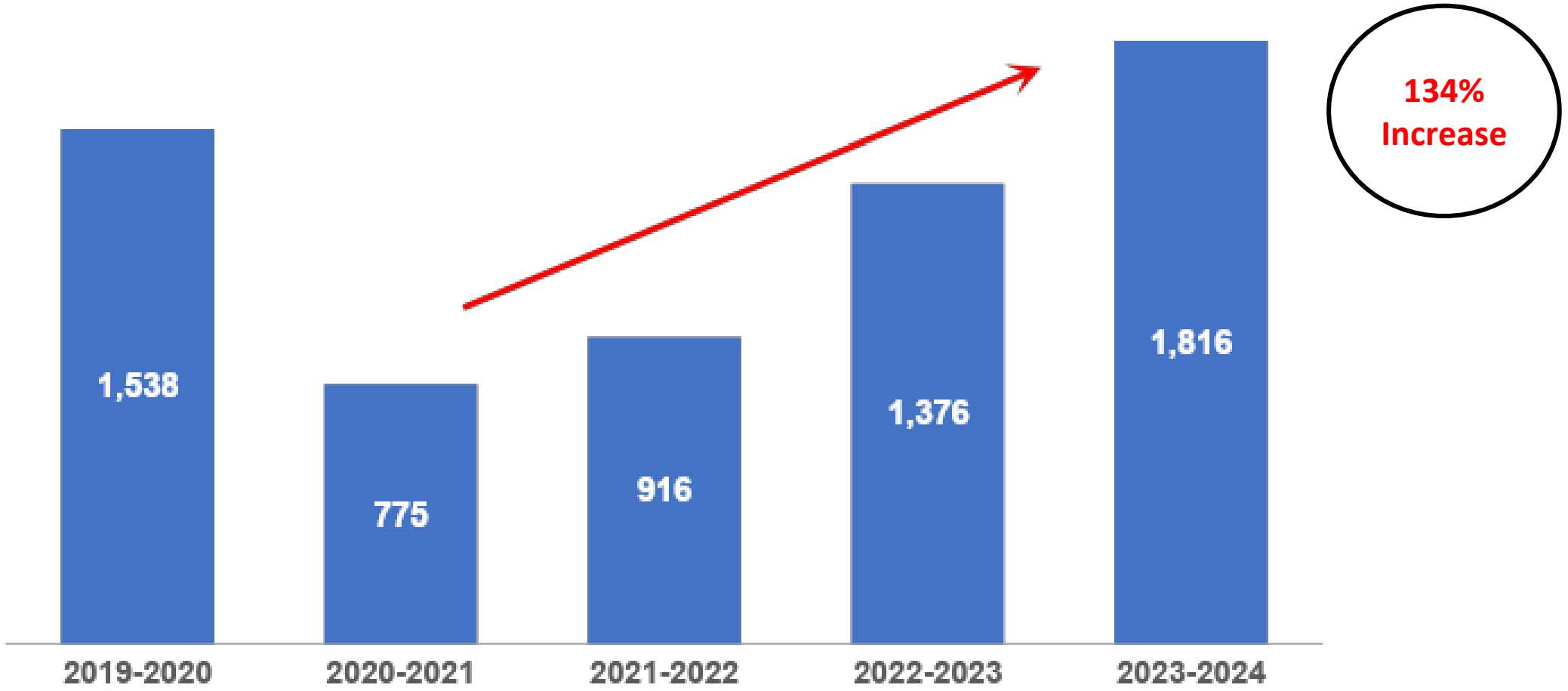
- **Approximately 75% of preschoolers who are homeless have at least one major developmental delay.**

- **Approximately 40% of preschoolers who are homeless have two or more major developmental delays.**



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Systemic Change Created Visibility!



Children ages 0-5 identified by K–12 local education agencies, includes siblings of K–12 enrolled students and children enrolled in an LEA-funded preschool

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Questions



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What Do You Think?



Share in the chat:

1. What is one new thing you learned or a key takeaway from today's webinar?

2. What is one action step you'll take as a result of today's webinar?

Reflections and Next Steps

1. **Improve identification and access through intentional outreach**
   How are children age 0-5 currently being identified? Schools and early learning partners can develop intentional outreach and recruitment strategies for informing families about McKinney-Vento and connecting them with programs and services.
2. **Identify and address barriers**
   What early learning services are available in your community? What are the barriers to accessing programs? How can you assist families to access the services available?
3. **Provide professional development and resources**
   McKinney-Vento liaisons can collaborate to educate their community partners on access and support for young learners facing homelessness, including statutory requirements and opportunities for partnership.



Questions?

Thanks for Joining!

Please take a few moments to fill out our evaluation