

NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS

This resource

- is part of the California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center's [suite of resources in recognition of November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month](#) (NHYAM), and
- provides suggested activities your school community or organization can participate in as part of NHYAM.

PASS A SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION

Create a resolution to submit to your Board of Education recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month (NHYAM). Your local school board is the highest authority at your education agency. As such, their official acknowledgment of homelessness and its effects on children and youth as well as their education and well-being can have a far-reaching impact. California's Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC) provides a sample board resolution as part of its [NHYAM toolkit](#) that can be customized by local school communities that wish to develop their own board resolution.



In addition, consider inviting a student or family who has experienced homelessness to the Board of Education meeting to make a public comment in support of the resolution. Your school community also might consider issuing a press release to local media outlets (see sample release in the NHYAM toolkit) about the resolution that also includes information about NHYAM, available NHYAM resources, and local homelessness data. Visit hetac.org to learn more about local homelessness data and the impacts of homelessness on children's and youth's education.

GO ONLINE

Show your support for NHYAM and build awareness about the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness through your school's or organization's online presence, including website and social media accounts. Visit the HETAC's [NHYAM toolkit](#) to access sample graphics and "did you know..." awareness messages. These materials can be used on websites, in social media stories and posts, and as downloadable Zoom meeting backgrounds.



WEAR GREEN ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

November is also [Youth HOPE Month](#), sponsored by the [National Runaway Safeline](#) and its partners. Wear green, paint your nails green, dye your hair green, or use a green social media filter on November 12 in support of Youth HOPE Month's **Go Green Day**. Share photos of yourself and your colleagues "going green" on social media using **#YouthHOPEMonth** and **#WearGreenDay**. Consider holding a **#YouthHOPEMonth** competition among staff or grade levels in your school or among staff or clients in your organization.



ORGANIZE A DRIVE

Talk to your [local educational agency's homeless education liaison](#) or organizational leadership about planning and holding a drive for school supplies, clothing (socks, jackets, school uniforms, etc.), or other items needed by local students experiencing homelessness. Given the time of year, consider a NHYAM or holiday theme for the supply drive. Check out [Start a School Supply Drive](#) from the National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation in partnership with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) for a step-by-step drive plan and related resources.



SHARE THE SAMPLE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Share the HETAC [NHYAM Sample Calendar of Activities](#) within your school community or organization. Explore the daily suggested activities and related resources and share them with your colleagues and friends as well as through social media. Sample activities include brief readings to increase awareness, recommended activities for identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness, and recommended community partners to learn about and engage.



CREATE A FACT SHEET

Compile a fact sheet on homelessness in your community. Include [data](#) on the prevalence of homelessness in your state or local area pulling from a variety of sources, including school data on students experiencing homelessness and community data from homeless response organizations like your local [homeless coalition](#) or [Continuum of Care](#). Incorporate information about local supports and services available to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, including [education rights](#), [housing assistance](#), and [other supportive services](#). Disseminate the fact sheet widely via school or organizational channels, social media, and sharing with colleagues and friends.



INCORPORATE CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Encourage classroom teachers to incorporate homelessness into assignments during November. Consider a themed writing assignment, art or design project, data analysis and summary, or reading assignment from the HETAC [NHYAM book and movie list](#). Invite students to “go green” on November 12 in observance of the [National Runaway Safeline's #WearGreenDay](#).



HOST A BOOK CLUB OR MOVIE NIGHT

Invite students, colleagues, or friends and family to learn more about youth and family homelessness by hosting a book club or movie night. Incorporate reflection and discussion questions into book club gatherings. Follow the movie screening with a panel discussion including your [local educational agency's homeless education liaison](#), a community partner, or a person with lived expertise of homelessness. Check out the HETAC [NHYAM book and movie list](#) for book and movie options.



A CALIFORNIA HOMELESS EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (HETAC) [NHYAM RESOURCE](#)

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