Dana Malone

State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Student Success and Wellness Bureau
What are some words people use to describe the homeless?
What are some words people use to describe the homeless?

- Bum
- Dirty
- Lazy
- Drunk
- Tattered
- Stinky
- Unfocused
- Broken
- Lost
-Disconnected
- Needy
- Cold
- Mentally ill/crazy
- Grumpy
- Grungy
- Not trust worthy
- Disturbed
- Scary
- Sad
- Sick
- Beggars
- Veterans
- Drug addicted
- Hungry
- Unpredictable
- Mischievous
- Criminals
- Unwanted
- Unfortunate
How does homelessness happen?

Answer “yes” or “no” to the following:

- Could you experience a flood, fire, tornado, or other natural disaster?
- Do you work in an area of the economy/job market where your job might become obsolete?
- Could you suffer from a long-term illness or accident without proper health benefits or other compensations?
- Do you live in a household with only one full-time wage earner?
- Are you behind in any monthly bills?
- Are housing costs in your area increasing faster than wages?
- Does anyone in your family struggle with addictions such as drugs or alcohol?
26.2% of all sheltered persons who were homeless had a severe mental illness (SAMHSA)

34.7% of all sheltered adults who were homeless had chronic substance use issues (SAMHSA)

Children make up one of the largest and fastest growing segment: 43% of the homeless population (Kids’ Corner)

Many people are homeless because they cannot afford rent. A worker earning minimum wage would have to work 97 hours a week to pay the rent of an average two-bedroom apartment (Kids’ Corner)

Domestic violence is leading cause of homelessness in women

Homeless families comprise roughly 1/3 of the total homeless population (The National Center on Family Homelessness)

Among industrialized nations, the US has the largest number of homeless women and children (The National Center on Family Homelessness)

Experts estimate that there are nearly 900,000 homeless school-age children in the United States (Kids’ Corner)

29% of adults in homeless families are working (The National Center on Family Homelessness)
Which child is homeless?
Although a small proportion of the high school population, **homeless youth are at extremely high risk for:**

- Victimization by violence and bullying
- Suicidal behaviors and other mental health risks
- Alcohol, drug, and tobacco use

Homeless youth have behaviors that are different from other youth, and targeting them for intervention will be challenging.

Boys, sexual minorities, immigrants, low SES students are at particularly high risk of being homeless.
MY SUMMARY:
Schools are the safest place for kids to be
The child’s classroom may be the only place where the child can experience quiet, interact with children his/her age, and experience success...

*School is the most normal activity that most children experience collectively...For homeless children it is much more than a learning environment. It is a place of safety, personal space, friendships, and support.*

Oakley & King, 2000
In a nutshell, the McKinney-Vento Act is a law that helps homeless kids:

- Enroll in school
- Stay in school
- Succeed in school
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Main themes:
- Identification.
- School stability.
- School enrollment.
- Support for academic success.
- Child-centered, best interest decision making.
Why does it matter?

EDUCATION is the path out of HOMELESSNESS!
Risk Factors Associated with Homelessness in Children

**Poverty:** The average income of a homeless family is at 46% of the poverty level

**Traumatic Experiences:** By age twelve, 83% of homeless children have witnessed at least one incident of serious violence, and 25% have witnessed intimate partner violence

**Hunger:** Homeless children are twice as likely to have experienced hunger as their housed peers

**Health Problems:** Homeless children are four times more likely to have asthma and five times more likely to have gastrointestinal problems

**Foster Care:** 12% of homeless children have been placed in foster care in comparison with 1% of other children

**School Mobility:** 42% of homeless children change schools at least once per year, and 51% of these children transferred twice or more
**Common Problems Homeless Students Face Educationally:**

- Difficulty enrolling without records, or without a parent or guardian present for unaccompanied homeless youth
- Frequent school changes
- Falling behind in school - not accruing credits on time
- A lack of basic needs including food, clothing, and adequate housing
- Stress, depression, trauma; and embarrassment and stigma related to their housing conditions
- Difficulty attending school regularly
- A lack of stable transportation
- Social Isolation
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

SELF-FULFILLMENT NEEDS:
- Self actualization: achieving of one’s potential

PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS:
- Love and belonging, a feeling of accomplishment, self esteem
- Intimate relationships, friends

BASIC NEEDS:
- Security/safety: health, body, employment, shelter,
- food, water, warmth, rest
The McKinney-Vento Act: Who Qualifies For Services?

- Students who meet the definition of homelessness according to the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Only the Homeless Education Liaison for your district/state chartered school can make that determination!
- Find out who your Homeless Liaison is:
- Homeless Liaison Contact List: [http://ped.state.nm.us/sfsb/tools/](http://ped.state.nm.us/sfsb/tools/)
Students experiencing homelessness have *specific educational rights* ……

- Receive a free, appropriate public education

- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment or are not in the physical custody of their legal guardian

- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school which they were last enrolled), if that is their preference and is feasible

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested

- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to the student’s needs (includes FREE meals)
Homeless Education Liaisons

Every LEA must designate a liaison for students in homeless situations.

Responsibilities

- Ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified
- Ensure that homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
- Link with educational services, including preschool, health services and other community resources (to include housing)
- Resolve disputes
- Assist with transportation
Fixed, Regular and Adequate?

- **Fixed**: Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change
- **Regular**: Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis (*e.g.*, nightly); consider the relative permanence
- **Adequate**: Sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments

Consider: Can the student go to the SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE AND SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)?
Definition continued…

- Sharing a home due to loss of housing
- Sharing a home due to economic hardship
- Living in motels / hotels
- Living in trailer parks
- Living in a shelter
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in cars
- Living in parks

- Living in camp grounds
- Living in abandoned buildings
- Living under bridges
- Living at bus/train stations
- Migratory children
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
Not “on vacation” - Living in motels, hotels
Doubling up – What people think it looks like…….
Doubling up – what it really looks like
Not “camping” – Trailers, camping grounds, tents
Cars - Not “fixed” (Permanent)
Not “regular” (Routine)

Abandoned buildings
Not “adequate” – barns, garages, sheds
Substandard Housing?

- No utilities (heat, water, etc.)
- Tarp over roof
- Boards on windows
- Overcrowded
- Dirt Floor
- Holes to outside
- Motel
- Hotel
- Camper
- Tent
- Car
Migrants
Unaccompanied Youth

26% of youth living on the street trade sex for basic needs like food or shelter.
How Can the MVA Help Homeless Students?
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Works hand-in-hand with Title IA and other federal education programs.

- SEAs award competitive sub-grants to LEAs.
Education for Homeless Children & Youth

The full amount is $579,563.00

NMPED – 25% of the award
LEAs – 75% of the award

- The USDE awards McKinney-Vento funds to States by formula. The amount that a State receives in a given year is based on the proportion of funds allocated nationally that it receives under Title I, Part A of the ESEA, for that year.

- A State may use McKinney-Vento funds, which are made available for State use, to support the broad array of activities conducted by the Office of the Coordinator. The SEA may conduct these activities directly or through grants or contracts.

- An SEA awards McKinney-Vento subgrants to LEAs competitively on the basis of the need of the LEAs requesting assistance and the quality of their applications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Total District Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alamogordo Public Schools</td>
<td>$8,769.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albuquerque Public Schools</td>
<td>$69,912.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belen Consolidated Schools</td>
<td>$14,912.95</td>
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<td>Bloomfield Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlsbad Municipal Schools</td>
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<td>Deming Public Schools</td>
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<td>Dexter Consolidated Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmington Municipal Schools</td>
<td>$17,912.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gadsden Independent Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallup-McKinley County Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Las Cruces Public Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lordsburg Municipal Schools</td>
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<td>Los Lunas Public Schools</td>
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<td>Moriarty-Edgewood School District</td>
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<td>Rio Rancho Public Schools</td>
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<td>Socorro Consolidated Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$467,621.00</strong></td>
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Homeless children and youths are automatically eligible for services under Title I, Part A of the ESEA, and can also be served with those funds.
Too little money – too little time
TOO MANY NEEDS……..
Work smarter, not harder!
OUR HOMELESS STUDENTS/FAMILIES HAVE MANY NEEDS. LET THE HOMELESS LIAISONS HANDLE ISSUES RELATED TO EDUCATION...

It is *literally* their legal responsibility…
How can the Homeless Liaison help?

- Help get students enrolled/assistance with:
  - Immunizations or immunization records;
  - Physical examinations or medical records;
  - Academic records;
  - Proof of residency;
  - A parent or legal guardian;
  - Birth certificates; and/or
  - Other documents; and
  - Get fees waived/paid for.

- Can enroll and assist unaccompanied youth without legal guardian
How can the Homeless Liaison help?

- Special Education/gifted and talented
- Free meals
- Transportation
- Preschool
- School stability
- Medical services
- Counseling
- Tutoring
- Testing,
- Arrange to do homework at school
- before and after-school programs,
- vocational education,
- Credit accrual/recovery
- English language learner services
- Mentoring
- Advocacy and encouragement
- Clothing/uniforms, shoes, and school supplies
- Work collaboratively with community providers and housing case managers to meet students/families’ needs
- Link to Higher Education
- Qualify students/families for HUD housing
Every Student Succeeds Act also now allows Homeless Liaisons to:

- Help students receive verification of “Independent Status” for FASFA/Higher Education
- Affirm that children and youth who are eligible for is eligible for homeless assistance programs (HUD housing)
- Help homeless students get appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed while attending a prior school
### Permissible Uses of Funds: Enroll, Stay and Succeed

**Examples**

- **Clothing/shoes (school uniform/dress code/gym uniform)**
- **Fees to participate in the general education program**
- **School supplies**
- **Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school**
- **Medical/dental services (glasses, hearing aids, immunizations)**
- **Counseling for issues affecting learning**
- **Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences**
- **Extended learning time or tutoring support**
- **Excess cost of transportation**
- **Supporting the position of the local liaison**
Prohibited Uses of Funds:
- For anyone other than homeless students
- Rent
- Utilities
- Household items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age/Grade</th>
<th># Homeless Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>809</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>863</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>644</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ungraded</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR)**

School Year 2015-2016

TOTAL = 10,075

Homeless Students Statewide
Primary Nighttime Residence

- Shelters, TH: 8%
- Doubléd-up: 8%
- Unsheltered: 8%
- Hotels/Motels: 4%
- 80%
Of the 10,075 homeless students statewide......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Populations</th>
<th># of Homeless Students</th>
<th>Overall %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied Homeless Youth</td>
<td>1099</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Children/Youth</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with Disabilities (IDEA)</td>
<td>2157</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English Proficient (LEP) students</td>
<td>2251</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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