

# Supporting Students in Temporary Housing: Identification & Eligibility



Presented By: NYS TEACHS

Thursday, September 30, 2021  
9:30am-11:00am



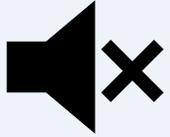
**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Webinar Norms

---



Your microphone will be automatically muted.



Your camera will be automatically disabled .



The in-webinar chat will be automatically disabled.

- For questions, please email Rita Danis at [RDanis@measinc.com](mailto:RDanis@measinc.com). She will get back to you as soon as she is able.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Welcome!

The purpose of today's webinar:

## Outcomes

Participants will:

- Identify possible risk factors/causes of homelessness.
- Gain knowledge of strategies for identification of students experiencing temporary homelessness.
- Determine eligibility of benefits based on the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Receive resources to support the identification and eligibility of students experiencing homelessness.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Today's Agenda



Welcome/Setting Purpose



What Causes Homelessness?



Importance of Identification



Determining Eligibility



Closing Remarks/Sharing Resources

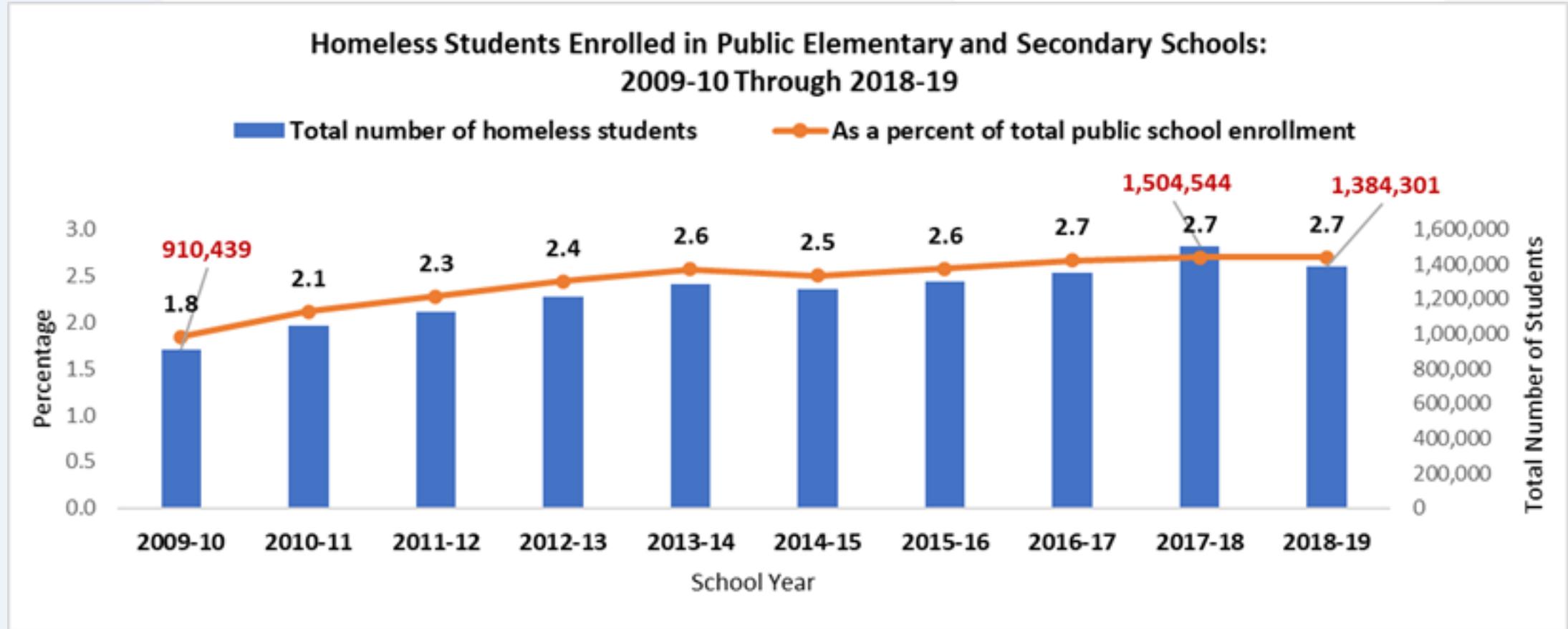


**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Homeless Student Data



Source: [Homeless students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, by grade, primary nighttime residence, and selected student characteristics: 2009-10 through 2016-17; National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\) \(seiservices.com\)](#)



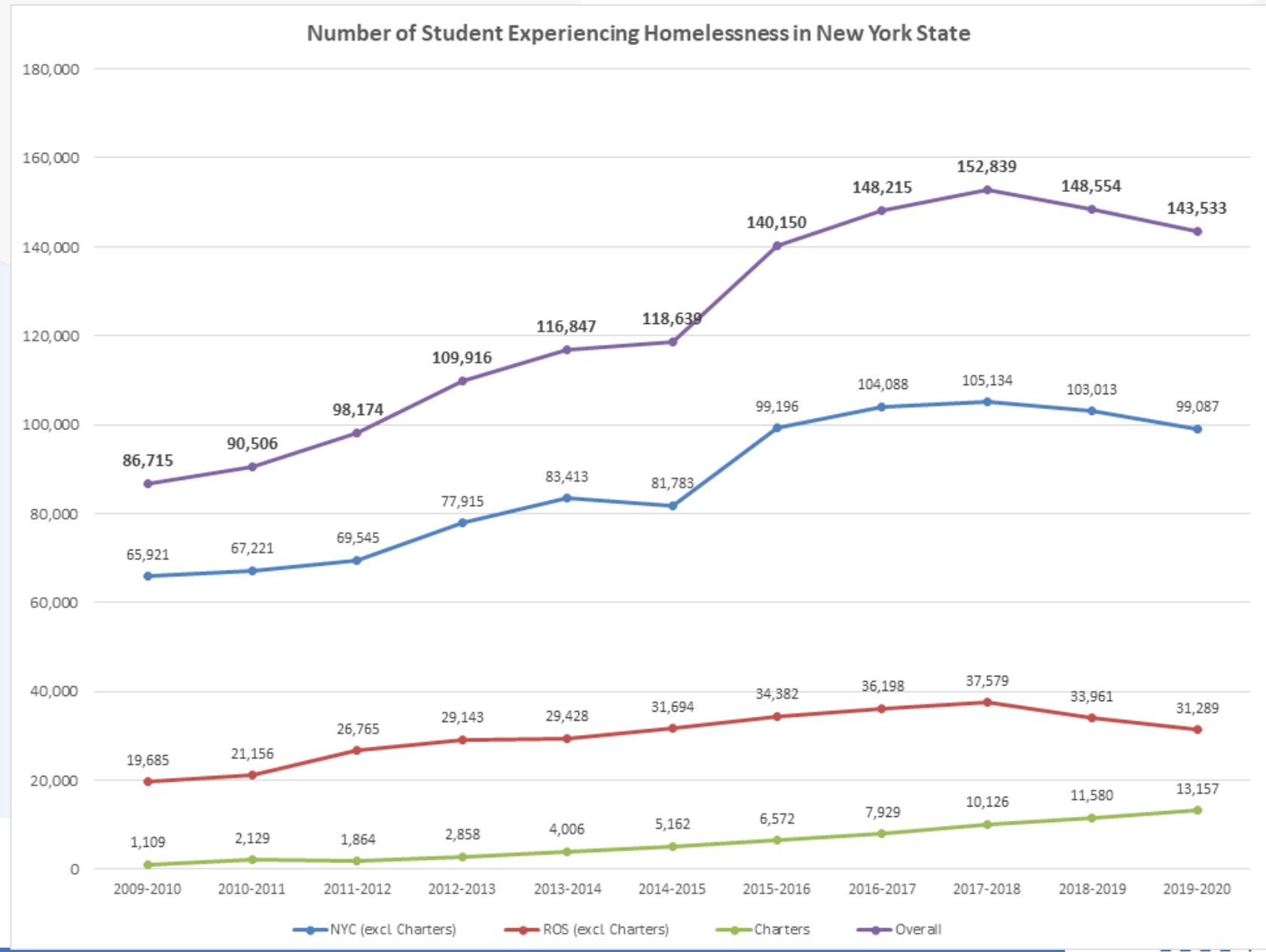
NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# Students Experiencing Homelessness in NYS



Source: SIRS



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students

MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# Causes of Homelessness

---

**What are the potential causes of homelessness?**



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

Go to **www.menti.com**  
and use the code 7585-  
5509



Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code

## What are some possible causes of homelessness?



|   |   |
|---|---|
| Loss of employment                              | Students don't agree with parents so find friends to stay with. |
| Loss of lease<br>Loss of job<br>Fire<br>Divorce | Loss of job   |
| Issues with Mental Health                       | Lack of job and education.                                      |
| Generational poverty                            | Loss of job, Death of   |
|   | domestic violence   |
|   | Financial issues, Domestic violence, mental health              |

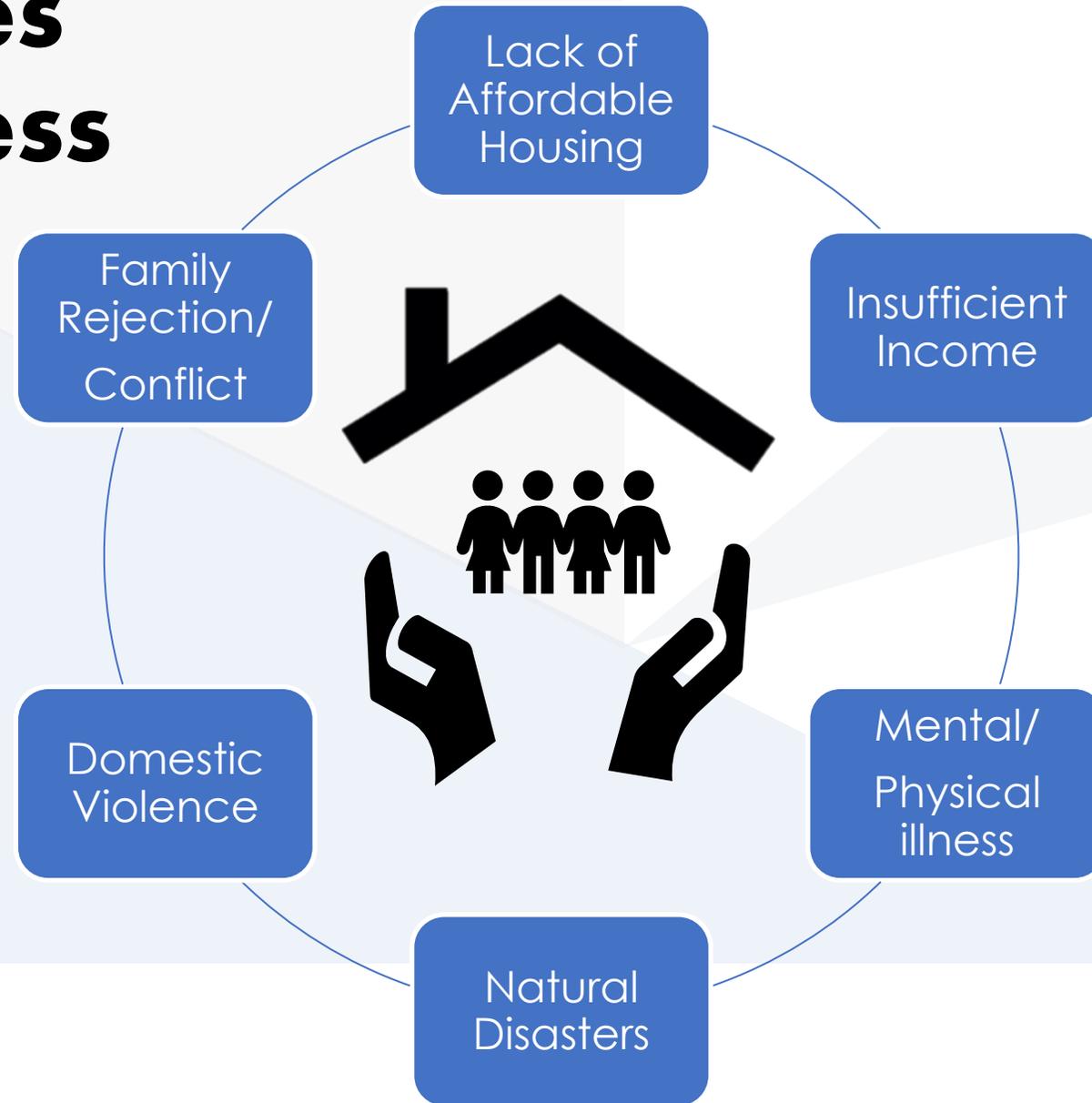
Press 287222 to join a poll Press 8 to share images



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students

# Possible Causes of Homelessness



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

*Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i); U.S.*

# Identification

“Remember that under the McKinney-Vento Act, the local liaison is charged with ensuring that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.”

42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(i)



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# McKinney-Vento Act: Definition of Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Act states that children and youth who lack “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” will be considered homeless.



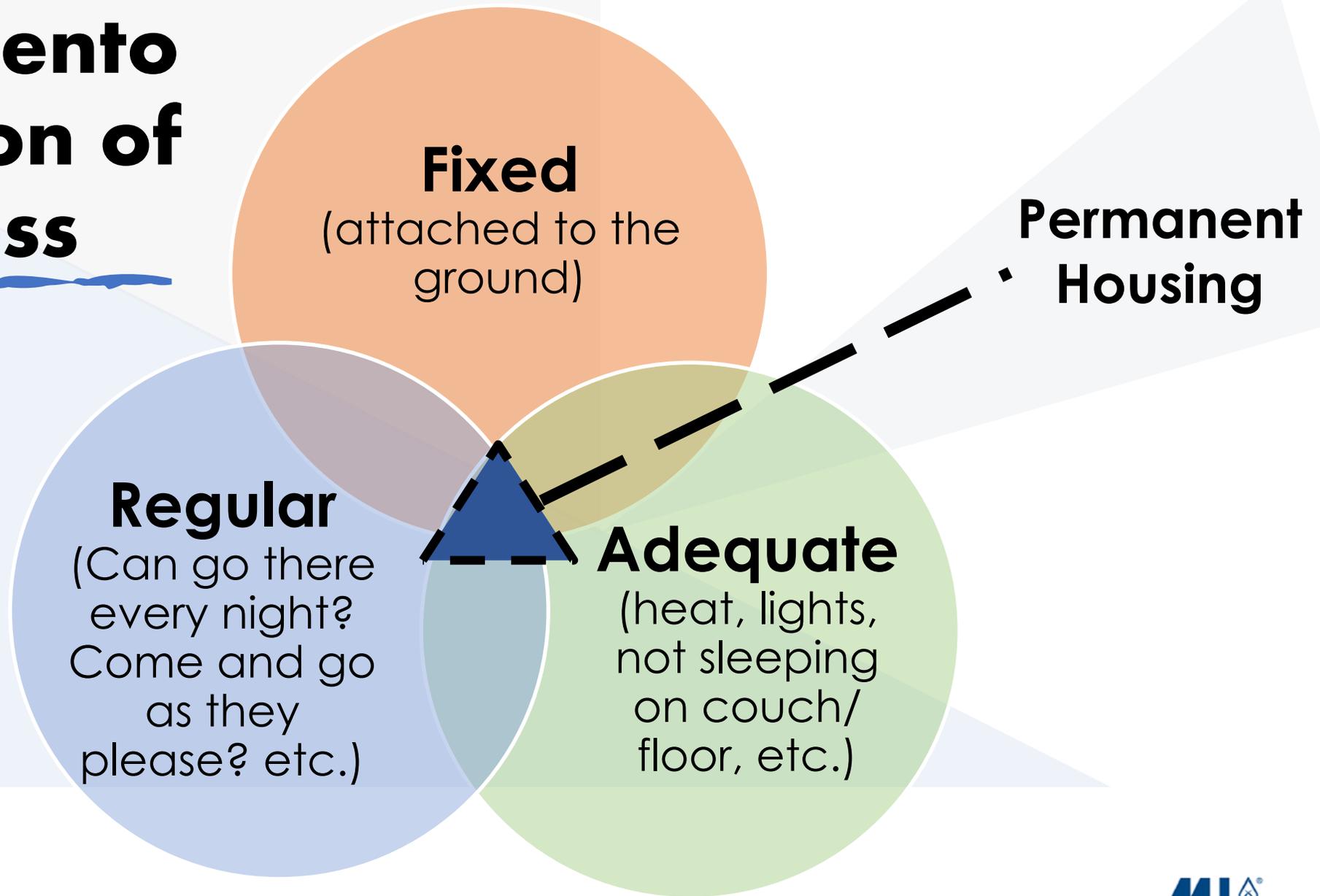
**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

**MI**  
MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# McKinney-Vento Act: Definition of Homelessness

This also includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Homelessness: Possible Living Arrangements

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in circumstances described above
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

*\*Awaiting foster care removed from definition as of 12/10/16.*

*Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i); U.S. DOE's Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question A-2,*



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Definition of an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

An unaccompanied youth is a child or youth not in the physical custody of (not living with) a parent or guardian.

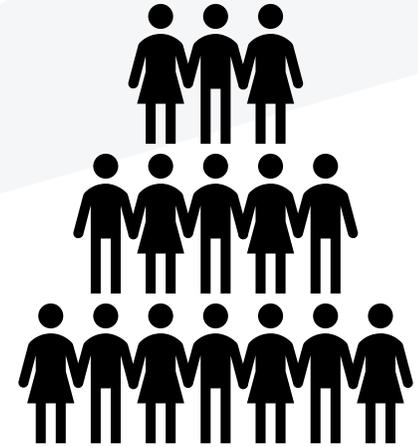
To be eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act, the youth must also meet the definition of homeless.



# Quick Poll

According to data from 2018-2019, what primary nighttime residence was most utilized by children and youth experiencing homelessness in NY?

- A. Shelters, transitional housing
- B. Doubled up (living with another family)
- C. Unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, abandoned building)
- D. Hotels/Motels



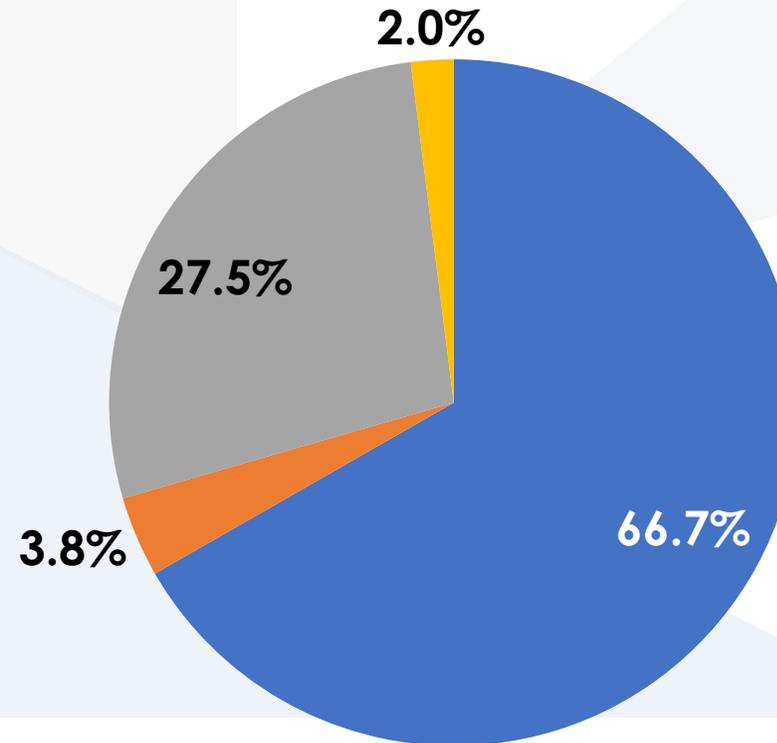
NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

# Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness in NY

School Year 2018-2019

- Doubled-up (e.g., living with another family)
- Unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned building)
- Shelters, transitional housing
- Hotels/Motels



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students

Source: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION



# Importance of Identification

## Homelessness causes...

Educational barriers that impact the ability to attend and succeed in school.

Lack of **basic** resources like a safe and stable place to live, food, and clothing, all of which impacts the ability to attend and succeed in school.

Difficulty accessing school, immunization records, other documentation necessary for school enrollment, and school supplies.

Challenges finding transportation to get to school to register/enroll or attend school on a daily basis.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# McKinney-Vento Act: Identification Challenges



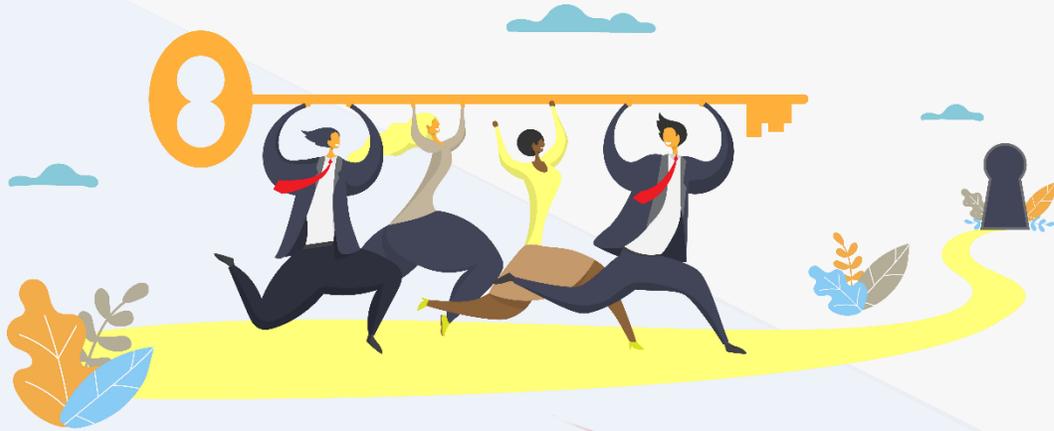
*“We have students who live with other families that should be identified as homeless but are not because we do not know about their situations until a crisis occurs.”*

– Local Liaison

*“There was nothing the education system could do because I was too embarrassed to tell them about my homeless situation at the time.”*

– Youth Interview





# Addressing Common Identification Problems

- Parents/youth hide their homelessness due to feelings of embarrassment or fear.
- Parents/youth do not know that their living situation may entitle their child/them to certain protections.
- Parents/youth do not want everybody to know about their circumstances and are worried that information might be used to negatively stereotype their child/them.

**Think About It** How would you address each challenge?



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students





# Addressing Common Identification Problems

**Parents/youth hide their homelessness due to feelings of embarrassment or fear.**

- Do not use the word “homeless.” Instead try, “students in temporary housing” or similar language.

**Parents/youth do not know that their living situation may entitle their child/them to certain protections.**

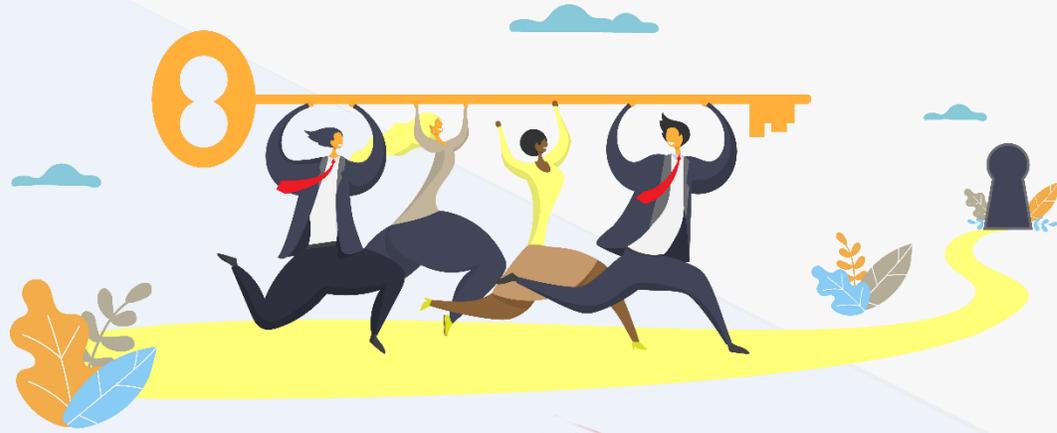
- Be transparent about questions and explain the protections and services available to children who are homeless (e.g., eligibility, priority enrollment).
- Use language to describe homelessness that reflects the living arrangement, (e.g., “doubled-up” or “staying at a shelter”).



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students





# Addressing Common Identification Problems

**Parents/youth don't want everybody to know about their circumstances and are worried that information might be used to negatively stereotype their child/them.**

- Discuss living situation in an office where other parents, staff, and students can't overhear.
- Share how the information will be used (e.g., it will only be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis; program is required to report data on temporary housing).
- Provide internal trainings to staff for increased awareness and sensitivity.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Additional Identification Strategies

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Collaborate</b> | <b>Collaborate</b> with community service agencies, such as shelters, food pantries, law enforcement, legal aid, public assistance and housing agencies, mental health agencies and public health departments. |
| <b>Coordinate</b>  | <b>Coordinate</b> with youth-serving agencies, such as drop-in centers, street outreach, child welfare, juvenile courts, teen parent programs, LGBTQ youth organizations.                                      |
| <b>Access</b>      | <b>Access</b> available data to inform outreach – district and regional homeless identification, poverty data, primary nighttime residence data.   |
| <b>Utilize</b>     | <b>Utilize</b> definitions and sample questions from NCHE's Determining Eligibility brief<br><a href="https://nche.ed.gov/determining-eligibility/">https://nche.ed.gov/determining-eligibility/</a>           |





# Eligibility

The local liaison serves as the district's lead homeless education contact and is required to fulfill the duties of the position as established in the Act [42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A)]. While the Act establishes the need for a collaborative approach to identifying eligible students, the local liaison maintains the final authority for making determinations.



# McKinney Vento Definition of Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Act states that children and youth who lack “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” will be considered homeless.



# Determining Eligibility



Homeless = lacking a "fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence."



Meeting any one of the living arrangements noted in the McKenney-Vento homeless definition, makes a student eligible for benefits.



A student may be considered homeless for an unspecified amount of time if housing is not fixed, regular, and adequate.

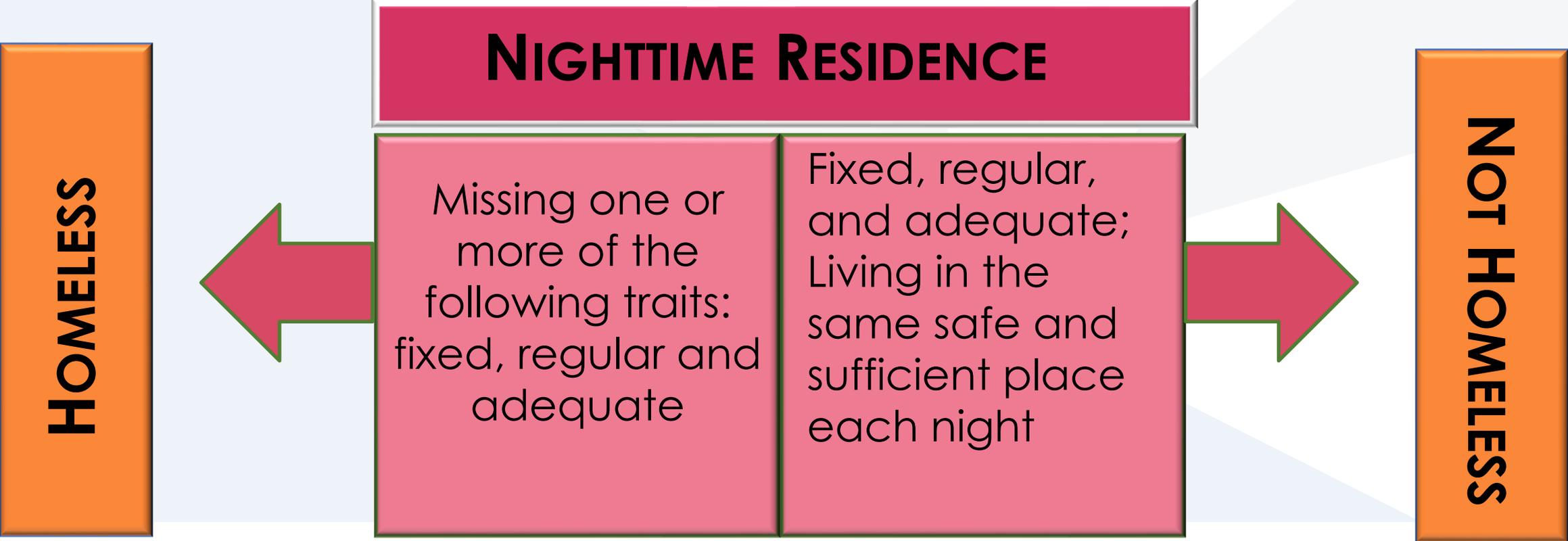


**NYSTEACHS.org**

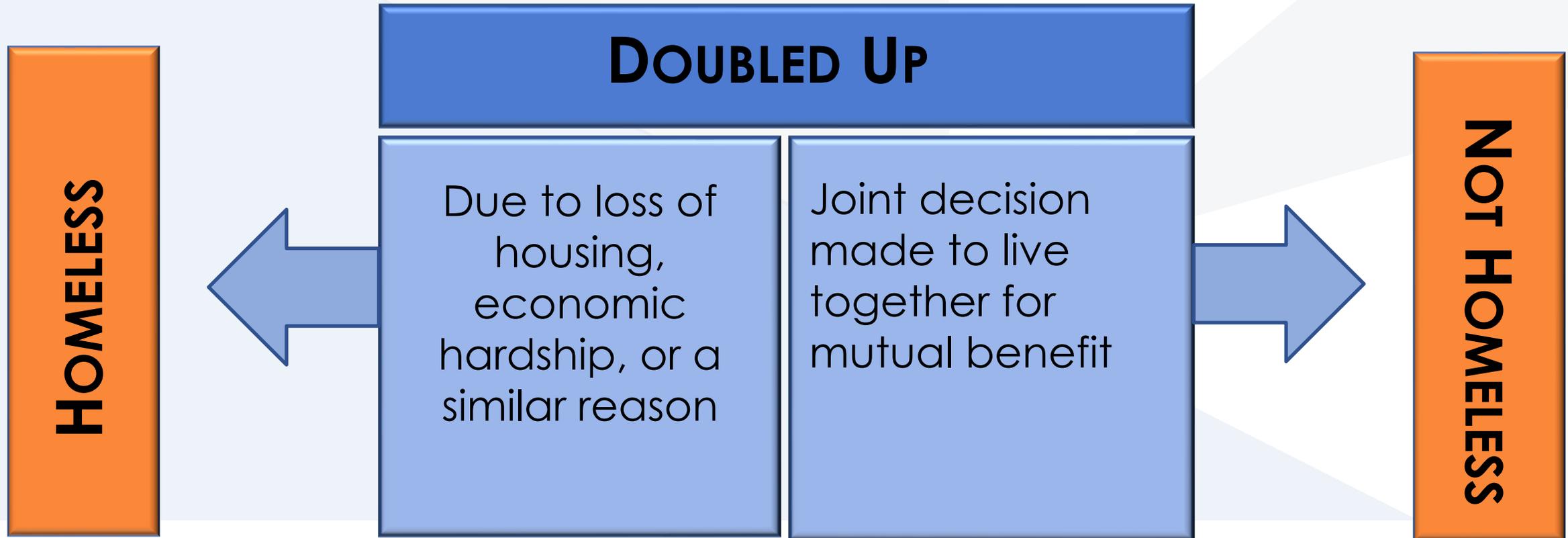
The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



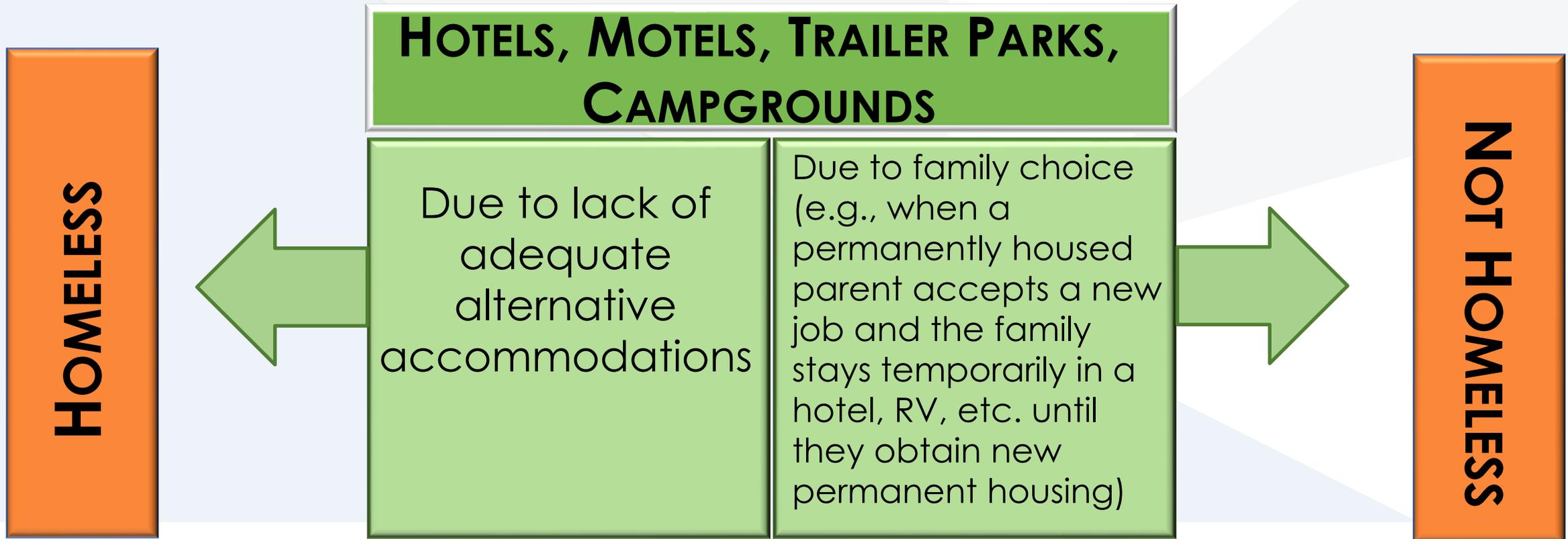
# Determining Eligibility



# Determining Eligibility



# Determining Eligibility



# Scenario #1

---

Tony, his two brothers, and his parents have been living with their uncle after a flood damaged their home last month. They were grateful that relatives were willing to take them in, but the house is not large enough for both families to live comfortably, creating a tense living situation. Tony and his brothers have nowhere to do their homework and sleep in the living room with sleeping bags.

**Would Tony and his two brothers be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits?**

- A.** Yes
- B.** No
- C.** Not Sure



# Scenario #2

---

Jared, a rising junior, relocated to New York SD from Florida in order to play on an exclusive football team. He temporarily lives with a family whose child plays on the same team. Jared's parents, who remain in Florida, want their son to play football, but don't want to give up custody.

**Would Jared be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits since he is living “doubled up”?**

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



# Scenario #3

---

Due to an inability to pay rent, Sarah and her three children were evicted from their home. She moved into her mother's one-bedroom home. Sarah and the kids sleep in the living room.

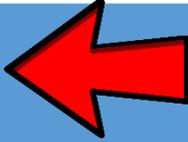
**Would Sarah's children be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits?**

- A.** Yes
- B.** No
- C.** Not Sure



# Determining Eligibility: Step by Step Guide

## Prepare



- Prepare for a conversation with the family.

## Get



- Get the Facts: Learn about the family's situation.

## Gather



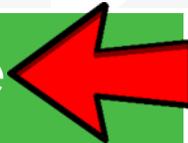
- Gather information about the child/youth situation through a Housing Questionnaire.

## Analyze



- Determine whether the living arrangement of the child(ren) or youth meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

## Communicate



- Communicate when follow-ups regarding eligibility and services will occur with parent(s)/unaccompanied youth.

## Seek



- Seek additional input if needed.



# Preparing for the Conversation

---

- Review the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.
- Adopt a strengths-based approach towards families.
- Practice active listening techniques, using non-judgmental language when reiterating the information shared and during advising.
- Prepare questions in advance to meeting with families.

Adapted from NCHE's *Determining Eligibility Brief*



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

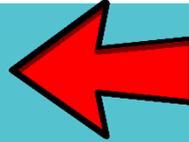


# Determining Eligibility: Step by Step Guide

## Prepare

- Prepare for a conversation with the family.

## Get



- Get the Facts: Learn about the family's situation.

## Gather

- Gather information about the child/youth situation through a Housing Questionnaire.

## Analyze

- Determine whether the living arrangement of the child(ren) or youth meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

## Communicate

- Communicate when follow-ups regarding eligibility and services will occur with parent(s)/unaccompanied youth.

## Seek

- Seek additional input if needed.



# Get the Facts: Learn About the Family Situation

---

- Talk with the family in a private location.
- Explain your role as the McKinney-Vento liaison.
- Clarify the purpose of the conversation.
- Ask permission to ask questions
- Avoid using the word homeless.

Adapted from NCHE's *Determining Eligibility Brief*



**NYSTeachs.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Questions to Ask to Determine “Fixed/ Regular”

---

- Is your current housing situation fixed to one place? (i.e., not in a vehicle, camper etc.)
- Is this a permanent arrangement?
  - How long do you plan to stay at this address?
- What were the circumstances that caused you to leave your previous housing?

Adapted from NCHE's *Determining Eligibility Brief*



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Questions to Ask to Determine “Fixed/ Regular”

---

- Do you have a key to the place you are living?
- Do you stay in the same place every night?
- Could your friends/relatives ask you to leave at any time?
- Are you sharing the home equally or are you more like guests in the home?
- Where would you go if you could not stay where you are currently living?

Adapted from NCHE's *Determining Eligibility Brief*



**NYSTeachs.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Questions to Ask to Determine “Adequate”

---

- How many people are living in the home? How many are sharing a room?
- Are the child(ren)/youth sleeping in a bedroom or in a different space in the house?
- Is there heat, running water and electricity?
- Is there adequate space to meet the physical and psychological needs of the child(ren)/youth staying there?

Adapted from NCHE's *Determining Eligibility Brief*



**NYSTeachs.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Determining Eligibility: Step by Step Guide

## Prepare

- Prepare for a conversation with the family.

## Get

- Get the Facts: Learn about the family's situation.

## Gather



- Gather information about the child/youth situation through a Housing Questionnaire.

## Analyze

- Determine whether the living arrangement of the child(ren) or youth meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

## Communicate

- Communicate when follow-ups regarding eligibility and services will occur with parent(s)/unaccompanied youth.

## Seek

- Seek additional input if needed.



# Housing Questionnaire

Sample Form

- Screening tool is required for all students.
- Required at time of enrollment and change of address.

**NOTE TO SCHOOLS/LEAS:** Please assist students and families filling out this form. The form should be included at the top page of registration materials that the district shares with families. Do not simply include this form in the registration packet, because if the student qualifies as residing in temporary housing, the student is not required to submit proof of residency and other required documents that may be part of the registration packet.

## HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of LEA: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Gender:  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year (preschool-12) (optional)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The answer you give below will help the district determine what services you or your child may be able to receive under the McKinney-Vento Act. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act are entitled to immediate enrollment in school even if they don't have the documents normally needed, such as proof of residency, school records, immunization records, or birth certificate. Students who are protected under the McKinney-Vento Act may also be entitled to free transportation and other services.

Where is the student currently living? (Please check one box.)

- In a shelter
- With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship (sometimes referred to as "doubled-up")
- In a hotel/motel
- In a car, park, bus, train, or campsite
- Other temporary living situation (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students

**MI**  
MEASUREMENT  
INCORPORATED

# Who Should Fill Out the Housing Questionnaire?

A Housing Questionnaire should be filled out:

1. **FOR** all students enrolling in school and for all students who have a change of address in grades preschool-12 .
2. **BY** the student's parent, person in parental relation, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, by the student directly.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

**MI**  
**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED

# Determining Eligibility: Step by Step Guide

## Prepare

- Prepare for a conversation with the family.

## Get

- Get the Facts: Learn about the family's situation.

## Gather

- Gather information about the child/youth situation through a Housing Questionnaire.

## Analyze



- Determine whether the living arrangement of the child(ren) or youth meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

## Communicate

- Communicate when follow-ups regarding eligibility and services will occur with parent(s)/unaccompanied youth.

## Seek

- Seek additional input if needed.



# Scenario #4

---

Cheryl, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, left home and says she doesn't feel safe there. Her mother says Cheryl doesn't want to follow the rules to live at home.

**Would Cheryl be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits?**

- A.** Yes
- B.** No
- C.** Not Sure



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Responding to Scenario #4

---

What questions would you ask Cheryl?

- Where are you staying?
- How long do you plan on staying there?
- Can you share some information on why you don't feel safe at home?



# Scenario #5

---

A family, including three children, lives in a trailer in Long Island. The mother contacts the McKinney-Vento Liaison asking if her children are eligible for benefits. Are the children eligible?

**Would this family be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits?**

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



# Responding to Scenario #5

---

What questions would you ask the family?

- How long do you plan on staying in your location?
- Is the trailer fixed to the ground with a foundation wall, footers and support beams underneath?
- Does the trailer have running water, heat and electricity?



# Scenario #6

---

In Spring, a landlord took legal action, resulting in a mother and her child (an elementary student) to be evicted from their apartment in a NY school district. The mother and her child are now staying, doubled up, with her mother.

**Would this student be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits?**

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



# Responding to Scenario #6

---

What questions would you ask the mother?

- How long do you plan on staying at this address?
- Where would you go if you couldn't stay with your mother?
- Are there any occupancy issues where your mother is staying?
- Are you and your daughter sleeping in a bedroom or in another place in the house?



# Determining Eligibility: Step by Step Guide

## Prepare

- Prepare for a conversation with the family.

## Get

- Get the Facts: Learn about the family's situation.

## Gather

- Gather information about the child/youth situation through a Housing Questionnaire.

## Analyze

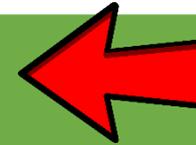
- Determine whether the living arrangement of the child(ren) or youth meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

## Communicate

- Communicate when follow-ups regarding eligibility and services will occur with parent(s)/unaccompanied youth.

## Seek

- Seek additional input if needed.



# Role of McKinney-Vento Liaisons



Ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified through outreach and coordination activities with other entities.



Determine eligibility by using the definition of homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



Assist eligible families by providing information, benefits and resources as provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Ed Law 3209, and the Commissioner Regulation 100.2 (x).



# Summary

**3 KEY IDEAS** about Identification & Eligibility

**2 ACTIONS** to take as a result of today's session.

**1 QUESTION/IDEA** to explore further.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Technical and Education Assistance Center

---

- Help Line (1- 800-388-2014)
- Website ([www.nysteachs.org](http://www.nysteachs.org))
- Web-Based Trainings
- Outreach Materials



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical Assistance  
Center for Homeless Students



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



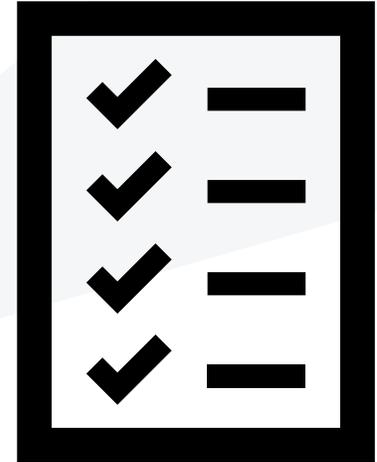
# Survey

---

Please take a few moments to complete our survey.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oA7kQ4XaN9\\_17VVWaGidSF1vOvZRIAcOh32p\\_q\\_ImhY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oA7kQ4XaN9_17VVWaGidSF1vOvZRIAcOh32p_q_ImhY/edit?usp=sharing)

We use your responses to inform our upcoming professional learning sessions.



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



# Resources

---

More  
Information



Flowchart – <https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCHE-Eligibility-Flowchart.pdf>

Determining Eligibility Brief <https://nysteachs.org/topic-resource/determining-eligibility-for-rights-and-services-under-the-mckinney-vento-act/>

Housing Questionnaire Sample - <https://nysteachs.org/topic-resource/housing-questionnaire>



**NYSTEACHS.org**

The New York State Technical and Educational  
Assistance Center for Homeless Students

**MI**  
**MEASUREMENT**  
INCORPORATED