Supporting Students in Temporary Housing



Planning Your LEA Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program



Presented By: Diana Bowman

• Thursday, June 2, 2022

• 9:30am -11:00am



Housekeeping

- Links to publications, online resources, organizations, and studies mentioned in this presentation will be provided in the Resource List that accompanies this presentation.
- We will launch polls and ask for your thoughts periodically throughout the presentation and invite you to put your answers in the chat.
- We also invite you to pose questions in the chat; some of these questions requesting quick clarifications will be answered today, but others will be addressed in a Q&A document that will be developed after the webinar.
- For questions about specific situations, we welcome your Helpline calls to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Helpline is open 24 hours a day. If you leave a
 message, you will be called back by the next business day.





Webinar Format



Today's session will be recorded.



Your microphone will be automatically muted.



Your camera will be automatically disabled.



The in-webinar chat will be automatically disabled.







Who Is In The Room? (Poll #1)

Are you a...

New McKinney-Vento Liaison (1st Year)

McKinney-Vento Liaison (2-4 years)

McKinney-Vento Liaison (5 – 9 years)

McKinney-Vento Liaison (10 + years)

Other School/District Staff



* Western

* Capital

* Finger Lakes

* Hudson Valley

* Central

* New York City

* Southern Tier

* Long Island

* Mohawk Valley

* North Country





Your Presenter



Diana Bowman

- Former director of the National Center for Homeless Education; still on staff parttime
- 25+ years of experience in the field of homeless education

dianabbowman@gmail.com





Padlet 1: We Can Dream ...

https://padlet.com/dianabbowma n/46yygz92lvvrdhee

What would a great day at work look like or feel like to you?



MEASUREMENT

INCORPORATED



Padlet 1:

- Click the Padlet link in the Chat: https://padlet.com/dianabbowman/46yygz92lvvrdhee
- For each column that you want to respond to, click the + sign at the bottom of the column.
- Click "Write something fantastic," write your response, and click "Publish."
- You may click the to like someone else's comment.
- To return to the Zoom meeting:
 - On a laptop, go to the Taskbar or Dock and click the Zoom icon.
 - On a mobile device, go to your home screen and click on the Zoom app.
- If for some reason, you exit the meeting accidentally, just click on the meeting link again.





Importance of Program Planning

Completing Duties	Program Planning
Working from a list of duties or tasks	Working from a set of goals
Each one is equally as important as the next; little thought given to assigning priorities to tasks	Focusing on activities that will lead to goals
Completing tasks as listed	Identifying needs and customizing activities
Isolated and separate activities; doesn't affect or isn't affected by other activities	Program focus connects all activities, which align and reinforce each other and create synergy
Short-term vision; immediate outcomes	Longer term vision; seeing progress over time
Success is completion of tasks (checking the boxes); data shows satisfying a requirement	Success is achieving program goals; data collection monitors progress, celebrate success; identify areas for improvement





Prioritizing Your Work

Seven Habits of Highly Effective People Adapted from Stephen Covey's

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	 QUADRANT I Arranging transportation to the school of origin Meeting with an angry parent 	 QUADRANT II Developing local policies & procedures to remove educational barriers Providing awareness & training to school & school district staff
Not Important	 QUADRANT III Attending mandatory general staff meetings Responding to a request for information from your superintendent 	 QUADRANT IV Meeting with colleagues on issues not related to serving homeless children and youth Attending community meetings that do not have a clear or relevant agenda





Benefits of Program Planning

- Students and their families will receive services targeted toward their needs.
- You will work more efficiently and save time.
- Planning for long-term will help avoid crises.
- Prioritizing activities will result in better use of funds.
- You and your stakeholders will see progress and improvement toward goals (can result in more time for your position or more funding for your program).





What We Will Cover Today

- Conducting an informal LEA needs assessment
- Reviewing data and asking good questions
- Developing and revising LEA policies and protocols
- Planning effective collaborations
- Organizing your work
- Practicing self care





Conducting an Informal Needs Assessment

An effective needs assessment helps local stakeholders and system leaders understand how the pieces of a complex educational system interact. Whether that system reflects a school, a district, or an entire state, a needs assessment can uncover both strengths and challenges that will inform growth and improvement. The goal of a needs assessment is to help educators identify, understand, and prioritize the needs that districts and schools must address to improve performance.

Cucio, C. & Husby-Slater. 2018. Needs Assessment Guidebook. https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/10/needsassessmentguidebook-508-003.pdf





NCHE's LEA Informal Needs Assessment Tool

Includes major areas of LEA responsibilities outlined in the McKinney-Vento Act

- Awareness
- Policies and Procedures
- Disputes
- Identification and Enrollment
- School Selection
- Access to Services
- Transportation

- School Success
- Collaboration within the LEA
- Collaboration with Title I
- Community Collaboration
- Resources, Capacity, Compliance



NCHE's LEA Informal Needs Assessment Tool

- Includes citations from the McKinney-Vento Act for each of the areas of responsibility
- Questions to consider
- What's in place
- What's needed
- Level of priority to address

Awareness

State Plan Requirements¹ – A description of programs for school personnel (including liaisons designated under subparagraph (J)(ii), principals and other school leaders, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and specialized instructional support personnel) to heighten the awareness of such personnel of the specific needs of homeless children and youths, including such children and youths who are runaway and homeless youths. [42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(1)(D)]

Coordination Purpose – Each local educational agency is required to coordinate with State and local housing agencies. This coordination must be designed to "raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness." [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(5)(C)(iii)]

LEA liaison duties – Each local agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(iii), shall ensure that – the parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(v)]; public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(A)(vi)].

State coordinators established under subsection (d)(3) and local educational agencies shall inform school personnel, service providers, advocates working with homeless families, parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and homeless children and youths of the duties of the local educational agency liaisons, and publish an annually updated list of the liaisons on the State educational agency's website. [42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6)(B)]

Questions to Consider	What's in Place	What's Needed	Priority
 What is the level of awareness of school personnel on the needs of homeless children and youth? 			
 What programs, activities, and trainings are conducted for LEA program administrators and school personnel to increase their awareness of homeless children and youth? 			
 What is the level of awareness of community agencies and organizations on the needs of homeless children and youth? 			
 What activities take place to increase the level of awareness in community agencies, shelters, and service providers? 			
 Are posters widely disseminated in schools and throughout the community? 			





NCHE's LEA Informal Needs Assessment Tool

- Includes a planning tool to identify priority needs and set measurable goals
- Activities for the year can focus on the area of greatest need

Needs Assessment Summary: High Priority Needs

In the following table, list the highest priority needs identified in the guiding questions and create a concrete (measurable) goal that the LEA should achieve during the next year to address each need. This information will guide the development of an annual action plan.

Focus Area	Priority Needs	Measurable Goal
Awareness		
Policies and Procedures		
Disputes		
Identification		
Enrollment		
School Selection		
Access to Services		
Transportation		





How to Use the LEA Needs Assessment Tool

- Can be used very flexibly
 - Respond to the questions based on what you know to create an informal snapshot of the EHCY program in your LEA
 - Find data and evidence to support your assertions of what is in place or what is needed
 - Complete the tool by yourself or involve other stakeholders
 - Use the needs assessment each year to track progress over time
 - Use the tool to identify challenges and to celebrate what is going well; use the tool to advocate for your program



Using Data to Answer Questions

Identifying the WHAT

What's happening?

What's working (not working)?

What's changed?

WHAT



Identification

Is our school or school district identifying the expected number of students experiencing homelessness, given the level of poverty in the school district or community?

Attendance

Is the percentage of students experiencing homelessness who are chronically absent similar to that of other students in the school/district?







Academic Performance

- Are students experiencing homelessness performing at a proficiency rate similar to that of other students in the school/district?
- Are there differences by grade level?
- Are there differences by subject, such as math and language arts?





Discipline

- Are students experiencing homelessness being disciplined at a rate higher than other students?
- Are there categories of behaviors for which students experiencing homelessness are being disciplined more frequently than other students?









Special Education

- Are students experiencing homelessness being evaluated at a rate lower or higher than that of other students?
- Are students experiencing homelessness being placed into special education at a rate higher than other students? Or, at a rate lower?





Drop-out Rate

Is the drop-out rate for students experiencing homelessness similar to that of other students in the school district?



Is the on-time graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness similar to that of other students in the school district?





Good Data Leads to Good Questions: The 5 Whys

- Provides a good way to push the boundaries of thinking
- Fosters dialogue and discussion

 Prevents jumping to conclusions and resolutions before a topic is sufficiently explored





Padlet 2: The 5 Whys - An Example

Padlet 2: https://padlet.com/dianabbowman/xtqdgjsx1i1vpf7i

A review of the data on discipline referrals in your LEA indicates that students experiencing homelessness are referred for discipline infractions at a rate 20 per cent higher than that of other students.

Why might this be the case?

What other data might be needed to explore this issue further?







The 5 Whys: An Example

Deeper Data
Dive

The discipline rate for students experiencing homelessness is higher than that for other students.

Students experiencing homelessness have more referrals for not turning in homework or engaging in class work.

More behavioral discipline referrals occur before weekends and holidays.

Students experiencing homelessness have a higher percentage of unexcused absences.

Classroom activities often focus on what students anticipate for weekends or holidays; students experiencing homelessness act out.



- 25 -

Students experiencing homelessness and others from difficult homes feel stressed before weekends and holidays.

MORE





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



The 5 Whys: An Example (continued)

Students experiencing homelessness often return to chaotic environments on weekends and holidays where they lack food and experience domestic violence.

Teachers are unaware that weekends and holidays are difficult for students experiencing homelessness.



Teachers lack professional development in understanding homelessness.

LEA improvement plans focus on raising reading and math scores. Homelessness is not a priority for professional development.



There is not much awareness of homelessness in the LEA or community.



- Reasons WHY should be situations that the LEA can impact.
- A reason should not be a person.





Questions







LEA Protocols, Policies, and Agreements







Poll 2:

Does your LEA have written protocols, policies, or agreements in the following areas, specific to students experiencing homelessness?

- Enrollment
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Transportation
- Academic and other support services
- Coordination with community organizations
- Disputes with parents/guardians/unaccompanied youth





What is a Protocol?

- Detailed plan with set of standard procedures
- Formal agreement or understanding
- Rules, guidelines, or customs of a group that should be observed by all parties



 Specific set of rules that all parties involved understand and follow to create a predictable, logical sequence of action





Why are Protocols, Procedures, Written Policies Agreements Important?

Ensures all staff know who does what, when, and how

- Reduces delays in enrollment and attendance
- Improves consistency of responses within schools and school districts
- Reduces likelihood of disputes
- Creates more positive interactions with community organizations
- Increases appropriate service provision and referrals
- Enriches relationships with students and parents





What Do Protocols, Procedures, Written Policies Agreements Look Like?

- Set of policies and guidelines for action
- Checklists for what needs to be done
- Document (memo, handbook, MOU) that outlines clear roles and responsibilities
 - Tasks for specific role groups involved in serving homeless children and youth (e.g., office enrollment staff, school counselors, teachers, nurses, bus drivers)
- Consistent forms used throughout the LEA
- Must be flexible enough to be responsive to emerging issues





Who Needs to Be Involved?

- Superintendents, supervisors, school district attorneys, school boards
- Parents and unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY)
- School secretaries, registrars, enrollment staff, and other student support staff

- Program administrators (Special Ed, Child Nutrition, Title I, Migrant, Early Childhood)
- Principals and teachers
- Staff of community-based organizations
- Other LEAs with whom you frequently share students





Inter-district Agreements

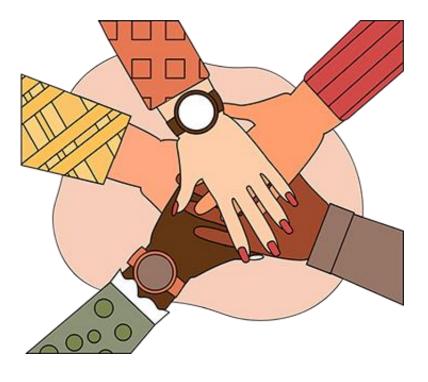
- Include relevant provisions of the law
- Be specific about the issues to be addressed
- Describe the roles and responsibilities for the LEA of origin and LEA of residence
- Spell out cost-sharing
- Require a collaborative approach to address challenges
- Describe how to settle disagreements
- Keep the best interest of the students at the center

Rock County (WI) Inter-district Transportation Agreement





Effective Collaborations







Collaborations to Consider

Within the LEA

- Title I, Part A
- Special Education
- Child Nutrition
- Migrant Education Program
- Dropout Prevention
- Teachers
- School Administrators
- School Social Workers and Counselors
- Early Childhood
- Career and Technical Education Programs

In the Community

- Shelters
- Housing agencies
- Food Banks
- Medical, Dental, Mental Health Clinics
- Libraries
- Businesses
- Civic Organizations
- Faith-based Organizations
- Head Start
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Youth Providers





Managing the Time Collaboration Requires

Revisit what the law requires.

Revisit your needs assessment – prioritize collaborative activities.

Develop a schedule for whom to contact when over the course of a year.

Focus on collaborations that are productive – ensure that homeless education is on the agenda.

Attend virtually when possible and appropriate. (Sometimes keeping up through reviewing meeting minutes is enough.)





Match the Type of Contact with the Purpose.

Purpose	Example	Type of Contact		
Increase awareness of homelessness	Shelters, libraries, clinics, food banks need awareness of homeless education services			
Coordinate services	There needs to be coordination between the LEA and Head Start regarding referrals develop an MOU; revisit annually			
Obtain resources	The LEA is asking a faith-based organization to provide food for backpacks	Present to the congregation; follow up with awareness materials; periodic contact with success stories and appreciation		
Align policies and procedures	Determining transportation for homelessness students with IEPs	Meetings with the special education coordinator to develop protocol		
Build cross-agency advocacy or policy initiatives	Youth agencies' collective advocacy for minor medical consent policy changes	Meetings		





Padlet 3: Examples of Collaborations that You Are Involved With

Padlet 3: https://padlet.com/dianabbowman/87fjj56e544ru2q8

- Awareness
- Coordinating Services
- Obtaining Resources
- Aligning Policies and Procedures
- Cross-agency Policy Work
- Other





Track and Plan Your Contacts.

Using a collaboration tracking form will help you

- Maintain a list and contacts for all collaborations
- Align the type of collaborative contact with the purpose of the contact: determine if the purpose matches your needs assessment priorities
- Work the schedule for contacts into your overall schedule

Organization or Program	Contact Information	Purpose for Collaboration	Type of Collaboration or Communication Needed	Date of Last Contact and Current Status	Action Needed	Deadline for Next Planned Contact





Questions







Tips for Managing the Work







Time Management Tips

- Keep a copy of the McKinney-Vento Act on your desk or on your desktop with key sections highlighted.
- Maintain a contact list for schools, program administrators, community resources – anyone you contact on a regular basis.
- Create templates for responses to questions that you receive over and over, including links to resources and briefs from the U.S. Department of Education, NCHE, and NYSTEACHS.
- Conduct trainings for school office staff, teachers, principals, pupil support personnel; send periodic memos. Use online training resources.





Time Management Tips



- Keep detailed records and organize them for easy retrieval; review the LEA monitoring protocol for what you need to be able to easily compile.
- Create an annual schedule of deadlines, meetings, trainings, holidays, and conferences.
- Utilize resources from NCHE, SchoolHouse Connection, NYSTEACHS, or your colleagues; don't reinvent the wheel!





Track all phone and email requests.

- You may need documentation for disputes.
- You can identify areas of needed technical assistance, non-compliance, or protocols.
- Creating an electronic tracking system will enable you to filter by issue, school, or person requesting.

Appendix 15.E Sample Barrier Tracking Form

Request Date	Response Date			
Contact Name, Phone Number, Email				
Contact Role (Parent, Agency,				
Student, etc.)				
School Involved				
Request Topic				
Type of Request	☐ Request for Information			
	☐ Complaint or Possible Compliance Concern			
	 Inquiry from School or Program Administrator 			
	\square Request for Action			
	 Request for or Indicator of Need for Technical Assistance 			
Request Description				
Response				

Repeat Table as Needed





Plan for Busy Times.

Back to School Checklist

- Review goals and focus areas in your annual plan.
- □ Place posters in schools and community.
- □ Provide information on procedures and protocols in schools.
- □Contact community agencies for referrals and resources (back-to-school memo).
- ■Schedule training events review the annual plan for priorities.
- □ Update contact list for school contacts, LEA program administrators, community agencies.
- □ Arrange extra help for determining eligibility and best interest and for connecting homeless students to services.





Self Care







A Critical Part of Your Job!

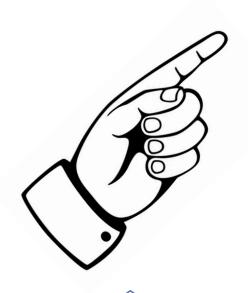
- Maintain life-work balance.
- Connect with your colleagues.
- Secondary trauma is very real get help!
- Make yourself incorporate stress-relieving activities in your workday every day.
- Follow flight attendant instructions: Put your oxygen mask on yourself before you put it on your child.







Wrap Up



In the chat, complete the following sentence, "One strategy that I plan to use from this presentation is ..."





For Further Information

 Review the links on the Resource slide at the end of this presentation.

- Visit the NCHE website: <u>https://nche.ed.gov.</u>
- Read NCHE's Homeless Liaison Toolkit: https://nche.ed.gov/homeless-liaison-toolkit/





INCORPORATED

Resources

More Information

ion

5 Why's Template and Guidelines:

https://www.colleaga.org/sites/default/files/attachments/rf-5-whys-tool-en.pdf

NCHE's LEA Informal Needs Assessment: https://nche.ed.gov/needs-assessment/

NCHE's Homeless Liaison Toolkit, Appendix 11.C: Basic Tips for Collaboration, Appendix 15.E Sample Barrier Tracking Form: https://nche.ed.gov/homeless-liaison-toolkit/

Rock County (WI) Interdistrict Transportation Agreement (NCHE Resources Transportation Page): https://nche.ed.gov/transportation/

State Coordinators Handbook, Appendix C-2: Collaboration Goals for State Coordinators: https://nche.ed.gov/state-coordinators-handbook/



Session Survey

Please take a few moments to complete our survey.

Survey Link: https://mi-surveys.com/webinar-

planningyourLEAEHCYprogram060222



INCORPORATED



Contact Us



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

- Help Line (800-388-2014)
- Website (https://nysteachs.org)
- Web-based Trainings
 Next Webinar:

June 9, 2022 9:30am – 11:00am



