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North Dakota Facts:

- 2015 McKinney-Vento Grant applications were due in the Office Federal Title Programs by July 17, 2015, and are currently being reviewed.
- All North Dakota school districts that receive federal Title I funding must appoint a staff member to represent the district as their homeless liaison. Superintendents may not act as the district liaison.
- All districts receiving Title I funding must serve their homeless population and set aside Title I funds, if needed, for homeless services.
- The McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as: **“ANY CHILD WHO LACK A FIXED, REGULAR OR ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE”**. This includes homeless students living with other families or “doubled up”.
- All districts are required to report their homeless population in STARS.
- Once a student is considered homeless during a school year, they remain at this status for the entire school year.

North Dakota Homeless Education Program

District Liaison Responsibilities

District liaisons must ensure that:

- Homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
- Homeless students enroll in, and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in, the schools of the LEA;
- Homeless children and youth and their families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start and preschool programs administered by the LEA, and referrals to health, mental health, dental, and other appropriate services;
- Parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of educational and related opportunities available to their children, and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- Parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to and from the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation services;
- Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act; and
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless students is disseminated to locations where they receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Assist in:

- Enrolling students and accessing school services
- Obtaining immunization or medical records
- Informing parents, school personnel and others of rights of the homeless
- Working with school personnel to resolve disputes
- Coordinating transportation services
- Collaborating and coordinating with the State Coordinator and school personnel responsible for providing services to students.



Documentation of Free Meal Eligibility for Homeless Children

USDA guidance states:

“To expedite the delivery of nutritional benefits, school officials may accept documentation that the children are homeless from the local educational liaison or directors of homeless shelters where the children reside.

Documentation to substantiate free meal eligibility must consist of the child’s name or a list of names, effective date, and the signature of the local educational liaison or the director of the homeless shelter. This documentation is acceptable in lieu of a free and reduced price meal application.

To implement these expedited procedures, school officials must work closely with the educational liaison and directors of homeless shelters to ensure that children are provided free meal benefits as promptly as possible.”

Districts Must Determine Their Homeless Population Each Fall

Student homeless status does not carry over from year to year. Each fall, districts are required to determine their homeless population by collecting permanent residence information on all students enrolled within their district. This can be done by disseminating a primary residence questionnaire at the beginning of each school year. Once a student is determined to be homeless, they remain at that homeless status for the entire school year even if they obtain permanent housing. If you would like to receive sample residency questionnaire forms, email Jacki Harasym, NDHEP Coordinator at jharasym@nd.gov.

Who is an Unaccompanied Homeless Youth?

The term “unaccompanied homeless youth” includes youth in homeless situations who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Unaccompanied homeless youth have the same rights as other students experiencing homelessness.



Coming Soon!

District Liaison Certification Training will be offered during the 2015-2016 school year. All district liaisons will be required to complete this training. Additional information and a training schedule will be disseminated in the next few weeks. The district liaison training will include the Liaison Toolkit along with additional resources needed to complete the numerous district liaison responsibilities. Upon completion, district liaisons will receive proof of liaison certification.



Information and Resources

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NCHE

www.center.serve.org/nche
(202) 638-2562

NDCHP

www.ndhomelesscoalition.org
(701) 390-1635