

September 2021

## Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness

Nationally and locally in Wisconsin, it is anticipated there will be an increased number of students and families that will experience homelessness because of COVID-19. This school year, identification of students experiencing homelessness will be more important than ever while the pandemic continues. Homeless liaisons must continue to identify students if they are experiencing homelessness, even if virtual learning is occurring. The following questions for liaisons to ask families may help with identification through the context of COVID-19:

- Have you had an eviction deferred? When will the eviction moratorium end?
- Have you had rent or utility payments deferred, and when will those payments resume?
- Have you had steady income?
- Do you have a working stove and refrigerator?
- How long have you been where you are staying currently, and how long do you think you will be able to stay there?
- If you could not stay in your current living situation, what would you do?

([SchoolHouse Connection](#))

**An important reminder:** Homeless liaisons are required under the McKinney-Vento Act to provide training to all staff annually. It is particularly helpful at the beginning of the year to remind staff of the definition of homelessness and ensure staff know the rights students have under the McKinney-Vento Act, which will help ensure children and youth are identified. The following resources may be helpful for identification in this context:

- [Awareness and Training Resources](#)- SchoolHouse Connection
- [Enrollment and Identification of Students Experiencing Homelessness Webinar](#)- hosted by DPI, Fall 2020

## Refugee Children in Wisconsin

Fort McCoy in Wisconsin is currently receiving Afghan refugees. As families begin resettling, children and youth should be enrolled in their local schools. According to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), once families begin leaving the Fort McCoy military base to resettle, McKinney-Vento homeless status should be determined on a case-by-case basis for the living situation they end up in. Many families will disperse across the state and across the country and will double up with friends and relatives. Other families will move into 90-day leases provided by refugee service agencies. USDE advised that families on these leases will need to have their living situation evaluated once the 90-day lease is up. At that time, students and families may find themselves in unstable situations or doubled up. We will share more information as it becomes available.

SchoolHouse Connection will be hosting a webinar on this topic and we will share that link when it becomes available. DPI has adapted an informational outreach poster from California and shared through SchoolHouse Connection in Farsi for district use: [Sample Poster in Farsi](#), in [English](#).

## Upcoming Trainings and Connection Opportunities

**September 22, 9:00 a.m.** – DPI Training Webinar on Identification of students experiencing homelessness. This is the first of our quarterly webinars for the 2021-22 school year.

### Lunch Time Live Connections

The DPI EHCY Team will be continuing the Lunch Time Live Chat Series during this school year. These are times to connect with liaisons and others across the state to share best practices in supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness. Generally, these will happen monthly throughout the year. Here are the first few dates to save:

**September 9, 11:30 a.m.**

**September 30, 11:30 a.m.**

**October 21, 11:30 a.m.**

Join via Zoom - Meeting ID: 896 1603 6146; Passcode: 202122

<https://widpi.zoom.us/j/89616036146?pwd=d3h6NHhNN1U5M1pBbnZKVDNlGUXNoZz09>

## National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference

The annual NAEHCY conference will be held in-person and virtually from November 13-16, 2021! This is the only national conference that addresses homeless education and is geared towards homeless liaisons and providers that work with youth experiencing homelessness. Presenters will focus on strategies

## eBrief Sign-Up

If you know of others who would like to receive this eBrief, please share [this link](#) so they can be added to our mailing list.

## SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program

Youth who have experienced homelessness can apply for [this scholarship](#) to assist with their post-secondary education plan. Deadline to apply is October 15, 2021.

## New Resources!

### ESSER funds and Students Experiencing Homelessness

We encourage all LEAs to consider how to utilize ESSER I, II, and III funds to specifically support students experiencing homelessness. SchoolHouse Connection: [How to use ESSER II funds](#)

### Dane County Video Highlighting Homelessness

This new video highlighting Dane County families and students experiencing homelessness focuses on the families experiencing homelessness who are not prioritized for HUD programming. Created by HEAR US, this video will help any community understand homelessness. Watch video: [https://vimeo.com/582680514?fbclid=IwAR1WXmsQ0w\\_LflsDimkiLPYXH1x1PLARnCGyUKXJXFATq\\_VoIOb8ACvdNdU](https://vimeo.com/582680514?fbclid=IwAR1WXmsQ0w_LflsDimkiLPYXH1x1PLARnCGyUKXJXFATq_VoIOb8ACvdNdU)

## State Coordinator Corner

Karen and Kristine will continue to work from home through this fall. We are still available to answer any questions you may have as the school year begins. At this time we prefer being contacted by email for any situation as we are able to respond more timely this way.

## Resources

[DPI EHCY website](#)  
[NCHE](#)  
[NAEHCY](#)  
[SchoolHouse Connection McKinney-Vento Act McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance](#)

## Contacts

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to address current issues and best practices in homeless education. We highly encourage homeless liaisons to participate if able. Due to COVID-19, the conference will have a virtual option, which also means the registration fee is significantly lower than attending in person. Find more information about the conference on the [2021 NAEHCY Conference website](#).

## Title I Homeless Reservation

As a reminder, the Title I, Part A Homeless Reservation is required. DPI has a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document regarding this. Please reach out to your district ESEA coordinator to collaborate on how to use these funds to serve students experiencing homelessness.

## Compliance Grant Recipients

We are excited to announce 6 school districts were awarded the EHCY Compliance Grants! The following districts will spend the next two years focusing on getting into compliance with McKinney-Vento Act and going beyond compliance in a chosen area: Appleton Area School District, Black River Falls School District, Delavan-Darien School District, Menasha Joint School District, Shawano School District, Walworth J1 School District.

## American Rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) Grants

In Summer 2021, DPI conducted a grant competition for ARP-HCY Part I funds. In August, DPI distributed approximately \$1.9 million in ARP-HCY Part I funding to 49 districts.

In Fall 2021, DPI will distribute approximately \$5.7 million to districts in ARP-HCY Part II funds. Grant allocations will be determined by a formula based on the number of children and youth experiencing homelessness identified by the LEA and the amount of Title I-A funds the LEA receives. ARP-HCY Part II funds are specifically to be used to support students experiencing homelessness.

A unique requirement of ARP-HCY Part II is that all districts with an allocation under \$5,000 will be required to join consortia to receive funding. This will be a requirement for a significant number of districts. If your LEA has a small number of students identified as experiencing homelessness, please start thinking about how joining a consortium could look and what the funds could be used for to make the most impact for students.

More information regarding the ARP-HCY Part II funds will be available this fall. Please see the DPI ARP-HCY webpage for more information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy>; and this resource from SchoolHouse Connection: [How to Use ARPA Education Funds to Identify and Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#).

**A PDF of this eBrief is available on the [DPI EHCY Webpage](#)**

A Newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,  
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