



Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Communications September 2024

Welcome to the new school year! The EHCY team at DPI is Kristine Nadolski, the EHCY State Coordinator, and Clara Pfeiffer, EHCY Grants Specialist. Please reach out to us at any time! Email is the best way to contact us, but you can also schedule a call with Kristine using this link: [Schedule a meeting with Kristine](#) or Clara using this link: [Schedule a meeting with Clara](#) (for budget or monitoring questions). Thank you for your dedication to youth experiencing homelessness!

Tips for the start of the school year

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, local education agencies (LEAs) have the responsibility to identify a homeless liaison who will assist students experiencing homelessness. The following are requirements and best practices for homeless liaisons at the beginning of the year:

- Students should not automatically be identified as homeless for the new school year if they experienced homelessness last year. Contact each family/youth who was in a homeless situation at the end of the 2023-24 school year to discuss their current living situation to determine eligibility for the 2024-25 school year.
- Identify new students enrolling in the district that are eligible for services under McKinney-Vento. The district's enrollment process should include a way for families to self-identify as experiencing homelessness (sometimes referred to as a residency questionnaire). The DPI homeless website has [sample forms](#) to help with the enrollment and identification process.
- Train **all** staff in your district on McKinney-Vento and the process to refer students to the homeless liaison. 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 McKinney-Vento. You can choose the best way to meet this requirement which could include a [short video](#) or [training module](#) from the [DPI EHCY training webpage](#) or the SchoolHouse Connection [tools and resources page](#) and [awareness and training page](#).
- The beginning of the year is a good time to review district procedures to remove barriers and ensure proper identification of students experiencing homelessness.

Update Homeless Liaison contact information

Many districts have new staff and may have identified a new homeless liaison for this year. Please follow the instructions on this page to update the homeless liaison contact information in the school directory application for your district as soon as possible:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/liaisons>.

ARP-Homeless Children and Youth grant funds expiring September 30!

The ARP-HCY Part I and Part II grant funds can be used until September 30th! This means your district can pay for staff time, transportation, emergency hotel stays, and other services through September 30th. Your district can also purchase items that will be used after September 30th, such as clothing, hygiene supplies, and school supplies.

To help districts plan for using these funds, the EHCY team is offering **ARP-HCY Office Hours** the whole month of September:

[Join Teams Meeting](#), Meeting ID: 281 405 247 817, Passcode: mrmAWn

August 29, 11:00-12:00

September 4, 3:00-4:00

September 10, 9:00-10:00

September 16, 12:00-1:00

September 24, 1:00-2:00

If you have questions about ARP-HCY funds at any time, visit: <https://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/arp-hcy> or email Clara, clara.pfeiffer@dpi.wi.gov, or [schedule a call with Clara](#).

Upcoming Trainings and Connection Opportunities

All 2024-25 training opportunities and monthly Lunch Time Live connections are scheduled and can be viewed here – [DPI EHCY Virtual Events/Trainings Calendar](#).

Save The Date! New Homeless Liaison training, October 23, 2024

Instead of the virtual conference held last year, DPI is holding a one-day free virtual training aimed at supporting homeless liaisons who are new to the role. The training is also open to all staff, including support staff, administration, and staff directly supporting students experiencing homelessness. The training will include an overview of the McKinney-Vento Act, information on the role of the homeless liaison, a panel of “veteran” homeless liaisons and more. You can register here: <https://forms.gle/PtphroP1cyFoVy6b7>.

Lunch Time Live Connections

The DPI EHCY Team will be continuing the monthly Lunch Time Live connections this year. This is an optional opportunity to connect with liaisons and staff across the state to share best practices in supporting children and youth experiencing homelessness. Here are the first few dates to save:

September 17, 11:30 a.m.

October 10, 11:30 a.m.

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

<https://widpi.zoom.us/j/89616036146?pwd=d3h6NHhNN1U5M1pBbnZKVDNGUXNoZz09>

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

The annual NAEHCY conference will be held in-person in Orlando, FL (there is also a virtual option) from November 16-19, 2024. 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 to address current issues and best practices in homeless education. We highly encourage homeless liaisons to participate if able, you can even pay for the registration using ARP-HCY funds! Find more information about the conference on the [2024 NAEHCY Conference website](#).

Communication Sign Up

If you know of others who would like to receive communication about supporting students experiencing homelessness, please share [this link](#) so they can be added to this email communications list.

Resources

[DPI EHCY website](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)

[SchoolHouse Connection](#)

Contacts

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