McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Subgrantee Programs

2010-2013

The 2010-2013 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education grant cycle includes seventeen subgrantee projects throughout the state. These school districts and BOCES implement programs, initiatives and resources to address the barriers faced by homeless children and youth in accessing and succeeding in school.

Adams 12

The primary objectives of the Adams 12 Homeless Assistance Program is to quickly identify students experiencing homelessness, to provide needed academic interventions to increase achievement of students identified as homeless, and to continue to form partnerships with community agencies and groups that support students and families experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Assistance Program will continue to provide support to students experiencing homelessness with transportation support to and from their school of origin.

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Adams County School District 14

Through McKinney-Vento funding, Adams 14’s Homeless Liaison provides vital services to the district’s homeless students, which make up about 10 percent of the total student population (1,050).

The liaison meets with homeless students and their families and provides not only immediate services, but also provides information regarding their rights and serves as the liaison between families and District personnel.

The district has been able to provide one-on-one support to students experiencing homelessness in Adams 14 through identification and assessment of individual needs. The HOPE Family Resource Center is a community-supported initiative that operates out of the first floor of the Adams 14 administration building and offers food, clothing, school supplies, uniforms and other basic living resources for families. The HOPE Center also provides families with referral sources that promote long-term self-sufficiency for families experiencing homelessness.

In the HOPE Center, the liaison helps families with court documents, TANF, food stamps, identifying motel vouchers, furniture referrals, rental assistance and other immediate needs. Families can also use the HOPE Center’s showers, and washer and dryer.

The liaison has also worked to distribute fliers and booklets for each of the schools in Adams 14, in both English and Spanish, which help school-level personnel, interact with students and families experiencing homelessness in a respectful and supportive way. The liaison continues to strengthen her interactions with school-level personnel so that the identification, enrollment and services provided are all streamlined for effectiveness and efficiency.

Ongoing records of each student who is identified as homeless through the student enrollment form are housed on Infinite Campus.

The district also supports the liaison’s collaborative work with homeless liaisons from other counties and school districts, as well as with local community partners.

Adams 14’s primary objectives are to increase academic achievement of students experiencing homelessness, streamline individual needs assessments of students experiencing homelessness and provide more families with resources available to them because of their homeless status.

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Adams County School District 50

The mission of the Adams 50 Title X program is to provide homeless families and unaccompanied homeless youth with educational and social support advocacy through community and educational collaboration; to increase student access to quality academic and literacy programs; and to provide quality training that pertains to Title X provisions under No Child Left Behind and McKinney-Vento Legislation.

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“The McKinney-Vento Program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school”, (US Department of Education, The McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance, 2004, p. 2).  To ensure that our program focuses mainly on the barriers in the school environment, Aurora Public Schools’ program is designed to address the three needs mention above.  The three critical needs reflect that a school must provide a higher level of support to ensure equal access for a homeless student.   To ensure that these three needs are addressed effectively, the Aurora Public Schools will focus on the two McKinney goals:

Goal #1: to provide educational and social support for homeless students, preschool through 12th grade, to assist them in meeting the same academic performance as all students.

Goal #2: to remove barriers and to develop policies, procedures and systems, which support enrollment, retention and success of homeless children and youth.

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Boulder Valley School District

BVSD has two McKinney-Vento Liaisons at the district level who are responsible for creating, maintaining and improving systems to identify and enroll homeless students and for ensuring that children receive necessary meal subsidy and transportation supports, removing other barriers to attendance at school, providing advocacy for the child and family with schools and partner agencies, and making appropriate referrals for services, both within the school district and the community.   District staff has a daily responsibility for one-to-one outreach to homeless families, for developing and maintaining relationships with community agencies offering services and collaborative programs as well as supporting a team of McKinney-Vento School Liaisons (a principal appointed position – one for each of our 58 schools). The program serves all children enrolled in district schools, preschool through grade 12.

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Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (CBOCES) + 16 partner districts

The Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services (CBOCES) Project Assistance, Support & Services Impacting Students in Transition (ASSIST) / Proyecto ASISTENCIA strives to ensure educational access, school stability and academic success for students experiencing homelessness. Services are offered to pre-K-12th grade / out of school youth in our 21 partnering districts throughout the north eastern quadrant of Colorado.  Additionally, migrant agricultural students enrolled in the Migrant Education Program (MEP) in 33 school districts, are also served by this grant. Project ASSIST builds upon existing collaborations with MEP, Title I Part A and III, Special Education (SPED), School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP), local school districts, Head Start, regional higher education intuitions and community and faith based service agencies to address the needs of students, families, and educators. Our program focuses on enrollment and retention in school, and ultimately academic success. To accomplish this, our program is tailored to the development of school district systems effectively serving students experiencing housing insecurity by addressing the following areas: professional development of all school staff, consultation for key members, collaboration with community service providers, and solution focused problem solving with students in transition as they confront educational and social barriers.

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Denver Public Schools, Educational Outreach Program

The Educational Outreach Program (EOP) supports students experiencing homelessness in Denver Public Schools in breaking the cycle of poverty through education.  EOP removes barriers preventing homeless children from receiving educational opportunities.  We are a large and well defined Title X Program with a high level of collaboration and support from the DPS Title I Department, district-wide services, departments and community agencies. We offer comprehensive supports in areas that have been highlighted by Title X McKinney-Vento. Our program focuses on two main areas:  School Readiness and Student Success.  School readiness encompasses enrollment assistance and best interest educational decision making, transportation assistance, school supplies, clothing, payment of school fees, tutoring, parent and community outreach, after school programs and other essential needs. Student success incorporates rewards and incentives, mentoring, goal setting, tutoring and case management to students at risk of dropping out, poor attendance, or students that are trying to reengage with school.

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Fountain-Fort Carson School District Eight

El Paso County School District Eight supports over 300 children and youth in grades pre K-12 that will experience homelessness. The program will ensure timely identification and enrollment of homeless students and the provision of essential educational services to include free school meals, transportation assistance, universal academic assessments, supplemental academic interventions, referrals to community-based social service agencies & faith-based organizations, and provision of educational materials and supports not available through other means. Ongoing program activities include awareness training and collaboration with community partners to address family needs for food, clothing, physical & mental health care, employment & housing.

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Greeley Evans School District 6 (Weld County)

The Families in Transition program collaborates with all school district programs and community agencies to provide school supplies, backpacks, transportation, school uniforms, free breakfasts/lunches, non-uniform clothes, weekend food packs, payment for school fees, FAFSA verifications, problem solving, and referral information to all qualified students and families.  The intent of the program is to remove all barriers that exist for a homeless family to receive information and resources that will provide a quality educational setting for the students.

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Jefferson County Public Schools

The Jeffco Schools Homeless Services program provides comprehensive support to students experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County through identification and assessment of individual need. The mission of the Homeless Services Program is to foster quality education by providing one-on-one assistance with basic needs, prompting close working relationships between families and school district personnel, and encouraging collaboration between the school district and community agencies.

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Mesa County Valley School District 51

We are the REACH Program, which stands for Resources, Education and Advocacy for Children who are Homeless. We have a unique structure that allows us to serve our families. We have a coordinator and three full time advocates. The advocates are assigned to specific schools and they work directly with the family from the time a referral is made. Any person or agency can make a referral to us. The advocate begins to plug the family into the agencies that can help them to meet their non-school related needs. The advocate ensures that all school-related needs are met. Together with the family, school, advocate, outside agencies, business and community support, we are able to meet most immediate needs so we can keep kids in school. Our purpose is to address those barriers that cause a child to be highly mobile and at greater risk of academic, social and emotional difficulties.

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Mountain Valley School Re-1

Mountain Valley School provides academic services for homeless students in the form of tutoring with AmeriCorps members in the community, as well as after school programs.  Identified students’ needs are met through funding for medical, dental, hygiene and fees in order to participate in school activities.  School activities include clubs like, Future Business Leaders of America, Knowledge Bowl, 4-H, and sports teams.  Saguache County Department of Social Services, Victims Advocate Team and many of the local churches collaborate with the homeless liaison to provide services for identified students.

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Poudre School District

The Title X program will serve preschool through fifth graders with direct tutoring and mentoring during the school day.  It will also provide some students with wrap-around, in-school child care so families have a bridge time between school hours and their transportation.  The grant will also serve middle school and high school students at high needs secondary schools that use the grant for partial funding of after school tutoring and enrichment activities.

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Pueblo City School District 60

The Title X Program in Pueblo has identified approximately 1, 906 Title X students within Pueblo City Schools (PCS).  The focus of our program is to provide support in the areas of tutoring/mentoring, backpacks, schools supplies, school uniforms, clothing, transportation, personal hygiene supplies, and referrals for medical and mental health services.  Support is given to remove all educational barriers.   Student academic and athletic fees are also waived to ensure equal access to education and extracurricular activities.  PCS school personnel and administrators are trained yearly using our onsite professional development and in services regarding the laws of the McKinney Vento Act and receive direct assistance with the annual homeless count to ensure accuracy in identification of homeless students.  Strengths of the program include consistency, stability, structured individual attention from Title X staff, and compassion for each student.  Title X also coordinates and collaborates within the school district and with outside agencies to ensure all the students’ needs are met.

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San Luis Valley BOCES

The San Luis Valley BOCES project endeavors to make sure the McKinney-Vento eligible students are as academically successful as their peers. To that end, project activities will target the education of school district personnel on the rules, requirements, available services and identification of homeless students in the San Luis Valley.  Collaborations with the Migrant Education Program, Special Education Department, Title 1A schools and community agencies will assist the participating school districts in the SLV-BOCES in meeting the educational, social and health needs of homeless students preschool through grade 12.  Project activities include: formalizing BOCES homeless student policy; training school district personnel and community agencies on enrollment, eligibility requirements and allowable McKinney-Vento services; establishing on-going monitoring of homeless student achievement and attendance and development of community resources booklet encompassing available services in the San Luis Valley.

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Sheridan School District #2

Our program is set up to identify students meeting the McKinney-Vento Act; remove barriers for their enrollment and improve access to the best education possible. To do this we collaborate with community agencies and families to access resources, from food to housing, so that our students may focus on getting a successful education. As part of this we stock and run our own clothing bank to help meet our community’s needs.

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St Vrain Valley RE-1J

The Homeless Education program at St. Vrain Valley School District empowers students to succeed academically, socially and emotionally through collaboration of students, families, school and community. The Homeless Education Program strives to remove barriers to education and promote the well-being of homeless students. The Homeless Education Liaison is available to assist with a multitude of issues including: enrollment, free lunch, transportation, school supplies, after school programs, summer school, school activities and individual student and family support. The program operates as a resource for students, families’ schools and the community.

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