



McKinney-Vento Updates – April 2025

Request for Applications Closes April 23, 2025

The Education of Homeless Children and Youth Grant Program application is **due, Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 4:00pm**. The intent of EHCY awarded through the CDE is to increase access to school and school activities, offer the opportunity for greater stability and engagement in school, and provide wraparound services to offset the barriers created by housing instability and homelessness.

Applicants will be asked to frame their strategies, activities and performance measures around the following focus areas:

1. Attendance
2. School Stability
3. School Day Engagement
4. Academic Progress

A webinar to learn more about the application and ask your questions will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 2-3:00pm.

[Register Here.](#) For more information please visit the CDE, [McKinney-Vento website](#).

Highly Mobile Student Peer-to-Peer Conversation

The April 8, 2025, Highly Mobile Student Peer-to-Peer Conversation will focus on the topic of summer services for highly mobile students. We will hear about services available for highly mobile students and families through the summer months from our state level partners and give small groups the chance to share their plans and ideas for continuing outreach, identification and connection to services over the summer months. Please use [following link to join](#) from 11:30am -12:30pm.

EmpowerEd 2025-2026 Application Open

The [2025-2026 EmpowerEd Application](#) is now open! If a student graduated after October 2024, they are required to submit the [2025-2026 EmpowerEd Student Verification Form](#) containing a signature from their graduating district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison with their 2025-2026 EmpowerEd application. Please note that only this version of this verification form will be accepted as proof of a recent graduate's McKinney-Vento eligibility. Students who graduated prior to October 2024 do not need to submit a verification form, as our team should be able to verify their eligible McKinney-Vento status through CDE's graduate student data.

EmpowerEd Appeal Process

The EmpowerEd team has implemented a new appeal process for the 2025-2026 school year. Once a student receives notification that their EmpowerEd application has been denied, they will have the opportunity to submit an appeal to the decision. Students can submit an appeal by completing the [2025-2026 EmpowerEd Appeal Verification Form](#) and having it signed by their graduating district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison, then submitting the completed Appeal Verification Form with the [2025-2026 EmpowerEd Appeal Application](#). The EmpowerEd Appeal Verification Form will require a record review verified by the MKV liaison. We won't be asking for proof of these eligibility records at this time, but they may be submitted along with the verification form to strengthen the student's case. As long as the district is able to produce them in case of an audit, just the signed Appeal Verification form is sufficient. **For questions regarding EmpowerEd, please reach out to our Postsecondary Options Navigator team at eenavigator@dhe.state.co.us.**

Summer EBT

Summer EBT is a new program that provides nutritious food to eligible students in the summer months when they are not in school. Students who may be eligible for Summer EBT include:

- Those who qualify for free or reduced-price meals while attending a school participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program
- Those who are receiving other assistance benefits, including [SNAP](#) and [Colorado Works](#). You may qualify through [Medicaid](#) if your income is within the National School Lunch guidelines.

Find the Summer EBT application for 2025 benefits on the [PEAK website](#).

***New* Collaborative Early Childhood Resources**

After months of dedicated collaboration, SchoolHouse Connection and their partners [Housing Is](#), [Prevent Child Abuse America](#), and [ZERO TO THREE](#), the new [Thrive From The Start](#) website has launched. Thrive From the Start is a cross-sector effort dedicated to addressing homelessness among infants and toddlers as well as expectant parents. Together, we're ensuring that babies and their families have access to safe, stable, and nurturing support.