

McKinney-Vento in Early Childhood



Supporting Young Children in Temporary Housing

- Presented By: NYS TEACHS
- Thursday, March 24, 2022
 - 9:30am - 11:00am



NYS TEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational
Assistance Center for Homeless Students



MEASUREMENT
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Webinar Norms



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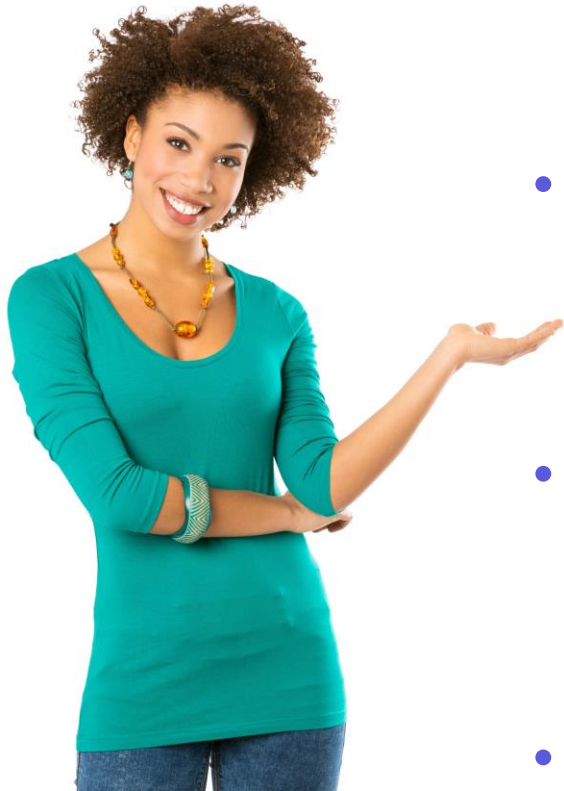


The in-webinar chat will allow you to communicate with the panelists and the host only.



For questions, please email Rita Danis at RDanis@measinc.com. She will get back to you as soon as she is able.

Housekeeping



- We will launch poll questions periodically throughout the session and there will be opportunities to share your thinking in the chat.
- We won't be able to answer questions about specific situations in the chat, but we welcome you to call the Help Line to discuss these issues at 800-388-2014.
- The Help Line is open 24 hours a day. Specialists are available from 9:00am – 5:00pm. If you leave a message, you will be called back by the next business day.
- Following today's webinar, today's recorded session, attachments, and Q&As will be posted/accessible online.

Who Is In The Room?

Are you a...

- New McKinney-Vento Liaison (1st Year)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (2-4 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (5 – 9 years)
- McKinney-Vento Liaison (10 + years)
- UPK/Preschool Staff
- Head Start/Early Head Start Staff
- CPSE/CSE Staff
- Other School/District Staff



Which region are you from?

- * Western
- * Finger Lakes
- * Central
- * Southern Tier
- * Mohawk Valley
- * Capital
- * Hudson Valley
- * New York City
- * Long Island
- * North Country

Session Outcomes



By the end of today's webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify key provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act as it pertains to the rights of young children.
- Gain knowledge about the importance of early childhood education for children experiencing temporary housing.
- Determine eligibility and benefits for preschool students based on the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Access resources for preschool children and their families who are experiencing housing.

Today's Agenda



Welcome/Who is in the Room?



McKinney-Vento Supports Preschoolers



Implications for Preschoolers



Types of Early Childhood Programs



Early Childhood Partnerships



Summary, Survey and Resources

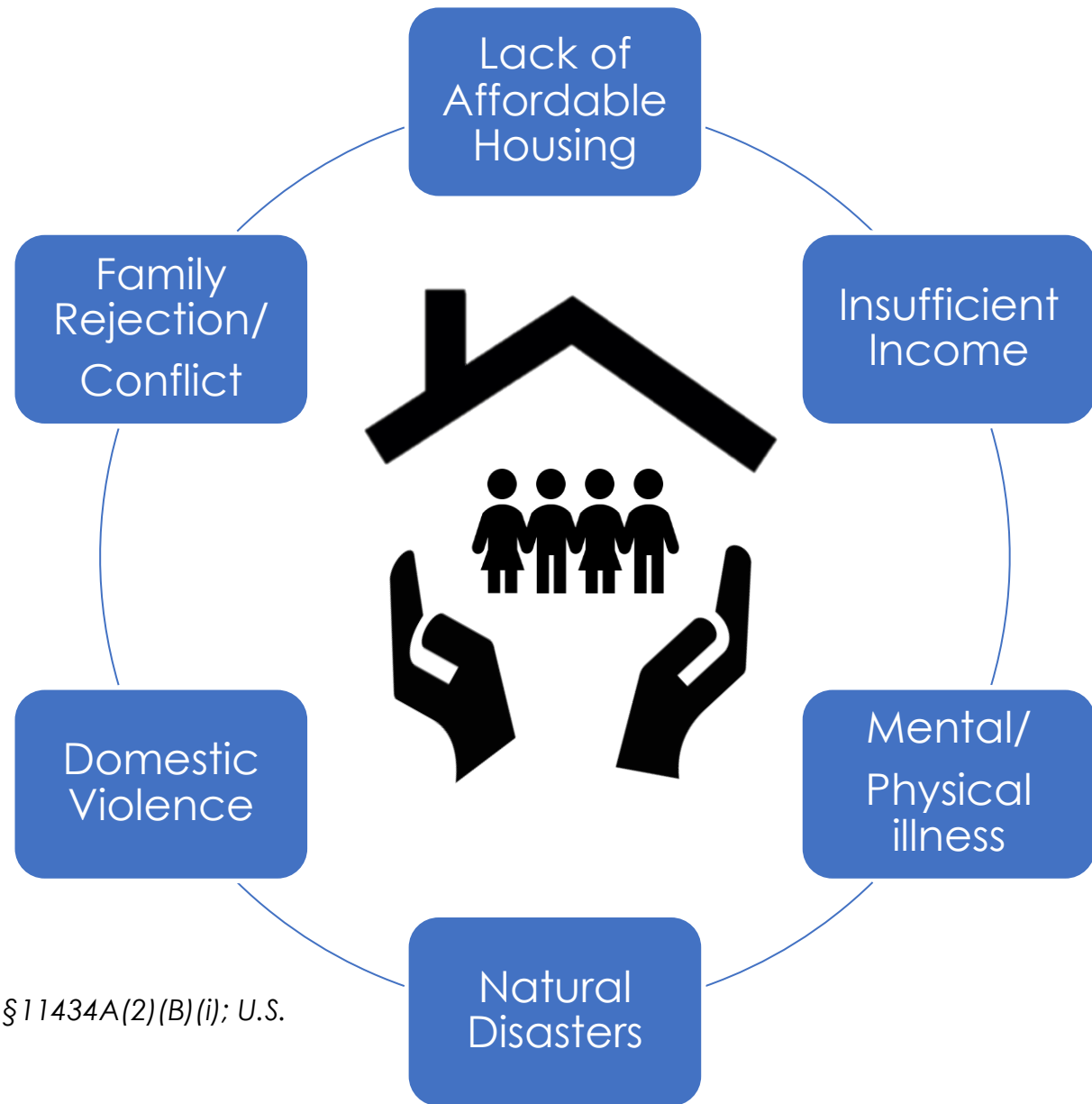
Supporting Young Children



What are the benefits of a high-quality preschool program?



Possible Causes of Homelessness



Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i); U.S.

Federal Data on Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Early Childhood Homelessness

Children under age 6

Total population²

23,940,178

Estimated number experiencing homelessness³

1,313,152

or

1 in 18 children

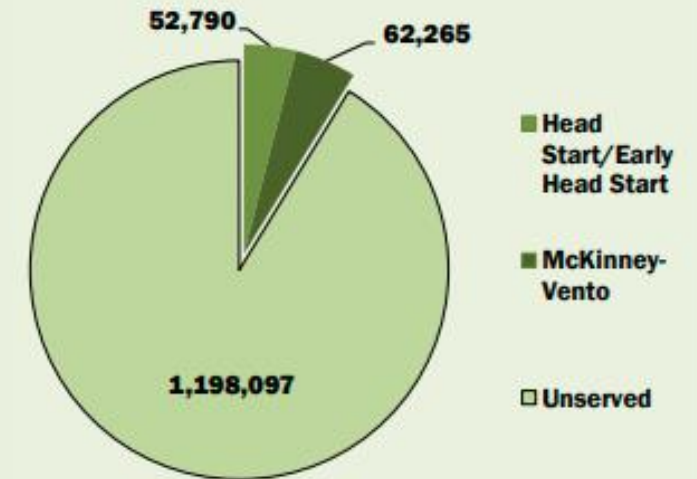


Early Childhood Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Children under age 6 experiencing homelessness

9% served by Head Start/Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento funded ECE programs in 2017⁵

National



New York Data on Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Early Childhood Homelessness

Children under age 6

Total population²

1,394,622

Estimated number experiencing homelessness³

143,743

or

1 in 10 children

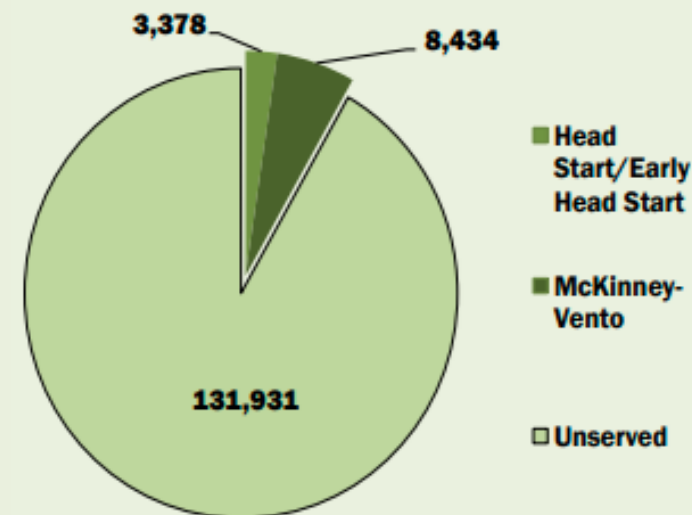


Early Childhood Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Children under age 6 experiencing homelessness

8% served by Head Start/Early Head Start or McKinney-Vento funded ECE programs in 2017⁵

New York



NYSTEACHS.org

The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students



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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Act, reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, applies to homeless children attending LEA-administered preschools.

42 USC §11432(g)(i)(F)(i); US Dept. of Education (July 2016), Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Non-Regulatory Guidance, N-4.



McKinney-Vento Act: Definition of Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Act states that children and youth who lack “a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” will be considered homeless.



Homelessness: Living Conditions

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in a public or private place not designed for sleeping
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in circumstances described above
- Unaccompanied youth living in circumstances described above

**Awaiting foster care removed from definition as of 12/10/16.*

Education Law §3209(1)(a); 8 NYCRR §100.2(x)(1); see also 42 USC §11434A(2)(B)(i); U.S. DOE's Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question A-2,



Identification

“Remember that under the McKinney-Vento Act, the local liaison is charged with ensuring that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.”

42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A)(i)

Strategies to Identify Temporarily Housed Preschoolers?

McKinney-Vento Liaisons can...

- Identify preschool-aged children that are temporarily housed by working closely with shelters and social service agencies in their area.
- Work with school personnel who can inquire whether the family has preschool-aged children at the time they enroll homeless children and youth in school.
- Collaborate with the school districts special education program.
- Access **Child Find** via your municipality.



Quick Poll #1

Are preschool students covered under McKinney-Vento?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Not Sure



Eligibility

The local liaison serves as the district's lead homeless education contact and is required to fulfill the duties of the position as established in the Act.

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(6)(A)].

While the Act establishes the need for a collaborative approach to identifying eligible students, the local liaison maintains the final authority for making determinations.



School Selection

Local education agencies (LEAs or school districts) must “presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied homeless youth) the youth...”

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)(i), 2001

School Selection for Preschool



1. The school that a child attended when permanently housed.



2. The school where the child was last enrolled.



3. The child's new local and publicly-funded preschool.

N.Y. Education Law § 3209(1)(i)
42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(I)(i); 42 U.S.C. § 1432(g)(6)(A)(iii)

Preschool Scenario



Isaiah and his mom were permanently housed in the Freeport SD, where Isaiah attended a preschool program. They later became displaced and are now living in temporary housing in the Hempstead SD. Isaiah's mom wants to keep Isaiah in a preschool program. Where can she enroll him?

- A.** The school Isaiah attended when permanently housed – Freeport SD.
- B.** The school where Isaiah was last enrolled – Freeport SD
- C.** Isaiah's new local District administered preschool – Hempstead SD.



Transportation

The McKinney-Vento Act states that “(iii) The State and the local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin...”

42 USC 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii).

Transportation Options

What are some common modes of transportation for young children?

- Yellow bus
- Approved van / taxi services
- Reimbursement for gas/mileage
- Bus route shared with neighboring school district, BOCES, or counties



Transportation for Eligible Preschoolers

- Preschools have been added to the school of origin definition by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), meaning that **transportation to a preschool of origin is now required**, as long as remaining in that preschool is in the child's best interest. This is true even if the school district does not otherwise provide preschool transportation.
- If a preschooler becomes homeless, and continues to attend the preschool of origin, **transportation is required** with appropriate car seats/restraints as per NYS laws.
- If that preschooler then moves into permanent housing, the child can remain in the preschool of origin for the remainder of the academic year, and **transportation is required**.

Transportation for Eligible Preschoolers



Students experiencing homelessness, including preschoolers, are entitled to transportation to the school of origin.



Preschoolers are entitled to transportation to the school of origin even if transportation is not provided to permanently housed children who attend the same program.



Preschoolers who move into permanent housing are entitled to transportation throughout the remainder of the school year.



42 USC § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii), 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II); Education Law § 3209(1), 3209(2)(c), 3209(2)(d), 3209(4)(i); 8 NYCRR §§ 100.2(x)(2), 100.2(x)(6)(iv); Non-Regulatory Guidance, Question J-5.

Let's Talk About It

What impact does living in temporary housing have on young children?

Please respond in the chat.



Impact on Young Children

Young Children in Temporary Housing exhibit delays in:

- Language,
 - Literacy,
 - Social –Emotional development,
- and may be at more risk for later academic problems.

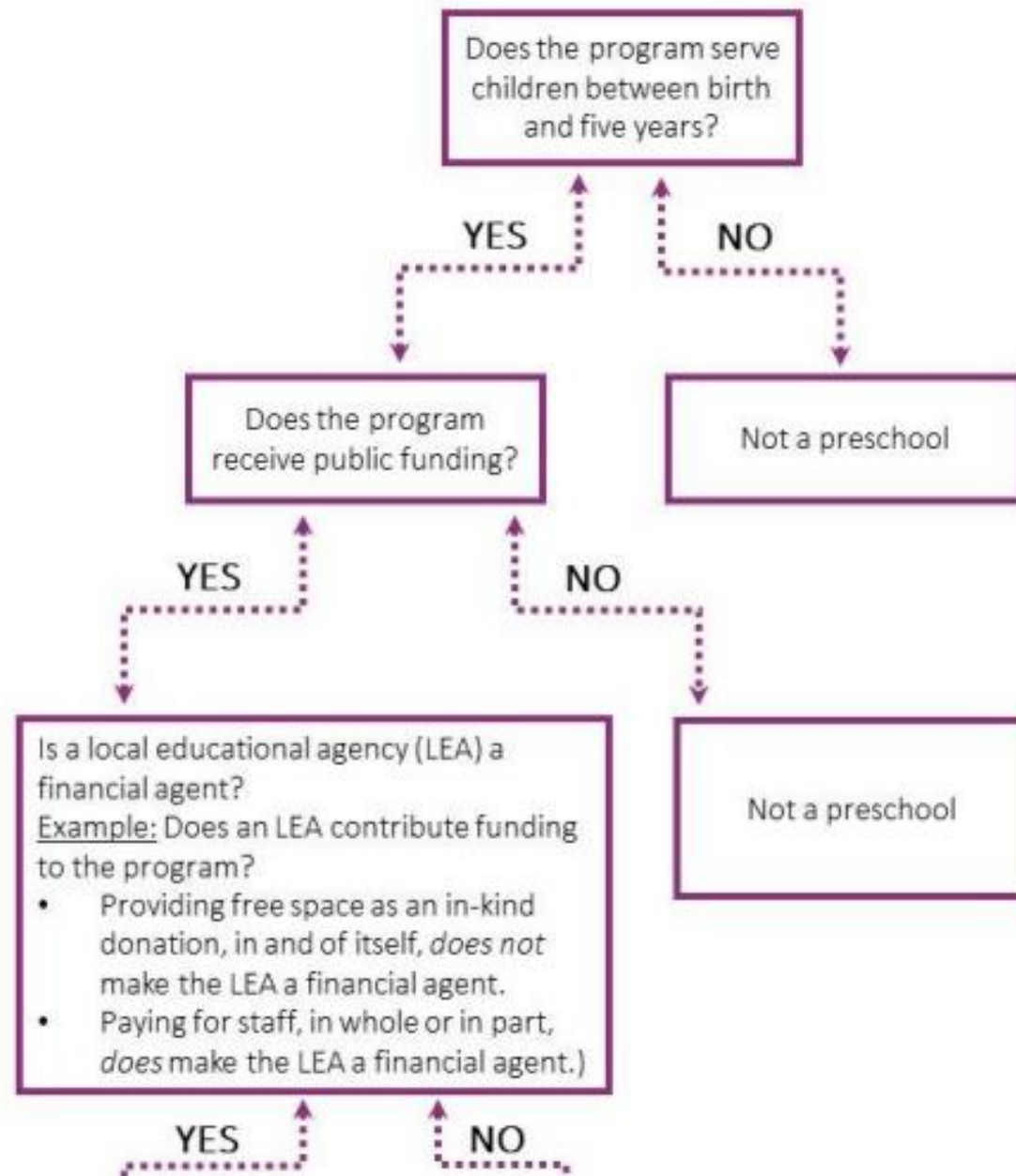


Is My Early Childhood Program a McKinney-Vento Preschool: Meeting the ESSA Definition

- Preschool programs operated or administered by an LEA
- Head Start programs receiving funding from an LEA or for which an LEA receives the grant
- Preschool special education services operated or funded by the LEA or mandated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Preschool programs funded by the LEA through use of Title 1 or similar government grants

Source: [SchoolHouse Connection "Is My Early Childhood Program a McKinney-Vento Preschool?"](#)

Is My Early Childhood Program a McKinney-Vento Preschool?



Is My Early Childhood Program a McKinney-Vento Preschool?

Do all children completing the preschool program automatically feed into a designated elementary school for kindergarten?

YES

NO

This **IS** a feeder school, and children have the right to attend kindergarten in the designated elementary school as their school of origin.

Not a feeder school

Do children completing the preschool attend many different elementary schools for kindergarten, based on factors such as residence or a lottery, rather than based on where they attended preschool?

YES

NO

Eligibility Scenario

Antonio (age 4) and his brother (3rd grade) have been living with their uncle after broken pipes damaged their family home last month.

They were grateful that relatives were willing to take them in, but the house is not large enough for both families to live comfortably, creating a tense living situation. Antonio and his brother sleep on the living room floor in sleeping bags.

Would Antonio and his brother be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not Sure



New York State Child Care Coordinating Council (NYSCCCC) Affiliates: Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) programs have three major purposes:

1. Provide information and referral services to families seeking early care and education programming for their children (special emphasis on low-income families),
2. Provide technical assistance to individuals and organization seeking to develop early care and education programs,
3. Provide training and educational opportunities for programs and individuals.

[Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies | Division of Child Care Services | OCFS \(ny.gov\)](#)



Quick Poll #2

Is a preschooler with an IEP eligible to stay in their program if they experience temporary housing?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Not Sure

Types of Early Childhood Programs

- Early Intervention
- Preschool Special Education
- NYS Funded Universal Pre-kindergarten
- Head Start

Services for Young Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities

The **Early Intervention Program** is governed by the NYS Department of Health and is federally funded via IDEA which exists for infants and toddlers, from newborns to three years old, who have a confirmed disability or developmental delay.



Referrals are handled by each municipality and eligibility for the EIP is contingent upon certain criteria.

Children and their families in the EIP may continue to receive their EI services if they are in temporary housing but must coordinate with their Early Intervention Official/Designee and Service Coordinator, as service providers may not be available to commute to the new location with their caseload.

Services for Young Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities

The **Preschool Special Education Program** is for children ages 3 to 5 years old and is governed by the NYSED similarly to K-12 special education

Referrals to the program are handled by the school district and the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE).

The municipality is a part of the CPSE and is responsible for establishing transportation for those eligible.

Students may receive related services in their home/daycare/preschool settings and/or may be approved to attend a special class, as is specified on the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Children attending a UPK, Head Start, or Special Education Class who experience temporary housing would work with their school district and/or county to obtain McKinney Vento services.

NYS Funded Universal Pre-Kindergarten

- Program goals include creating high quality full day pre-kindergarten programs that assist children in developing language and communication skills; promoting early literacy skills and critical thinking; and fostering the requisite social and emotional development and motor skills necessary for school success.
- Designed to assure that the pre-kindergarten content is aligned with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards and connected to the kindergarten and early elementary curricula.
- Some districts offer half days. Some state funding has been allocated for half and full day UPK for three-year-old children.

Head Start & Early Head Start Programs

- Free, federally funded programs designed to promote school readiness for children from low-income families.
- Early Head Start serves pregnant women and families with children under the age of 3.
- Head Start programs serve children between the ages of 3 and 5 years old.



Serving Children in Temporary Housing



Serving Children in Temporary Housing A Tip Sheet for Head Start Programs

Did you know? Children in temporary housing are half as likely to participate in early childhood education

Which children are considered temporarily housed (homeless)?

- Children are considered temporarily housed or homeless if they are living:
 - With another family or other person because of a loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (also called temporarily living "**doubled-up**");
 - In a **shelter**;
 - In a hotel or motel; or
 - In a car, park, bus or train station, or campsite.
- For more examples of homeless situations under the McKinney-Vento Act, see <https://nysteachs.org/topics/mckinney-vento-eligibility/>

What protections do children in temporary housing have?

- **All are eligible and entitled to priority enrollment.** All children living in temporary housing are eligible for Head Start and don't have to prove income eligibility. Also, they must receive priority enrollment, such as preferred access to available slots and preferential placement on waiting lists (see below for more ideas).
- **Enrollment without records.** At the time of enrollment, families are not required to provide:
 - proof of immunization records (parents have up to 14 days or 30 days if they are coming from out-of-state to get the records under Public Health Law 2164(7)(a)),
 - proof of residency/address,
 - birth certificates/proof of age, or other documentation,
 - medical statement/physical (the program should submit a waiver OCFs Form 4887, https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/Forms/Day_Care/NewForms/OCFS-4887%20Request%20for%20Waiver.dot, see instructions in OCFs Policy Statement #17-1, <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/policies/17-1.pdf>).Programs must give families a reasonable amount of time to hand in these documents and allow children to enroll in the meantime.
- **Transportation.** If a child is enrolled in a Head Start administered by a school district and becomes homeless, the school district must transport the child back to the Head Start. **NYC:** Parents can get a free MetroCard to take their children to Head Start. Contact the NYC Department of Education's Students in Temporary Housing Program: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/special-situations/students-in-temporary-housing>.

What should Head Start programs do to recruit children in temporary housing (homeless)?

- **Step 1. Conduct outreach to:**
 - **McKinney-Vento Liaisons** in the local school districts. For contact information, see <https://nysteachs.org/lea-liaisons/>. The liaisons can refer younger siblings of school-age children in temporary housing and give you other ideas about how to reach families in temporary housing.

Tip Sheet for Head Start Programs

Temporarily housed children are categorically eligible for Head Start, and Head Start programs must prioritize children who are homeless for enrollment.

This “Tip Sheet” has information about how Head Start programs can identify children experiencing homelessness and better connect them with Head Start programs.

The “Tip Sheet” references the template [Housing Questionnaire](#) for Head Start programs, which is an important tool that programs can use to better identify children experiencing homelessness.

[Fillable PDF - Housing Questionnaire \(nysteachs.org\)](#)

Sample Form

Head Start Housing Questionnaire

[Fillable PDF - Housing Questionnaire \(nysteachs.org\)](https://nysteachs.org)

[INSERT NAME AND ADDRESS OF HEAD START PROGRAM/SITE or PROGRAM LETTERHEAD]

HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Child: _____
Last First Middle

Gender: Male Female Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Address: _____ Phone: _____

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Children who are living in temporary housing can enroll in and begin attending Head Start programs right away, **even if they don't have the documents normally needed** for enrollment (such as proof of address/residency, immunization records, or birth certificate). Parents of children in temporary housing must be given reasonable time to hand in these documents. In the meantime, the children can enroll and participate in the program. Children who are living in temporary housing also get **priority for enrollment**.

The answer you give below will help the Head Start program determine whether your child is in temporary housing and eligible for these benefits.

The answer you give will be kept confidential as much as possible and will only be shared with staff providing services to your child and those who have to keep track of how many children in the Head Start program are in temporary housing.

Where is your child currently living? (Please check one box.)

- With another family or other person because of a loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason (also called temporarily living "doubled-up")
- In a shelter
- In a hotel or motel
- In a car, park, bus or train station, or campsite
- Other temporary living situation (Please describe): _____
- In permanent housing

Print name of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Sample Form

Head Start Housing Questionnaire pg. 2



INSTRUCTIONS TO HEAD START PROGRAMS Completing the Housing Questionnaire

Talking to Families About the Housing Questionnaire:

Before asking parents to fill out the Housing Questionnaire, Head Start staff should let parents know why they need the information. They should explain that they need the information because children living in temporary housing are eligible for certain benefits. For example, children living in temporary housing:

1. Are eligible for Head Start and don't have to give proof of income
2. Are placed at the top of any Head Start waiting list
3. Can start attending Head Start right away (if a seat is available), even if the family doesn't have all of the documents normally needed (such as birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of address). Parents of children in temporary housing must be given reasonable time to get the program the required documents.

Staff should also let parents know that the child's housing status (whether the child is in temporary housing or not) will be kept confidential as much as possible and will only be shared with staff providing services to the child and those who have to keep track of how many children in the Head Start program are in temporary housing.

Who Should Fill Out the Housing Questionnaire:

A Housing Questionnaire should be filled out for every child applying for a seat in a Head Start program. The Questionnaire should be completed by the child's parent or guardian, with help from Head Start staff if needed.

Housing Arrangements:

Below is an explanation of the different housing arrangements listed on the Housing Questionnaire:

- "With another family or other person... (sometimes called 'doubled-up')": check this box if the child is sharing the housing of others because of loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. Here are some sample questions that can help you figure out if the child is living with another family or other person **because of a loss of housing or economic hardship:**
 - o Loss of housing:
 - Is the family living in someone else's home to avoid being on the street or in another precarious situation?
 - Where would the family live if not sharing someone else's home?
 - Does the family have a legal right to be in the home? Can the family be asked to leave at any time?
 - Did the family lose their previous home because of
 - an eviction or because they couldn't pay the rent, mortgage, and/or other bills?
 - destruction of or damage to their previous home?
 - an inadequate or dangerous environment (for example, infestations, drug or alcohol abuse, domestic violence, or something else unsafe)?
 - o Economic hardship:
 - Has the family or youth been forced to share someone else's housing due to economic hardship caused by an accident or illness, job loss, or loss of public benefits?
 - When a family is sharing the housing of others due to economic hardship, it typically means that the family had to move in temporarily with someone else because they were not able to pay the rent, mortgage, and/or other bills.

[Fillable PDF - Housing Questionnaire \(nysteachs.org\)](https://www.nysteachs.org)



Quick Poll #3

Would the LEA be responsible to provide transportation for a preschooler (age 4) with special needs, so that the student could remain in their special education program?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Not Sure

Preschool Enrollment

What if there is a wait list for preschool enrollment?

The LEA liaison should work with preschool program staff to ensure they understand the importance of their services for children experiencing homelessness and the ways in which a waiting list often creates barriers for homeless families working to enroll their children. Some preschool programs reserve spots in the classroom specifically for children who are homeless.



Pre-K Class Size Variance Request

Pre-K classrooms have a maximum of twenty children per class. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) may grant a class-size variance allowing for an additional student in the classroom if that child is in temporary housing.

For a class-size variance approval the Pre-K program should complete the Pre-K Class Size Variance Request form and email it to the NYSED's Office of Early Learning at oel@nysed.gov.

For more information, see [NYSED Field Memo](#).

Preschool Scenarios

Scenario # 1

Suzanne attended the Albany City SD's UPK in Arbor Hill Elementary School until they moved in with her grandmother in Cohoes after her mother lost her job.

Would Suzanne be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits since she is in UPK?



A. Yes

B. No

C. Not Sure

Scenario # 2

Jonathan is 4 ½ years old and attends an integrated preschool program in Schenectady. He has an IEP and receives speech, occupational therapy and special transportation.

After a house fire, the family moved in with friends in the Mohonasen School District for a few months while their home is being repaired.

Does Jonathan need to transition to a new special education preschool program in district now?



A. Yes

B. No

C. Not Sure

Scenario # 3



As a result of legal action taken by a landlord, a mother and her 4-year-old child were evicted and are doubled up with grandma.

Would this Head Start student be eligible for McKinney-Vento benefits?

- A.** Yes
- B.** No
- C.** Not Sure

Scenario # 4

Gemini is 5-years-old and attends an Integrated Prekindergarten class with related services in Newburgh. Gemini's mother abandoned her and Gemini now resides with her grandmother in Goshen. She received special transportation through the county and her grandmother would like her to remain in the same program.

Would Gemini's grandmother be responsible for providing transportation to the school?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Not Sure



Barriers to Enrollment for Preschoolers

- High mobility
- Lack of transportation
- No available seats
- Lack of awareness
- Need for all-day programs



What other barriers do you think preschoolers in temporary housing face?

Partnerships

- New York State Child Care Coordinating Council (NYSCCCC)
Affiliates: Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)
Agencies
- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Public Health Departments
- Special Education Program Providers
- Early Childhood Programs
- Local Shelters
- Department of Social Services



Role of McKinney-Vento Liaisons

In the role of supporting young children, LEA homeless liaisons must:



- ensure that homeless children have access to Head Start and Early Head Start programs, early intervention services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA.

42 USC § 11432(g)(6)(A)(iii).

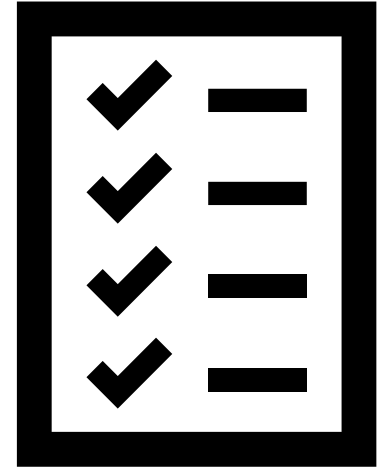
- remove barriers that exist to ensure enrollment, attendance and educational opportunities without gaps or extraordinary “red-tape”

Session Survey

Please take a few moments to complete our survey.

Survey Link:

<https://mi-surveys.com/Webinar-SupportingYoungChildren032422>



We appreciate your feedback! Responses are used in the planning of upcoming Professional Learning sessions.

Resources

More
Information



- [Early Childhood Education | NYSTEACHS](#)
- [Preschool to Prevent Homelessness: Research, Rights, and Resources](#)
- [Early Care and Education Services in New York State for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [N.Y. Education Law Section 3209](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection Is My Early Childhood Program a McKinney-Vento “Preschool?”](#)
- [New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Early Learning Standards Introduction \(nysed.gov\)](#)
- [Planning for High-Quality Prekindergarten Programs \(nysed.gov\)](#)
- [New York State Transportation Information for Children Under 4 \(nysteachs.org\)](#)

Technical and Educational Assistance Center

- **Help Line** (800-388-2014)
- **Website** (<https://nysteachs.org>)
- **Web-Based Trainings**
 - April 14- College Readiness and FAFSA*
 - April 28- Understanding the STAC 202 Policy*
- **Outreach Materials**
 - For outreach materials, email Ailin Mendoza:
amendoza@measinc.com



The New York State Technical and Educational
Assistance Center for Homeless Students