

## **Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

**What is the McKinney Vento Act?** The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110, Subtitle B) was enacted to make sure homeless youth have access to appropriate education while removing barriers that homeless children face. The Act defines the term “homeless children and youths” as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Its goal is to minimize interruptions to the education of homeless youth and remove any barriers to school enrollment, education, nutrition, transportation, and participation in extra curricular activities. CCTI is committed to working collaboratively with families and local agencies to support homeless youth in our school community.

### **CCTI’s Homeless Liaison Contact Information**

Christine Trovato  
[ctrovato@carboncti.org](mailto:ctrovato@carboncti.org)  
(570) 325-3682 ext. 1509

### **Regional Contact Information**

Jeff Zimmerman, Regional Coordinator  
Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18  
(570) 718-4613  
(570) 301-4990 *cell*  
[jjzimmerman@liu18.org](mailto:jjzimmerman@liu18.org)

### **Helpful Educational and Support Links**

Education for Homeless Children and Youth-  
[http://p2cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_890754/File/ECYEH%20General%20Guide%20\(1\).pdf](http://p2cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_890754/File/ECYEH%20General%20Guide%20(1).pdf)

Rights of Children Experiencing Homelessness-  
<file:///C:/Users/trovato/Desktop/McKinney%20Vento-Homeless%20Liaison/EHCY%20Rights%20of%20Children%20Experiencing%20Homelessness.pdf>

National Center for Homeless Education- <https://nche.ed.gov/>

Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program-  
<https://ecyeh.center-school.org/>

Annual Mandatory Training presentation:

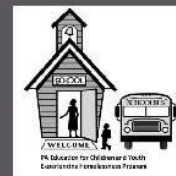
## PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

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ANDY KUHL, COORDINATOR

Children and Youth Experiencing  
Homelessness Have the Right to a Free  
Appropriate Public Education

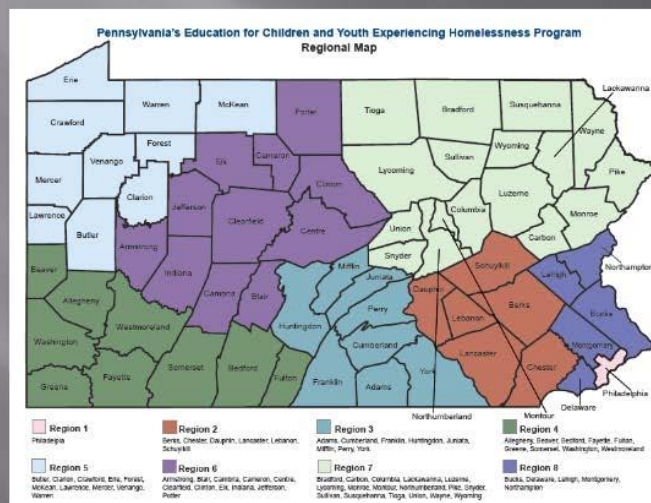
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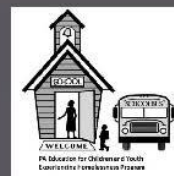
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## The Scale of Homelessness

- ❖ 1, 504, 544 homeless children were enrolled in public schools during the 2017-2018 school year (National Center for Homeless Education).
- ❖ Children make up half of the homeless population nationwide
- ❖ 39,921 homeless children identified by ECYEH program in 2018-2019
- ❖ 3,378 homeless children identified in Region 7 (2018-2019)

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## McKinney - Vento Homeless Act

- ❖ 2015 ESSA reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act originally enacted in 1987. New legislation signed by Barack Obama December 10, 2015
- ❖ Requires educational access, attendance, and success for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Provides states with funding to support statewide initiatives.
- ❖ PA ECYEH program covers 501 school districts, 29 intermediate units, 127 public charter schools, and 53 career-technical schools.
- ❖ Does not include private schools

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## Who is homeless?

❖ An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence

Includes children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing (doubled-up)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailers, or camping grounds
- Living in emergency shelters or transitional housing
- Unaccompanied Youth-Abandoned, Runaways
- Living in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings
- Migratory children (living in circumstances above)

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## How vulnerable are you to becoming homeless?

- ❖ Fire
- ❖ Flood
- ❖ Job Loss
- ❖ Eviction
- ❖ Domestic Violence
- ❖ Accident
- ❖ Illness

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## Unaccompanied Youth

- ❖ Any child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- ❖ Includes runaways, children thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents or separated from parents for any other reason
- ❖ Must fit the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless
- ❖ No age range specified (Upper range determined by state)
- ❖ Temporary surrogate parents must be assigned to unaccompanied youth to make special education decisions if the youth does not have an authorized person

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## Unaccompanied Youth

"The primary responsibility of the schools is to enroll and educate homeless children and youth in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act, which neither authorizes, nor requires schools to make judgments about the validity of why a student is not living with a parent or guardian. Determinations of eligibility should be made on the student's nighttime living arrangement, not the circumstances that caused the student to leave home."

~National Center for Homeless Education

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## Addressing Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

### LEAs must:

- ❖ Set aside Title I funds
- ❖ Ensure immediate enrollment (even if lacking documentation...FERPA)
- ❖ Enroll students in free breakfast and lunch programs
- ❖ Ensure access to instructional support/resources, special education and gifted programs
- ❖ Provide homeless awareness training
- ❖ Alert teachers of a student's living situation (respecting privacy)
- ❖ Know laws pertaining to homeless children and remove barriers

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## Addressing Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

### LEAs must:

- ❖ Provide transportation to and from school of origin
- ❖ Provide access for unaccompanied youth (must enroll without proof of guardianship)
- ❖ Have a dispute resolution procedure
- ❖ Publish homeless information on website, handbook (posters)
- ❖ Provide community resources to homeless families
- ❖ Provide academic remediation and support interventions

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## Homeless Children Characteristics

- Attendance at several schools
- More than one family at the same address
- Attention-seeking behavior
- Hunger and hoarding of food
- Sleeping in class
- Inappropriate dress for weather

Some common statements used by homeless students include:

- "We've moved a lot."
- "We're staying with friends."
- "We're looking for a place."
- "We're going through a bad time now."

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## Difficulties for homeless students

- ❖ Ashamed of where they live
- ❖ Teased by other students about homelessness, hygiene and inabilities
- ❖ Misunderstood by parents
- ❖ Difficulty adjusting to new school
- ❖ No place to do homework
- ❖ Developmental delays augment feelings of failure

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## Challenges for teachers

- ❖ Student attended many different schools with different teaching methods
- ❖ No school records
- ❖ Need to assess educational needs without prior records
- ❖ Student may move soon
- ❖ Other students react negatively
- ❖ Student might have difficulty trusting
- ❖ Inability to contact parents
- ❖ Parents often emotionally unavailable
- ❖ Homework completion can be difficult

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## What the Staff Can Do

- ❖ Make the student feel welcome
- ❖ Make contact with the parents and invite them to participate in school activities
- ❖ Give the child ownership of school space (locker, etc.) and something they can call their own (chore or responsibility)
- ❖ Ensure opportunities to participate in after-school activities and in-school programs
- ❖ Don't bring special attention to the fact they are homeless in front of other children
- ❖ Learn more about conditions from where the family is coming

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## What the Staff Can Do Cont'd.

- ❖ Work closely with staff and administration when behavioral and/or medical needs are observed
- ❖ Be sensitive to needs of homeless children, but maintain consistent, high expectations
- ❖ Be aware homeless students often live in noisy, crowded conditions (tuning out)
- ❖ Try not to take away possessions or Physical Education as a disciplinary measure
- ❖ Be aware some assignments/projects may be difficult for the student (Things involving family, house, internet access, etc.)
- ❖ Communicate with shelter/agency and know community resources

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## What the Staff Can Do Cont'd.

- ❖ Discuss privately with the student what accommodations exist for doing homework and make necessary arrangements
- ❖ Inform liaison of situation (be aware of procedure)
- ❖ Don't penalize students who are being late as they may not have reliable transportation
- ❖ Stabilize the child's basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, medical care, basic hygiene)
- ❖ Administer brief educational assessment to determine level of academic ability

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### Phone Numbers

Human Trafficking 1-888-373-7888

Northeast Migrant Education  
570-490-0663 (David Baird)

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### Contact Information:

Phone Number: 570-718-4613 or 570-718-4697

Email: [jzimmerman@liu18.org](mailto:jzimmerman@liu18.org) or [akuhl@liu18.org](mailto:akuhl@liu18.org)

<http://www.liu18.org/index.php/ecyeh>

<http://www.liu18.org/index.php/esfcy>

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## Mental Health Support Services:

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### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN CARBON COUNTY**

#### **Outpatient Therapy Services:**

Outpatient Therapy Services offer individual and family intervention delivered in a clinic setting. These services may also include group and/or play therapy and medication monitoring.

##### **Ethos Clinic**

428 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lehighton, PA 18235  
610-900-4234

##### **IU#21**

480 Delaware Ave  
Palmerton, PA 18071  
610-769-4111

##### **Behavioral Health Associates**

413 Bridge St  
Weissport, PA 18235  
610-379-9304

##### **Dr. Levinson**

800 Mahoning St C,  
Lehighton, PA 18235  
610-377-9211

##### **St. Luke's (14 and older)**

512 Bank Street  
Bowmanstown, PA 18030  
610-826-1306

##### **Vita Counseling**

3295 Forest Inn Road, Suite 3  
Palmerton, PA 18071  
1-855-826-8482

##### **Redco**

777 Blakeslee Blvd. Dr. E  
Lehighton, PA 18235  
610-377-8525

##### **KidsPeace**

1151 Pocono Blvd. Suite 2  
Mount Pocono, PA 18344  
570-243-8787

#### **Student Assistance Program (SAP):**

The Student Assistance Program identifies students with possible mental health/drug and alcohol problems and provides intervention via a screening. School based services are available paying particular attention to support, aftercare, and re-entry. A SAP contact person is available within all districts at the elementary, middle and high school level.

##### **SAP Mental Health Liaison for Carbon County:**

CMP MH/DS- Ashley Highland  
428 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Lehighton, PA 18235  
610-377-0773 ext: 3621

10/2021



**Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS):**

IBHS provides child-focused mental health services delivered in non-traditional community settings that can include the home, community and school to build on a child's strengths and attempt to maintain the child within their environment. Services must be determined to be medically necessary by a psychiatrist, psychologist, CRNP, LCSW, LPC.

**Pathways/ReDCo Group:**  
570-424-6221

**Devereux:**  
570-839-6158

**Matrix Behavioral Solutions:**  
570-234-3989

**PA Mentor:**  
610-867-3173

**Gregory Center:**  
570-335-0357

**Access Services:**  
570-366-1154

**Bright Beginnings:**  
570-687-5242

**IU#21:**  
610-769-4111

**ABA Support Services:**  
610-365-8373

**Youth Advocate Program:**  
570-807-3131

**Family Based Mental Health Services (FBMHS):**

FBMHS offers family-focused, intensive, in-home interventions designed to prevent out-of-home placements. Services must be determined to be medically necessary by a psychiatrist, psychologist, CRNP, LCSW, LPC.

**Concern:**  
560 Country Club Road  
Lehigh, PA 18235  
570-386-2990

**Warwick:**  
1001 Nor-Bath Blvd  
Northampton, PA 18067  
484-863-9330

**Merakey:**  
912 Main St  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-424-9229

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT):**

PCIT is an evidence-based treatment appropriate for parents of children age 2.5-7 years old. Parents learn the skills of PCIT from in-session, direct coaching by a therapist. As the parent and child interact the therapist gives suggestions to the parent through an earpiece.

**BHA:**

413 Bridge St,  
Weissport, PA 18235  
610-379-9304

**Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST):**

MST is an intensive family and community-based treatment for youth with complex clinical, social and educational challenges who have been court-involved, have a history of out-of-home placement, and/or exhibit high-risk behavior.

**Community Solutions:**

2015 W. Hamilton St. Suite 204A  
Allentown, PA. 18104  
610-435-3343

**Early Intervention Services:**

Early intervention services are offered to pre-school children that have developmental disabilities. CMP MH/DS offers service coordination for children ages 0-3. IU#21 and Pathstones offer services for 3-5.

**CMP MH/DS:**  
610-377-0773

**Pathstones:**  
610-377-5671

**IU#21**  
610-769-4111

**Partial Hospitalization Program:**

The partial hospitalization program is a school-based treatment program designed for youth in need of mental health treatment but whose needs cannot be met in a traditional classroom. The treatment program offers both therapeutic and educational services to the youth in the classroom setting. The program is staffed by a Mental Health Treatment Specialist, a Mental Health Worker and a Special Education Teacher. Each youth is under the care of a psychiatrist in the program. The team works collaboratively with the youth, the family, the school district and all agencies involved with the student. \*\*\*Referrals are made by the home school district.

**Behavioral Health Associates**

200 Beaver Run Rd  
Lehighton, PA 18235  
610-379-9306

**IU#21**

480 Delaware Ave  
Palmerton, PA 18071  
610-769-4111

**Drug & Alcohol Services:**

Drug and alcohol services are provided based on the assessed needs of the client. Services that may be available include assessment, outpatient counseling, and assistance in locating services and facilities outside of Carbon County.

**CMP D&A:**  
430 South 7th Street  
Lehighton, PA 18235  
866-824-3578

**A Better Today:**  
8 West Broad Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201  
570-344-1444

**Pyramid Healthcare:**  
1605 North Cedar Crest Boulevard  
Suite 602  
Allentown, PA 18104  
610-434-1126

**Pathway to Recovery Counseling & Education Services:**  
223 West Broad Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201  
570-455-9902

**Community Residential Rehabilitation Host Home (CRR Host Home):**

This level of service provides out-of-home placement for children and adolescents in foster care settings within the community. Residents receive services based on their need e.g. individual and family therapy, medication monitoring, and therapeutic staff support. Educational services are provided within the local school district. Emphasis is placed on reunification of the child with the family. **\*\*Requires recommendation from psychologist or psychiatrist\*\***

**Merakey:**  
912 Main Street, Suite 202  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-424-9229

**PA Mentor:**  
11 Jenna Dr,  
Brodheads ville, PA 18322  
570-992-3613

**Devereux:**  
1547 Mill Creek Road  
Newfoundland, PA 18445  
570-839-6154

**Residential Treatment Facility (RTF):**

Residential Treatment Facilities provide out-of-home placement for children and adolescents in unsecured residential settings. All facilities are certified by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Residents receive intensive treatment with stress being placed on recommendations for discharge and return home to family and community. Numerous residential facilities are located throughout the state. A recommendation by a **PSYCHIATRIST** is needed for this placement. This is the highest level of care and all other previously listed services should be tried before this option.



**Crisis Intervention/Emergency Services:**

Crisis intervention provides 24/7 intervention on an emergency basis via telephone and mobile crisis workers.

**1-800-849-1868**

**Inpatient Hospitalization:**

Inpatient hospitalization provides high-intensity treatment and interventions to children and adolescents in secured psychiatric hospitals. Several hospital inpatient units in the Eastern portion of the state are used depending upon bed availability and preference.

**Children's Case Management Services:**

Intensive Case Management and Resource Coordination Services provide children and families with in-home support; assessment of strengths and needs; development of a service plan based on identified strengths and needs; linkage to community services and supports and monitoring of progress.

**CMP MH/DS:**  
428 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 2  
Lehighton, PA 18229  
610-377-0773

**Salisbury Behavioral Health:**  
1482 Cherry Lane Road  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
570-422-6670

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR):**

OVR offers a number of employment programs and services for those individuals who qualify based on established criteria.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation:**  
45 N 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Allentown, PA 18102  
610-821-6441

**PA CareerLink Carbon County:**  
50 E Locust St Suite 1,  
Nesquehoning, PA 18240  
570-325-2701

**Community Care Behavioral Health:**

Many of the children who have Medical Assistance are now served through the Managed Care Agency, Community Care Behavioral Health Organization (CCBH). This opens the door to the possibility of additional provider agencies outside of Carbon County providing services for children. **The number for CCBH is 1-866-473-5862**

**Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP):**

The CASSP team is composed of key persons from all child-serving agencies - The child and family, MH/DS, Children & Youth, Drug & Alcohol, Education, Juvenile Justice, etc. The team meets on a weekly basis to problem solve, address children's issues, and assist in the development of a coordinated service plan. Various issues discussed may pertain to children who are at risk of out-of-home placement, children returning home from out-of-home placement, a child and/or family who is having difficulty accessing services, children involved in two or more non-educational CASSP systems, or issues involving the child's educational placement. A meeting date and time may be requested by any person involved with the child and/or family.

**Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health & Developmental Services:**

Ashley Highland - CASSP Coordinator  
428 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2  
Lehighton, PA 18235  
610-377-0773 ext: 3621