Coordinating Title I Services with Homeless Programs

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Goals of Workshop

• To provide an understanding of the requirements of homeless education programs through McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act

• To provide an understanding of the requirements under Title I to coordinate services with homeless programs

• How the Title I set-aside for homeless students may be used to support McKinney-Vento programs
Agenda

- Overview of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Title I Collaboration with McKinney-Vento
- Allowable Uses of Title I Funds to Support Homeless Education Programs
Overview of McKinney-Vento Act

- Created in 1987

- Issues
  - Homelessness continues to be associated with lower standardized test scores, high absenteeism, multiple school transfers and deep poverty

- Purpose
  - Ensure the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless students
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

• Basic Components of a Homeless Education Program
  – NCLB Requirements
  – Types of Services
  – Regional and Site Coordinators
Homeless and Title I

• Homeless students are automatically Title I
  – Often experience lower standardized test scores, high absenteeism, multiple school transfers and deep poverty

• Unique educational barriers not common to non-homeless Title I students
  – High mobility, trauma, adverse living conditions

• Collaboration between homeless programs and Title I services is critical to meeting the unique needs
Definition of “Homeless” in NCLB

• Students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
• Students living in shelters, hotels, motels and camping grounds
• Students living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings
• Students sharing housing (doubled up) due to loss of housing or economic hardship
• Students awaiting foster care placement
• Migratory children who qualify as homeless
• Unaccompanied youth living in the situations above
Role of Regional & Site Coordinators

- **Main Goal:** Expedite enrollment for homeless in public education
- Clarifying PDE’s “Education For Homeless Youth” Basic Education Circular/McKinney-Vento Act
- Develop a network in schools, shelters, agencies, and task forces
- Help to resolve enrollment disputes by educating the public and schools about the program
- Expediting enrollment, school records, immunization records, and transportation concerns
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Role of School District Homeless Liaison

• Identify homeless children
• Educate parents/guardians about a student's educational rights
• Disseminate information about the educational rights of homeless students
• Expedite enrollment and assist with school records, immunizations
• Mediate enrollment disputes
• Implement and support PDE’s “Education For Homeless Youth” Basic Education Circular
• Provide equal access to comparable services including Title I
Collaboration Between Title I and Homeless Students

Title I Eligible Students

• LEAs must provide services and programs under Title I to meet the needs of the most educationally needy students

• Services are targeted to these students

• NCLB also mandates that if children meet certain criteria, they are automatically eligible for Title I services:
  – Homeless
  – Title I public pre-school
  – Even Start
  – Head Start
Providing Title I Services to Homeless Children

- **Schoolwide Programs**: LEAs do a needs assessment and address the needs of all students in the school.

- **Targeted Assisted Schools**: LEAs provide services to children with the greatest academic need – homeless children are eligible but are provided services based on educational need.

- **Different Services**: Homeless children may need additional/different services (e.g., after-school or library time).
Homeless Set Aside for Non-Title I Buildings

• An LEA must reserve “such funds as are necessary” to provide comparable services to homeless children who do not attend participating Title I schools and may provide support services to children in shelters and other locations where homeless children live.

  20 U.S.C. 6313(c)(3)

• An LEA must provide services in non-Title I schools comparable to those for homeless students in Title I schools.
Determining Set Aside Amounts

- LEAs may choose one of these methods or any other comparable method:
  - Base the amount on current expenditures
  - Multiply the number of homeless students by the Title I per pupil allocation
  - Reserve a proportionate percentage based on the district’s poverty percent or Title I allocation

- Requires coordination between LEA Title I and homeless program

Coordinating Title I Services with Homeless Programs

Uses of Title I Funds for Homeless

Title I Homeless funds should be coordinated with the McKinney-Vento program in the districts

• Not a “stand alone” program

• Focus of McKinney-Vento is ensuring school stability by ensuring transportation to school of origin

• Focus of Title I is broader and addresses the diverse needs of this educationally at-risk population
  – Title I is to be used after all other funds/resources
  – Services that are not reasonably available from other sources (e.g., school uniforms)

• Both programs are critical to meeting the needs of homeless students
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Underlying Principle of Expanded Uses of Title I Funds

Title I funds may be used to provide services that are authorized but not expressly required by McKinney-Vento

• Example:
  – Transportation to school of origin/attendance area while homeless is required, if feasible, using district and M-V funds; Title I is not allowed
  – Transportation to school of origin/attendance area once permanent housing is found (to give continuity for remainder of school year)
Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Supplemental Instruction

- Services normally provided to Title I students – tutoring, after-school programs, extended learning time, Saturday classes, summer school

- Services to assist homeless students in meeting Pennsylvania’s challenging academic achievement standards

- May be used to provide education-related support services at the shelter or alternate location where they live, or at the school (services outside of school may not be during school hours)
Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Transportation

- If feasible, reasonable and in the best interest of the student: ensure that formerly homeless students can attend their school of origin/attendance area for the remainder of the year in which they become permanently housed

- Can not be used for other kinds of transportation required by McKinney-Vento or the district
Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Other Services

- Used with discretion (in the absence of other funds/resources and documented)

- For items not ordinarily provided to other Title I students and not “reasonably available” from other sources to help homeless students effectively take advantage of educational opportunities:
  - Uniforms
  - Health Service
  - School Supplies
  - Eye Glasses
Permissible Uses of Title I Funds: Other Services

- Parent Involvement
- Basic Needs
- Outreach Services
- Counseling Services
- Professional Development
- Coordination with Other Programs to Serve Homeless Children (e.g., response to instruction and intervention)
Examples of Permissible Uses of Title I Funds

Examples of services reasonable and necessary to assist homeless students in taking advantage of educational opportunities:

- Clothing/shoes necessary to participate in physical education
- Fees for SAT/ACT testing
- GED testing for school-age students
- Birth certificates, immunizations needed to enroll in school
- Food, medical and dental services
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids
- Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning
Non-Allowable Uses of Title I Funds for Homeless

- Transportation of school-aged homeless child to school of origin/attendance area
- Prom gowns or tuxedos
- Regular clothing for the student or family members
- Yearbook fees
Coordinating Services

• District Title I Coordinator should work with the Regional Homeless Coordinator to:
  – Discuss and plan what the Title I set-aside will cover and how it fits into the overall McKinney-Vento plan

• Title I staff may attend professional development activities relating to homeless education

• Regional Homeless Coordinators may be invited to attend Title I related professional development

• When in doubt, evaluate the needs of the individual homeless students on a case-by-case basis
Homeless Plan in eGrants

LEAs are required to submit a plan for how they coordinate homeless services
Additional Resources

- Online Training Video: “Homeless Education and Title I: Collaboration and Compliance Training Video” –
  http://servepres.serve.org/p79332226/

- USDE Guidance –
  http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.doc

- Division of Federal Programs – Regional Coordinator (717-783-2193)
For more information on Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program please visit [www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us) or contact Sheldon Winnick at (717) 783-6468 or [swinnick@pa.gov](mailto:swinnick@pa.gov)

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