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STAM 2016

State and Territory CCDF Administrators Meeting
September 27–29, 2016 ■ The Westin Alexandria ■ Alexandria, VA

Increasing Access for Low-Income Vulnerable Homeless Families September 27, 2016



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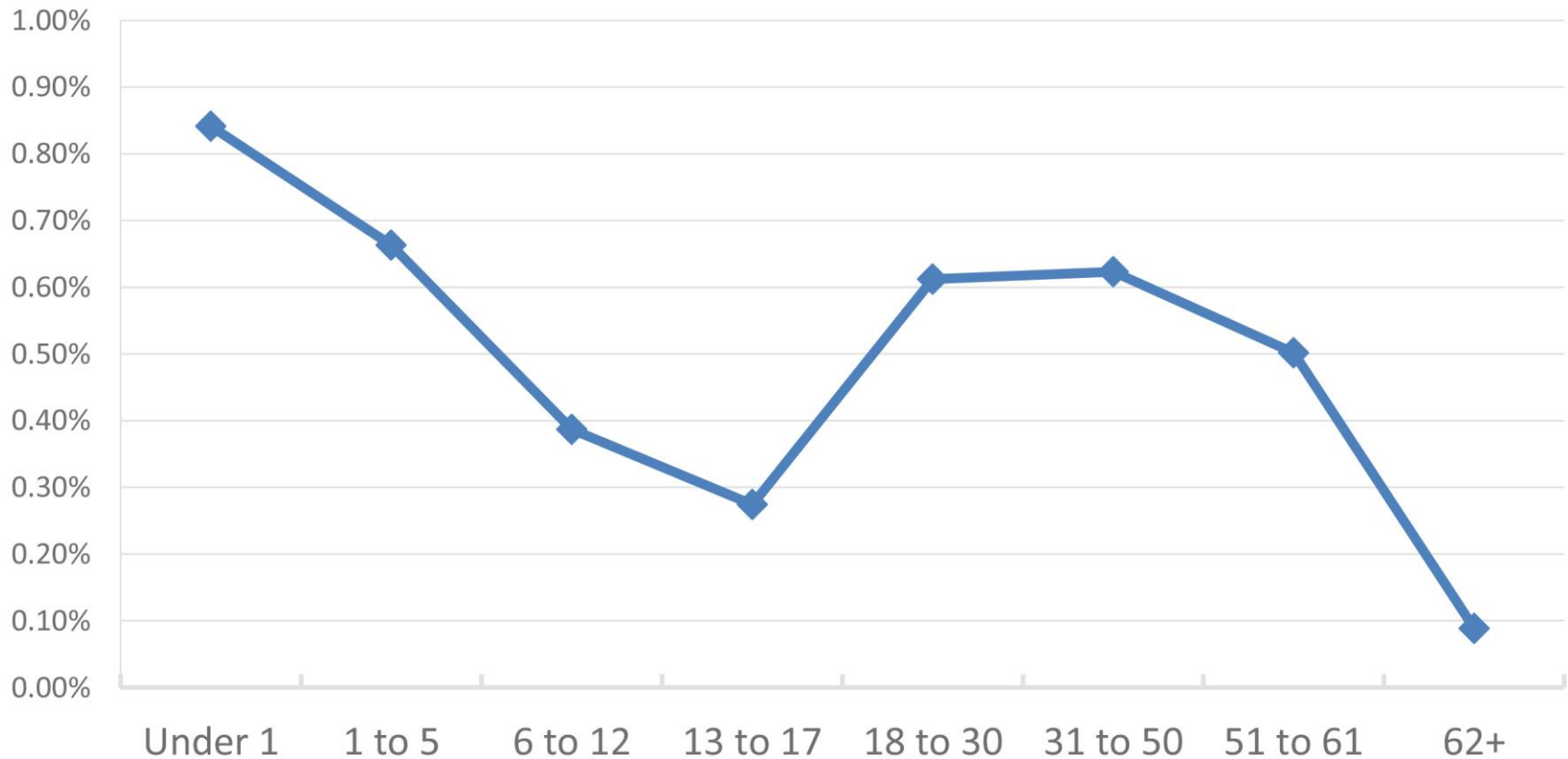
Introduction



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Annual Percentage Rates of Shelter Use By Age (National)



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Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: The 50-State Profile

The 50-state profile provides a snapshot of early childhood data available for children who are experiencing homelessness in each state.

The Office of Early Childhood Development at ACF hopes these profiles will provide information for local, statewide and federal conversations and planning toward the goal of ending family homelessness by 2020.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/eecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children>



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Presenters

- Minh Le, Office of Child Care
- John McLaughlin, Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program
- Tasha Owens-Green, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education
- Grace Whitney, CT Head Start State Collaboration Office



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Office of Child Care

Minh Le



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Requirements in the CCDBG Act

The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires:

- Procedures to permit enrollment of children experiencing homelessness prior to completion of all required documentation (including grace periods for compliance with immunization and other health and safety requirements. (98.41)(a)(1)(i)
- Training and technical assistance on identifying and serving homeless families.



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Requirements in the CCDBG Act

The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires (cont.):

- Specific outreach to families experiencing homelessness. (98.51)
- Coordination with programs working with children experiencing homelessness.
- Lead Agencies to collect and report whether a CCDF family is experiencing homelessness.



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Requirements in the CCDBG Act

The Final Rule:

- Defines homeless to be consistent with the definition in section 725 of Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act (i.e. definition used by Head Start and Dept. of Education) (98.2)
- Clarifies that children experiencing homelessness shall be given priority for services. (98.46)



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Requirements in the CCDBG Act

- Requires Lead Agencies to coordinate with other relevant agencies to help families receiving services during a grace period comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. (98.14)(a)(i)(xi)
- Specifies that grace period shall be established in consultation with appropriate health agency.



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Implementing the ESSA amendments to the Education for homeless children and youths Program (EHCY) : Focus on ECE Coordination

Wednesday, September 28, 2016
U.S. Department of Education (ED)
Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS)



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Overview Of Main Points

- Background to Federal interagency coordination on early childhood homelessness
- Basic structure of EHCY program administration
- ESSA amendments to EHCY, including for ECE
- Guidance topics and links for EHCY-ECE



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Background to ED-HHS Coordination on Homeless ECE

- Many presentations to EHCY State Coordinators, local liaisons, and Head Start staff (~2009)
- Opening Doors coordination on 4 populations, including families and youth (2010~)
- Horizons for Homeless Children Conference (2011); NAEH Urban Institute Convening (2013)
- Much interagency and bilateral coordination, including among our stakeholders



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Federal Interagency Workgroup on Family Homelessness

- In December 2012, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) directed HHS and USICH to convene an interagency workgroup tasked with developing a framework to achieve the Opening Doors' goal of ending family homelessness by 2020.
- Interagency workgroup comprised of 13+ Federal agencies, Co-Chaired by HHS/HUD/USICH
- Workgroup sub-committees:
 - Domestic Violence
 - Early Childhood Development and Education
 - Rapid Re-Housing
 - Access to Benefits & Employment



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EHCY Program structure

- The program has existed since 1987, with increasingly stronger requirements and funding in 1990, 1994, 2002, 2015
- Currently funded at \$70M (level in FY '12, '14-'15)
- State allocations range from \$178,855 - \$8,307,458
- Number and size of subgrants vary by State but currently 20% of LEAs are served by subgrants
- All LEAs have McKinney-Vento requirements
- Up to 25% can be reserved for State-level activities:
Some SEAs have full-time coordinator; some have more than 1 staff or partial FTE; subcontractors



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Finding State and local contacts

- Visit the State map at http://nche.ed.gov/states/state_resources.php
- Click on a State or the State name listed underneath to go to the “State Page”
- Under the “State Contact” on the top left column, there is a hyperlink to the “Local Liaison Directory”
- This information should be updated annually as of October 1, 2016



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MAIN ESSA Amendments to EHCY-ECE

- State plans must include procedures that ensure that children experiencing homelessness have access to public preschool programs, administered by the SEA or LEA, as provided to other children.
- Liaisons must ensure families and children experiencing homelessness can access early intervention services under IDEA Part C, if eligible.
- The definition of school of origin includes preschools (and receiving or feeder schools); dispute resolution
- Title I, Part A set-asides to serve all homeless children (not just those in non-Title I schools)



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Continuing Responsibilities

- State coordinator must gather comprehensive state information, remove policy barriers to enrollment, retention, school success in ECE
- State Coordinators serve on State Intervention Coordinating Council (under IDEA, Part C)
- LEA homeless education liaisons must coordinate with Head Start in making referrals (both use same definition)



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EHCY Guidance Package

- Updated EHCY NRG and document package released on July 27, 2016
 - EHCY NRG:
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716.pdf>
 - EHCY NRG Press Release: <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-releases-guidance-homeless-children-and-youth>
 - Dear Colleague Letter from Secretary John King:
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/160726.html>
 - *Supporting the Success of Homeless Children and Youths* fact sheet:
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160315ehcyfactsheet072716.pdf>



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EHCY Implementation Timeline

- The effective date of new EHCY requirements is October 1, 2016...except awaiting foster care placement, which is 12/10/16 or 12/10/17 for covered States
- EHCY State Plans may be submitted as part of Consolidated State Plans
- Other revised Title I, Part A requirements for serving homeless students take effect beginning with the 2017-18 school year
- Revised “Early Childhood Homeless SERVED” data file from SY 16-17 with file spec guidance due out in October; Birth through 2 and Age 3-5 Not Kindergarten included



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EHCY NRG By The Numbers

- Expanded from 30 to 50 pages (minus appendices)
- Four new sections
 - (K) Dispute Resolution Procedures
 - (N) Early Childhood Homelessness
 - (O) Credit Accrual
 - (Q) Access to Postsecondary Education



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EHCY NRG By The Numbers

- Many significantly revised or expanded sections
 - (A) Rights and Eligibility
 - (E) Office of the Coordinator
 - (L) Coordinated Services
 - (M) Coordination with Title I, Part A of the ESEA
 - (P) Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- Many new text boxes of strategies or tips for addressing important issues or implementing new requirements (ex., school discipline, dispute resolution)



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Section V—Coordination and Collaboration

- Section (L) addresses Coordinated Services (as comparable services moved to F) including FAQs on important Federal programs serving homeless children and youth to coordinate with at the State and local levels
- Section (N) addresses preschool of origin rights, identification, best interest determinations, and transportation considerations



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Questions?



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North Carolina

Tasha Owens-Green



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North Carolina's Goals

- To ensure young children and families experiencing homelessness have access to high-quality affordable early care education, early intervention services for developmental and mental health needs.



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North Carolina-Yay Babies Bringing Partners Together

- Coordinate with partners to expand accessibility and continuity of care.
- North Carolina began by bringing together state agencies, CCR&R, professional organizations, advocates for children, the homeless, and other stakeholders to raise awareness about priorities for serving homeless families.



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Yay Babies Statewide Focus Group Meeting

Purpose:

To gain insight regarding potential barriers to serving this population ...

...AND the potential solutions



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Child Care Resource & Referral

Will Provide:

- Partnering with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons and others who work with homeless families to provide referrals to child care.
- Providing training and technical assistance on identifying homeless families, responsiveness, empathy and accessing community resources to any staff person in a position to interact with families or process applications.



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Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office

Grace Whitney



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Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: A Course for Early Childhood Professionals

Designed to be an interactive course on homelessness in early childhood to increase understanding of this topic and to help providers learn how to support families based on the current statute and regulations.



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Currently 7 Lessons

- **Lesson 1** describes the scope, dynamics, and impact of homelessness in early childhood, as well as federal laws addressing it.
- **Lesson 2** defines homelessness for federal early childhood programs.
- **Lesson 3** explains how to determine the status of a family experiencing homelessness.
- **Lesson 4** demonstrates how to identify and reach out to children and families experiencing homelessness.
- **Lesson 5** applies strategies that prioritize children and families for enrollment, and remove barriers to program participation (*access*) and continuity of care (*stability*).
- **Lesson 6** examines effective strategies for building positive and effective relationships with families.
- **Lesson 7** identifies ways to work with community partners to provide services to families more effectively.



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Format Currently Used

- **Pre and post quiz:** – *“But first, we invite you to find out what you already know about homelessness by taking the Homelessness Quiz. You may be surprised by what you learn.”*
- **Tips:** *“One note about language: homelessness describes a situation, but it does not define the people in that situation. It is more respectful to speak of ‘children and families experiencing homelessness’ or ‘children and families who are homeless’ rather than ‘homeless children’ or ‘homeless families.’”*
- **Facts:** Specific language from federal regulations
- **Scenarios**
- **Resources, Links**



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Lesson 1: Facts About Homelessness in Early Childhood

In this lesson, you will learn about:

- The scope of homelessness in early childhood
- The causes and nature of homelessness among families
- Challenges faced by young children and families experiencing homelessness
- The impact of homelessness on child development and school readiness
- The barriers to participating in early care and learning programs faced by families who are homeless
- And the laws and policies that address those barriers to participation.



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Lesson 2: Understanding and Applying the Federal Definition of Homelessness in Early Care and Learning Programs

The purpose of this lesson is to:

- Understand the definition of homelessness used by Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care and Development Fund programs, and public schools
- Learn why you need to know and understand this definition
- Answer frequently asked questions about the definition of homelessness
- Explore the definition of homelessness through practice scenarios.
- This lesson will explain the federal definition of homelessness used by federal funded early childhood programs, and how these programs must apply that definition in their work enrolling and partnering with families.



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Benefits of Lessons

- Intention to support Head Start and all Early Care and Education Child Care supported through CCDF, with wider applicability to LEAs, PDG, etc.
- Interactive to provide a range of potential decisions and applications
- Readily available to both orient and refresh since it can be accessed from anywhere at any time
- Connect providers with wide range of related resources
 - ECLKC
 - NAEHCY
 - NCHE



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Need for Lessons - Emerging Issues

- Determining eligibility
 - Defining eligibility: McKinney-Vento
 - Documenting eligibility
 - Designating who can determine eligibility status
 - Streamlining enrollment
- Establishing protocol for prioritization
- Parental work/school requirements and copays
- Immediate enrollment
- Stability and “school of origin” provision of ESSA



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Thank you!

- Question & Answer Period



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