A National Perspective on Best Practices to Support College Students Experiencing Homelessness

EMBARK Conference
\ October 3, 1:30 - 2:45 PM

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About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website: http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org
- Facebook Group
- Newsletter: https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
Overview

Participants will:

• Learn best practices from higher education institutions around the country supporting students experiencing homelessness
• Share amongst each other to brainstorm strategies of strengthening their campus-based programs and identify partnerships
What challenges are students experiencing homelessness facing on your campus?
What challenges do YOU face trying to support these students?
Best Practices

- Transition from High School
- Identification
- Financial Aid
- Housing Supports
- Parenting Students
- Other Strategies

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Graduating from high school was devastating. I lost my entire support system.”

- SchoolHouse Connection Young Leader
Transition from High School

- McKinney-Vento college tour
- College prep - Fresno County School iPlan
- Summer bridge programs - Florida State Unconquered Scholars Program
- Homeless higher education liaisons

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Identification

- Application
- Mini liaisons
- Introductory & outreach emails
- Clear referral system
- Syllabus note

“Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess.”

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Financial Aid

- Financial aid verification tips
  - Reminder emails
  - Office hours + counselors
  - Trainings
- Emergency Aid
- FAFSA requirement in Louisiana and Texas
QUICK BREAK!
Housing Supports

**On Campus**

- Priority access to on-campus housing
- Emergency housing + meal plans
- Year-round housing
- Host homes

**Off Campus**

- Partnerships with hotels/motels
- Partnerships with college-focused shelters
- Partnerships with institutions that have residence halls
- Creative solutions

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Parenting Students

* 26% of undergraduate students are parents.

Priority Enrollment

Housing

Financial Aid Assistance

Child Care

Two-Generation Approach

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Other Resources and Strategies

- Peer mentoring
- Food banks/pantry + hygiene products
- Meal swipes
- Lending library
- Clothing closet
Think, pair, share
What resources do you want?
What is missing?
Advocacy

- Survey
- Awareness & Trainings
- Student Advocacy
- Policy Advocacy
- Initiatives and campus support
See you at NAEHCY’s 31st Annual Conference!

November 2-5 \ Washington, DC

5 Sessions:

- What’s Hot on the Hill(s): Federal and State Policy Advocacy
- Education Leads Home: A National Campaign on Student Homelessness
- Lessons of College Liaisons: Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness
- NC’s Focus on Access to Quality Child Care for Children Experiencing Homelessness
- Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles
Youth Leadership and Scholarship - Application Open

Scholarship open to applicants:
- Born on or after November 11
- Entering college for the first time in the 2020-21 school year
- Who have experienced homelessness within the last 6 years

DC Summit
Leaders in policy, advocacy, and mentorship

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/youth-leadership/scholarship-program/
THE FAFSA!

SchoolHouse Connection

4 Things You Can Do To Help Homeless and Foster Youth


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Resources

- Tip Sheets for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College
- Higher Education Webinars
- The Hope Center Report - College and University Basic Needs Insecurity
- FAFSA: The Four Things You Can Do To Support Homeless and Foster Youth
Questions
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