Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness
An update from the PA Head Start State Collaboration Office
1/19/18

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Head Start / Early Head Start In PA

• 68 Total Grantees:
  • Head Start (ages 3-5)
    • 56 Programs
    • 35,107 children
  • Early Head Start (pregnant women and children ages 0-3)
    • 60 Programs
    • 8,776 children
  • Eligibility based on Homelessness = 1,962 (4.4%)
Part C – Early Intervention in PA

• November of 2014 - ACT 143: children under age three who are experiencing homelessness automatically qualify to receive early intervention developmental monitoring or “tracking”.
• Outreach, education and collaboration
• Regional Meetings held in 2015 and 2016
• PA HSSCO currently partnering with EI for a second round of Regional Meetings
Families experiencing homelessness may be granted a waiver for a period up to 92 days for most verification requirements except for:
- Age and citizenship of the child
- Income
- Pennsylvania residency

Parents experiencing homelessness permitted to substitute a job search for work during the first 90 days of eligibility

Once determined eligible, children from families experiencing homelessness are prioritized for funding
PA Head Start State Collaboration Office
Getting the word out!

• Head Start and reserving slots
• PA ECE Summit and Head Start Conference
• EHS-CCP Grantee Meetings
• Regional Meetings
• Contract with Dr. Ben Cohen at the Center for Schools and Communities
• BELL Project
• Bridges – Pittsburgh, PA
• HSCO Learning Community
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

• Brief on Reserving Slots for Homeless Children in Head Start
• Infographic
• Toolkit
Thank you!

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