

Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness

**An update from the PA Head Start State
Collaboration Office
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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 B-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**



Child Care Development Fund Final Rule - PA

- 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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