Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and Access to Early Learning: A National Perspective

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Overview

• Review of Policy Enhancements
• General Status of Implementation
• Update: Self-Assessment Tools
• Emerging Work at SHC
• Helpful Resources
Recent Major Policy Enhancements

• Elementary and Secondary Education Act
  Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  *McKinney-Vento includes preschool (0-5)

• Head Start Program Performance Standards
  *May reserve up to 3% of funded capacity

• Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule
  *Increases alignment with other ECE policy
Implementation: Where are we?

• Alignment!!! Use of McKinney-Vento definition

• Immediate enrollment – permits enrollment while health and other records are obtained and coordination with other agencies to support families during a grace period

• Identification and targeted outreach to families

• Coordination with other programs working with children and families experiencing homelessness

• Provide training and technical assistance for staff

• Collect and report data
Implementation – CCDF Lead Agencies “In Process”

States are Considering:

• New collaborations
• Tiered reimbursement
• Waiving co-payments
• Grants & Contracts
• Set aside funds for homelessness
• Prioritization through protective status
• Training and Outreach Plans
• Data collection
Addressing Barriers

- Addressing **barriers to access** by:
  - Providing grace period for submitting documentation
  - Providing multiple ways of supplying verification of homeless status
  - **Prioritizing** of children who meet homeless status eligibility
  - Designating capacity for children who meet homeless status eligibility
  - Waiving of additional eligibility requirements, copays
  - Providing staff training

- Addressing **barriers to participation** by:
  - Assuring continuity of care and effective transition to other programs when in the best interest of the child
Update on Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tools
Update: Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tools

- Three CT cohorts with extension of work in Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Programs
- Wildly wide circulation of all three versions, regularly cited, included on numerous websites and reference lists
- States working with these:
  - PA a leader!!
  - MA, GA, HI, many others
Emerging SHC Work:

Child Safety & Housing:  Ten “S’s” for Safety

1. Stability
2. Size of Family
3. Sleeping Arrangements
4. Sustenance
5. Simple Hygiene
6. Safe Space
7. Safe People
8. Special Needs
9. Schooling & Learning
10. Social Support Networks
Emerging SHC Work:

Clarity Across Definitions

• Purpose
• Source and citation
• Access, eligibility
• Cross-training
Emerging SHC Work:
More Collaboration!!!
Resources

• ACF Office of Child Development

• Sesame Street in Communities—Traumatic Experiences
  https://sesamестreetincommunities.org/topics/traumatic-experiences/

• SchoolHouse Connection
  http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org
to Philadelphia on the wonderful work you are doing to contribute to the national work and make it count!!
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