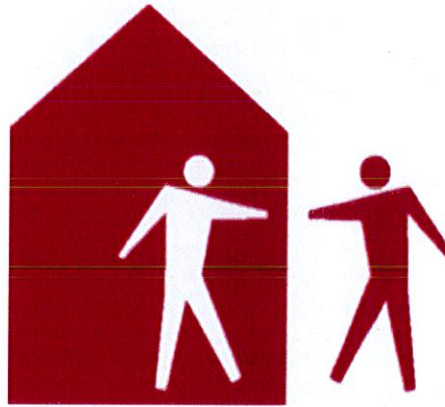


Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The word *homeless* typically does not bring to mind images of children and youth, but the reality is many homeless people are under the age of 18. Some of them are a part of families experiencing homelessness, while others are on their own, despite their young age. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) is a federal law that addresses the needs of homeless people, including the educational needs of children and youth.



Who Is Homeless?

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (as reauthorized by Title I, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended)

The term “homeless children and youth” –

A. Means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and

B. Includes –

Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...

Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).