



New Hampshire

Department of Education

MCKINNEY-VENTO DISCUSSIONS

Unaccompanied Youth

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AGENDA

- Quick touch on ARP Funds
- Unaccompanied Youth
 - Definition
 - NH Data
 - Identification
 - Services
 - Outreach and Engagement Strategies
 - Sample Scenarios
 - Final Thoughts
 - Resources

ARP FUNDS

- Thank you to all districts who have thus far submitted their ARP Homeless grants.
- If you have any questions about how to spend the money and what activities are allowable, please reach out!
- There is still time to form a consortia to access the grant if your initial allocation was under \$5000. The deadline to form a consortia is February 18, 2022. **After the deadline, we will reallocate the remaining funds to the current grants.**
- Thank you to those districts who formed a consortium. The deadline has now passed. We will shortly be reallocating funds to current grants by formula.



DEFINITIONS

- We are going to start out with the definitions of McKinney-Vento and Unaccompanied Youth. A student could be either or both. For a student to fall under both they need to meet two qualifications:
 - Living arraignment must meet the definition of homeless under the MV definition
 - The child or youth is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND MCKINNEY-VENTO

- McKinney-Vento:
 - The term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Includes:
 - Living doubled up due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar problems
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camp grounds due to lack of alternate adequate housing
 - Living in a private or public space not meant for human nighttime residence
 - Living in a bus station, car, abandoned building, park or substandard housing.
- Unaccompanied Youth:
 - a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

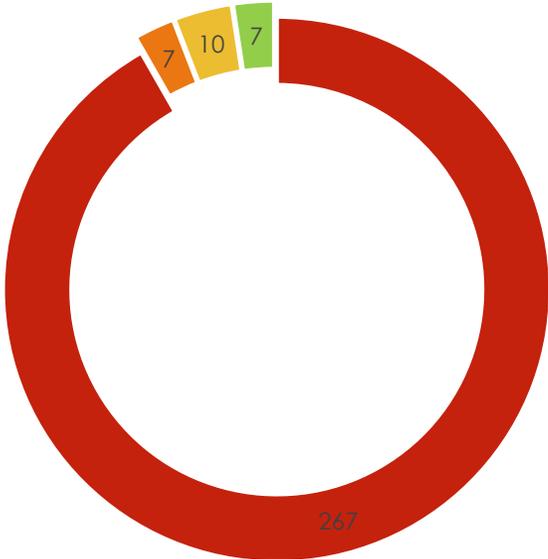
NH DATA

Reported Numbers

- 2020-2021 School Year
 - Total students experiencing homelessness reported to the state: 3109
 - Total unaccompanied youth reported: 291
- 2019-2020 School Year
 - Total: 3216
 - Total Unaccompanied Youth: 311
- 2018-2019 School Year
 - Total: 3971
 - Total Unaccompanied Youth: 341

Where Students are Living

Number of Unaccompanied Youth 20-21



■ Doubled Up ■ Hotel/Motel ■ Shelter/Transitional Housing ■ Unsheltered



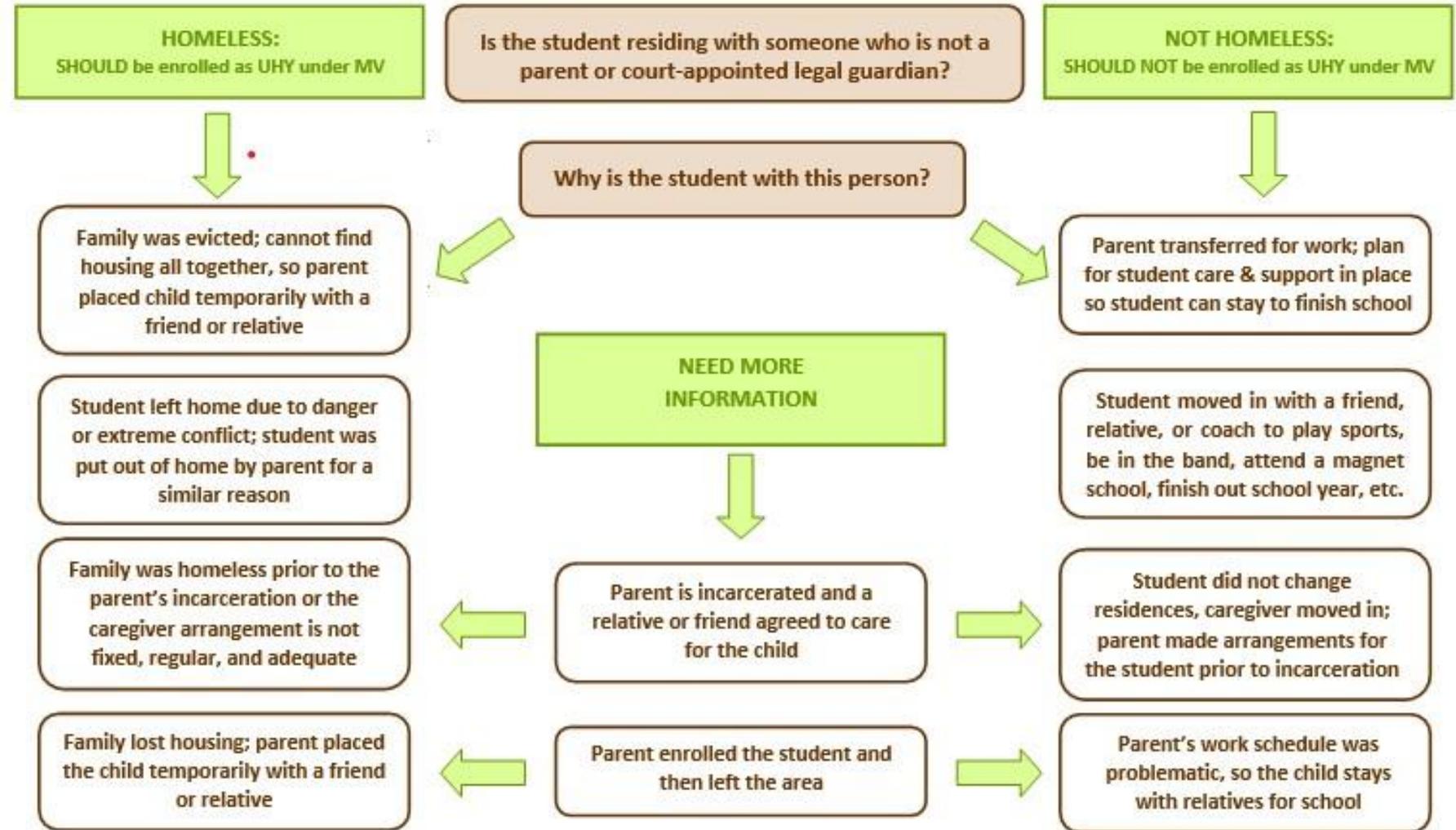
LOW NUMBERS

- We know numbers have gone down in the past three years. We also know we are not catching all the students who could be considered Unaccompanied Youth in our communities
- One estimate I heard recently is that there may be upwards of hundreds of Unaccompanied Youth that are slipping through the cracks.
- What are some strategies that you can take to find these kids?

IDENTIFYING UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

- Reach out to community based organizations and talk to school reception staff and teachers on what to look for
- Students may feel ashamed or scared to talk about their homelessness. Make sure information about the protections and what services are available are posted in well traveled areas.
- In most cases, unaccompanied youth qualify for McKinney-Vento services regardless of the circumstances around the reason why they are on their own.
- Unaccompanied youth should be identified on a case by case basis.
- The school's primary responsibility is to immediately enroll the student.
- If a student is eligible for K-12 public education, they may be enrolled and served as a McKinney-Vento Unaccompanied Youth. In New Hampshire the upper age limit is 21.
- See the flow chart on the next slide to help with identifying situations

Appendix 9.A Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility



NOTE: The information contained in this flowchart is intended to serve as a general guide. All McKinney-Vento eligibility determinations should be made on a case-by-case basis weighing the individual circumstances of each student. To be eligible for McKinney-Vento services as an unaccompanied homeless student, the student must meet the criteria of both homeless and unaccompanied.



SERVICES

- Assist with enrolling in school
- Provide immediate nutrition services
- Transportation
- Help with applying for food assistance and medical insurance
- Provide school supplies
- Funds for participation in extra curricular activities
- Clothing assistance
- Referrals to various community agencies for food, medical and other community resources
- Guidance in filling out college financial aid applications
- Provide cap and gown for graduates
- Provide a letter for those wishing to attend college for FAFSA

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Include your contact info on all outreach material.
- Post outreach material in places where youth may congregate in your community
- Make school a friendly, welcoming place
- Work to build trusting relationships
- Work with building staff so everyone is aware of McKinney-Vento rights and services
- Provide support as you are able – hygiene packages or school supplies packages can be very helpful (can use Title I set aside funds if no other funds available)
- Ensure immediate enrollment is possible – think about what barriers your school may have and solve those problems now – prior to being in the situation.



SCENARIOS

- The next couple slides will have some scenarios to think about and discuss. As you read through the slides think about how you would respond and how you would proceed.

SCENARIO # 1

- 16 year old Anthony comes into the front office looking to enroll in school. He tells you that he has left his home 30 min away because there was too much fighting and is sleeping on the couch at his friends house in town, will be there for a while and wants to enroll in school. His parents aren't communicating with him right now and can't be reached.
- What are your next steps?
- Would the student qualify as unaccompanied youth?
- Would the student qualify as McKinney-Vento?

DISCUSSION

- Anthony would be considered unaccompanied youth and McKinney-Vento and can immediately enroll in school as he is currently sleeping in town.
- Getting the student immediately enrolled is the first task, then getting documents and connecting with the sending district.
- **How to enroll a student without parent or guardian:**
- The McKinney-Vento act does not specify a particular method to enroll unaccompanied youth.
- Districts can develop methods such as :
 - Self Enrollment forms
 - Caregiver affidavits
 - The homeless liaison can enroll
- What method does your district use?
- Can you identify any barriers that your district may have that would need to be removed for immediate enrollment?

SCENARIO #2

- Danielle has been forced out of her house due to unsafe living conditions. The roof had been leaking and has now collapsed into the living room. Her family is living doubled up with her aunt, but there wasn't room there for Danielle, so she has to live with a family friend in the next town over. What are the next steps for this student? Where can she go to school?



DISCUSSION

- Danielle would be considered a unaccompanied youth and McKinney-Vento.
- Danielle can continue school in her original district and school. Both districts need to have a conversation about transportation costs.

SCENARIO #3

- Kayla is a junior in high school in your district. Her parents have gotten divorced and moved into two separate, permanent, places in different towns. Kayla wanted to stay in the school district, so her family made plans with her boyfriend's family and Kayla will be staying with them for the rest of the school year. Would Kayla be considered an unaccompanied youth? Would Kayla be considered McKinney-Vento?

DISCUSSION

- Kayla would be considered an Unaccompanied Youth, but she would not be considered McKinney-Vento.
- The family made plans in advance of the situation, therefore this situation does not fall into the McKinney-Vento definition.
- Important to remember – the reason a young person leaves their home is not relevant to their McKinney-Vento status – unless it is a pre-planned situation in agreement of all parties involved.
- This becomes a situation where the parents can petition to have the student stay in district, but it is not considered McKinney-Vento.

SCENARIO #4

- Kyle, a 2nd grader in your district, just lost his guardian after a short illness. He is now living with his uncle in a town 20 min away. His uncle would like him to stay in school and wants to have him maintain some stability. The uncle will be applying for guardianship but does not have that at this point. Would Kyle be considered McKinney-Vento?

DISCUSSION

- There actually needs another question before McKinney-Vento status is determined. Were there plans in place for Kyle to go live with the uncle? If there was a plan in place for Kyle should something happen to the guardian, this would not be considered McKinney-Vento.
- If there were no plans and this is an emergency situation, this would be considered McKinney-Vento. Kyle would be able to continue at his school of origin for the rest of the school year.
- Once the uncle gains guardianship Kyle would no longer be McKinney-Vento, although he would be able to finish out the end of the school year at the school of origin.

SCENARIO #5

- Cindy, a freshman, is living with her guardian and has been for two years. Things have been going well at school, but not at home. She never gets along with the guardian and is constantly complaining about how much she hates it there. She's started talking more to her mom and wants to live with her again. She leaves the guardian's house and moves in with mom three towns away. Is Cindy considered unaccompanied youth? Is Cindy considered McKinney-Vento?

DISCUSSION

- Yes to both. Cindy is a unaccompanied youth because she has left her legal guardian. Mom no longer has legal rights. She is also McKinney-Vento because she left her house due to conflict. Cindy can remain in her school of origin if she would like. Both districts should have a conversation about transportation.

SCENARIO #6

- Audrey, a 17 year old, has been identified in your district as an Unaccompanied Youth under McKinney-Vento. She has been attending school regularly but suddenly you notice she is out for a couple days in a row. After checking in with her, you learn that she has an ear infection, is feeling awful and hasn't been able to get into see a doctor. Her parents are not around and she is under 18. What can you do to help her see a Doctor? What are next steps to get health care?

DISCUSSION

- Unfortunately, at this time New Hampshire does not have any laws permitting anyone other than a legal guardian or parent to consent to medical care.
- What can we do?
 - Advocate on the students behalf using the statement from the from the New Hampshire Medical Society, "Any minor of sound mind is legally capable of consenting to medical treatment provided that such minor is of sufficient maturity to understand the nature of such treatment and the consequences thereof." This should probably be accompanied by a letter from a professional who is willing to state that the youth should be considered a mature minor based on what they know of the youth.
 - Young people in NH can access care for sexual health or substance abuse without consent from a parent, so if that is the case state that at the beginning of the call.
 - Continue to try to contact the parents to get written or verbal permission to be seen. Some providers will accept permission over the phone, but not all. In some cases a power of attorney for medical consent may work. This does not limit parental rights, but does give a third party ability to consent.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- All Unaccompanied Youth decisions need to be decided on a case-by case basis based on the nuances of each situation
- Whenever you need to reach out to talk through a situation or get some advise, please reach out! I don't have all the answers but I will work to get those answers!
- Currently NH is working on two YHDP (Youth Homeless Demonstration Project) grants that were awarded by HUD – one for the Balance of State Continuum of Care and one for the Manchester COC. This is exciting work and very hopeful. If you have an input you would like the leadership teams on this know please reach out.
- Waypoint has been a great resource and partner for Unaccompanied Youth – they can be found here [Home | Waypoint NH](#)
- And finally – through my office I will soon be releasing an ARP Homeless RFP for Community Based Organizations to provide wrap around services. If you can think of any such organization in your community who might be interested, please let me know!

RESOURCES

- [Unaccompanied Homeless Youth – National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Resources | SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program | Department of Education \(nh.gov\)](#)

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