



YOUTH  
HOMELESSNESS  
DEMONSTRATION  
PROJECT

McKinney  
Vento;  
Kinship/  
G.R.G

AISSPOÖMMOÖTSIIYÖ•P  
“WE HELP EACH OTHER”

## ~PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM~

### Grandparents Raising Grandkids/Kinship/Aging Mastery Program (a program within āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p)

#### Holiday Prep-

During the months of November and December, we have been busy collecting “Dear Santa” letters from students in Kinship families, Foster Care, McKinney-Vento, and our Parenting Teens program. These letters provide gift ideas for community members who choose to participate and adopt a student or two during the Christmas season.

We are also creating “Notes of Gratitude” for students to give to their guardians, caregivers, or any important individual in their lives. We recognize that the holidays and seasonal changes can bring stress, worry, and even hopelessness. By encouraging students to express gratitude and kindness, we hope to spread hope, love, and encouragement to the adults who support them.

These initiatives are taking place alongside our regular supportive services as a way to build positive relationships with the students and their families.

*We identified #181 students experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2025/2026 SY. (Based on the MV definition of homelessness)*

#### McKinney Vento (MV):

I continue to work on filling needs requests for students and families while also referring them to appropriate supportive services. Over the past few weeks, I referred **eight students and families for grief support** and **four students for substance abuse treatment and whole-family counseling**.

A significant barrier we continue to face is that after a referral and “warm hand-off” are made, many students are reluctant to follow through with their treatment plans or attend their scheduled appointments without extensive ongoing support from me. This presents a challenge, as I am one individual with multiple responsibilities. One of my goals moving forward is to collaborate more closely with our counselors and support staff to coordinate and reinforce these supports so students receive consistent follow-up.

Currently, **73% of our identified McKinney-Vento students are living in substandard housing**, which continues to impact stability and access to services.

*We’ve identified #10 students who are unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2025/2026 SY.*

## **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)** **By: Tamara Guardipee, YHDP Case Manager**

We have 10 students enrolled in YHDP.

1 student was reunified with their guardian and 2 students that are not enrolled in an educational program or employment.

Some of the YHDP students will be attending the Community Seminar at the BHA Wednesday, November 19, 2025. This will be our 1st support group for informational material for the students. Topic: Sexual Health and How to talk to your adolescent child and Teen. Most importantly, healthy relationship.

### **PTC (Parent–Teacher Conferences)**

I was set up in the hallway at both BHA and BHS with outreach materials and program information.

- **BHA:** Set up on Tuesday. I visited teachers directly to follow up on YHDP students.
- **BHS:** Set up Thursday night. I met with counselors to check on the progress of YHDP students.

There were no families or students referred to the outreach table by staff at either school.

Overall, PTC attendance for YHDP students was low, with only one student attending.

All feedback received from teachers and counselors was positive, and they reported good progress from our YHDP students.

### **Outreach:**

I contacted the Trapper Creek Job Corps in Darby MT regarding information about enrollment and updated forms. Kevin Connor will be stopping at the BHA Tues, Nov 18th to talk about the program. I will be introducing a YHDP student who is interested in attending job corps after graduation.

**Support:**

- All YHDP students were referred to the Mental Health Support. Students are in the process of getting Mental Health Support.
- Students are referred to the Fast Blackfeet food pantry once a week with transportation available.
- Struggles: We are not getting the caregiver affidavit back in a timely manner.

**Successes:** Attendance is a lot better and students are getting to school. It is giving the student confidence to do well in school.

**Pregnant & Parenting Teens:**

We currently have 11 pregnant or parenting teens in our district. Our Bi-weekly meetings with the Blackfeet Manpower Teen Pregnancy/Parenting have brought some themes to light and so we are pulling together with the MeadowLark staff to provide more well-rounded care for our teens who are pregnant or parenting.

Some have also registered for a "Parenting Strong" 6-week class specific for Blackfeet Parents under 30yo. Once completed they will each receive \$100.

**Food Pantry's & Clothing Closets:**

I am working to stock each food pantry with shelf stable foods and items that can create whole family meals. We will also be providing each food box with recipes so families or students can easily create their own meals and dishes.

The clothing closets are always looking for donations. Please share this information with anyone you may know who has young child/young adult clothing in good shape (without stains or rips). They can be delivered to me at the BES storage area (where we were previously located) on Monday's and Thursday's from 12-1pm. My only request is that they be washed in warm/hot water and dried thoroughly prior to being delivered.

Best,

PCOP Staff, Irene and Tamara