



McKinney
Vento;
Kinship/
Grandparents
Raising
Grandchildren

AISSPOOMMOOTSIIYŌ
•P
“WE HELP EACH

PREGNANT/PARENTING TEENS;
Foster Care

August is here and brings us a new school year! The Parent Community Outreach Program has been working on enrolling students, identifying resources, and providing support to families and kiddos who are experiencing homelessness. As I presented to you all back in June/July discussion about barriers our students faced and challenges that emerged, we will be focusing on providing education to the community and advocating for a stronger collaboration across all systems serving students and families.

McKinney Vento (MV):

We are busy gearing up for the new school year and focusing on providing Professional Development for all district staff at each of their respective buildings. I will also include information for anyone who may be interested in how we determine eligibility for the McKinney Vento program. Please feel free to share it as well.

We received notice that the Browning Public School District was awarded the 3-year McKinney Vento Grant! We will know more details in the coming weeks. August/September will be dedicated to identifying resources, gathering applications for supportive services, continuing to enroll and connect students to educational or employment opportunities and ensuring their prepared to begin the new school year!

These first few months of school are very important as it gives us the opportunity to re-connect with families and build new relationships with students, especially those who've self-identified as experiencing homelessness, during registration.

Some of the community support that we've begun to identify is with the Blackfeet Boarding Dormitory (BBD) and the newly established processes for attending, etc. I'm eager to learn more about how the BBD will potentially serve as a major support for school aged children and how our partnership can grow to support their educational needs.

Previously, I shared the hope for our new leadership to prioritize the opportunities for healing by working closely with families and acknowledging the historical trauma associated with the institution. Even something as simple as reconsidering the name "Blackfeet Boarding Dormitory" could help create a more welcoming environment and reflect a renewed commitment to healing, cultural respect, and a positive future for Blackfeet students and families.

We've identified and ENROLLED #7 students who are unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2026/2027 SY.

Food Pantries-

The food pantries are currently being stocked with shelf stable foods. We will also be working with the Commodity Office, Oyop Food Pantry, and applying for the Town Pump Charitable Foundation Grant in the next few weeks.

We will also be encouraging the district buildings to hold a "Food Drive" for the food pantries as a competition amongst each grade level. We had a great turn-out last year with just the Napi Elementary Pep Club donation.

We will continue our partnership with the Montana Food Bank Network and provide the weekend backpack program for students K-5th grades. Our report for the last school year is attached.

Clothing Closets:

The clothing closets are mostly organized and ready for use. We are working to identify a central location for the BES clothing closet and plan to have it filled with gently used clothing and shoes by the end of August.

We've identified and ENROLLED #3 students who are pregnant or parenting for the academic year 2026/2027 SY.

Teen Parents:

Our next steps are to enroll their kiddos into childcare. Although the Parent Community Outreach Program office is located at Browning Middle School, we will continue to store and hold the baby pantry at BES, until we can acquire other space.

Our partnership with the Blackfeet Manpower Teen Pregnancy and Prevention Program holds strong. [Shelly OldChief](#) and [Savanna Arellano](#) are our contacts there and continue to support all non-educational needs of these students, very well.

August/September Outreach Opportunities:

- Continuation for identification of McKinney Vento, Grandparents raising Grandchildren, Foster Care, and Teen parents/students.
- We will be receiving 170 backpacks filled with school supplies on August 18th, from a group in PostFalls, Idaho.
- I will be presenting at The Next Generation Strong Wellness Gathering on August 24th, 2026, (Flier Attached). I hope to be able to collaborate with other organizations and resource providers in our community during this event.
- I also participated in the Back to School Registration Event at the high school, where we were able to provide clothing, shoes, and information about services:



ĀISSPOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ•P “WE HELP EACH OTHER”

Thank you,
Irene Augare,
Parent Community Outreach Program, Director