

PCOP



YOUTH  
HOMELESSNESS  
DEMONSTRATION  
PROJECT

HI-SET

ĀISSPOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ•P

## Parent Community Outreach Program

### HI-SET & Adult Basic Education~

#### HiSET

We have 6 clients who have committed to participating in the program. With the cold season starting people are catching colds and are trying to stay close to home but, Jeri is offering study packets as an alternative so that they are able to continue their studies while at home.

#### **Grandparents Raising Grandkids/Kinship (a program within āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p)**

We have received majority of the Residency Questionnaire forms and Jeri is working to update the GRG/Kinship Roster by contact each family and identifying their specific needs and/or barriers. By doing so, we have identified an increase in families raising other kin. We will continue to update our GRG/Kinship list and provide a total amount in the next report.

Jeri will also be offering monthly Kinship meetings regarding resources and various topics related to kinship as a way to support and connect these families to other resources.

An additional service Jeri is working on is the Aging Mastery Program. This support is specific for the GRG. She will be working with the program to set up webinars to help with individual Wills, Power of Attorney, Medication Disposal, and all other subjects that pertain to aging.

Any questions, you can reach Jeri by email at [jerelyng@bps.k12.mt.us](mailto:jerelyng@bps.k12.mt.us) or by phone, (406)338-5025

# āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p ~

*McKinney Vento Data update:*

*We identified #326 students as experiencing homelessness for academic year 2021-2022.*

## **McKinney Vento-**

Robin has been working to ensure children experiencing homelessness and new students/families that have identified their situations, are enrolled in school. Along with that, she has been checking in with the students to make sure they're needs while at school are being met. All staff have been working diligently to full-fill the clothing requests, coordinating with counselors and other school staff regarding showering procedures, and providing students with basic needs. We are still receiving the Student Residency Questionnaire that will continue to help us identify students who are having hardships or experiencing homelessness. Since August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 Robin has identified around 35 students that are eligible for McKinney-Vento services with around 30 more that we will need further information from before making a determination. This requires phone calls, office visits or home visits with parents, guardians or family members. Robin is currently receiving McKinney-Vento Liaison training with Serena Wright, OPI Coordinator McKinney-Vento.

## **School-based Clothing Closets**

Through donations received for the school-based clothing closets, the PCOP staff are working extremely hard to fulfill requests (i.e., Work orders) for clothing items (i.e., Shirts, pants, socks/underwear). We are encouraging each building to introduce the clothing closets to the as many students as possible, as well as, request their support in maintaining the organization and cleanliness by offering Community Service. In addition to K.W. Bergan, Browning Elementary, and BHS clothing closets, we have achieved establishing clothing closets in Napi, BMS, and Vina Chattin.

## **School-based Food Pantry**

The Montana Food Bank Network program known as the Backpack program is in full swing and being offered to the elementary students (and their siblings) at K.W. Bergan, Vina Chattin, Browning Elementary, Napi Elementary, and Babb Elementary. These students are referred to their building Counselor who then prepare the packs to go home with the students on Friday's. I will attach the referral forms and tool we use to help identify chronically hungry students, as well as the parent letter that is being sent to the parents informing them of the program and their option to opt out. Our priorities at this time are to ensure each building food pantries are stocked with accessible and nutritional foods. The PCOP staff will continue to work with each school building to continue providing food boxes to families, and food bags (weekend) for students.

# BPS YHDP

## *#22 unaccompanied homeless youth*

We are currently advertising for the YHDP Case Manager Position. I am still providing support and ensuring each of our UHY are still pursuing their personal goals, enrolling into educational programs, locating employment, and advocating.

Again, our goals of the YHDP are to provide UHY access to create: 1.) Permanent Connections; 2.) Housing Stability; 3.) Employment/Education Opportunities; 4.) Cultural Connections. Our monthly activities will begin in October once we have established a monthly schedule of events with our training providers.

Update from the Blackfeet Tribal Health regarding the “Youth Homeless Shelter”:

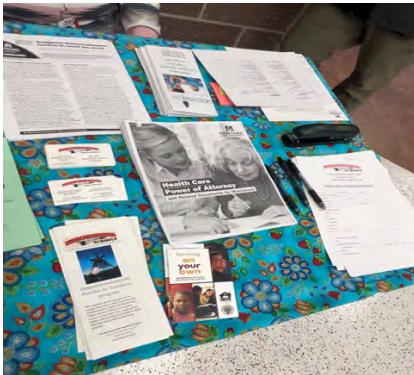
The attending committee requested my assistance with establishing a Youth Advisory Board, which is a requirement for the funding they are requesting (see attachment below). I am in the process of offering this opportunity to the UHY we serve currently. I also suggested that these youth have the opportunity to be a part of the hiring process for the home. All of the Job Descriptions for the positions in the home/shelter have been completed and advertisements for these positions should be posted publicly, soon. There will be a total of 21 positions available so if you know of someone who would be a great candidate, please inform them of the upcoming opportunities. Lastly, the committee has not provided an expected operating start date.

I will attach the projected budget for the “Blackfeet Youth Living Home” to provide an idea of their projected costs as well as the Resolution regarding establishing a committee to address the homeless needs on the reservation.

## Outreach Activity-

PCOP staff provided an informational booth at the 2022 Empowering Youth Conference held at BHS on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. We were able to provide driver manuals, hygiene kits, and answer questions regarding our services. We were also able to provide over 40 students with a new pair of shoes. A comment made by one of the students was, “Wow, I’d never have thought that I’d come to school today and receive a brand-new pair of shoes, thank you very much!” We were also able to provide 10 Student Needs/Intake forms to students who knew of others that were experiencing homelessness.

Below are images from our set-up:



We hope to continue our outreach efforts and helping bridge those connections with students to services they or their family may be eligible for.