



YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS
DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT

HI-SET

ÄISSPOÖMMOÖTSIIYÖ•P

Parent Community Outreach Program

HI-SET/ Adult Basic Education/Kinship~

Hi-SET

We have two students still on remote learning. One student is ready to take their Hi-set test. We have one student is studying in person. Jill has been making weekly contacts and offering support.

Grandparents Raising Grandkids/Kinship (a program within äisspoömmoötsiiyö•p) Kinship Program & Aqing Mastery Program-

Heidi Lester with the Montana State University Kinship Program, will be visiting our community where we will hold an informational gathering for our kinship families (272 Care Givers), including grandparents raising grandkids, aunts, uncles, and siblings. We are inviting Heidi Lester, because their program offers amazing connections to other resources outside of our community and when we refer families, they are connected with a case manager who identifies their individual and whole family needs. These are many other supportive programs throughout the state of Montana. Some of those supportive services that are available to kinship caregivers are immediate access to mental health providers (Tele-health option) and child care or babysitter reimbursement, possible financial support, and overall case management. We are currently finalizing a date for her visit and will provide an update at a later time.

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McKinney Vento Data update:

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

McKinney Vento-

“We have identified 204 students eligible for McKinney Vento support in Browning Public School District as of March 9th. It’s a challenge trying to keep up with everyone’s needs but with Spring in full swing, we are continuing to receive large amounts of donations. At the moment our struggles are receiving pants, sweats, and shoes for the Vina, Browning Elementary, and Napi students. It’s a pleasure to see most of the children going to school and a struggle to reach out to the students that don’t come to school. It brings great satisfaction when making a difference in a child’s life.

Sadly, some of our students do not have a very good home life for many reasons and have moved out of district. However, they are flourishing as well as report they are able to focus on their education without the distractions and dysfunction they had at home. Although, our intentions aren’t to encourage students to leave the district, sometimes it is the best solution to their personal/family issues that create barriers for our students.

Although the health fair was short and sweet it was an awesome way to reach out to the students to let them know the services we have to offer. With Prom and graduation being around the corner I look forward to helping my students with any needs for these spectacular events.” -Shanna

We experienced a very hectic February combined with sicknesses and Shanna wasn’t able to attend the building attendance meetings. She is attempting a different process for checking in with MV students by contacting families for the younger students, and focusing on making contact with those students who have chronic absences or at least 3 or more consecutive absences. Our goal is to address the barriers to students’ attendance issues before students are more than 5 days absent. But we are having some difficulties making contact via phone and/or home visits.

We understand the need to attend each building attendance committee meetings at least once a month to case some of our students with chronic absences and discuss possible supports that the PCOP can possibly offer.

School-based Clothing Closets

Our BES clothing closet is still seeking donations for sizes 8 youth – 12 youth. If you know of anyone with gently used items, please have them deliver to us here at our offices, (located below BES). Or have them call (406)338-5025 and we can arrange for these items to be picked up. Thank you!

School-based Food Pantry

We will be receiving a wholesale food order to increase the volume of food in the pantries, during the week of March 29th. We are still purchasing food locally and we’ll continue to do so.

We will be holding a 6-week cooking course for any of our MV, YHDP, and Kinship students who would like to attend beginning in April. At the completion of this course, students will have a choice

of cook-wear they can take and keep. At the completion of each weekly class, students will have the opportunity to purchase the ingredients from the cooking course at our local grocery stores and bring what they've learned, home, to cook with their families.

BPS YHDP

#11 unaccompanied homeless youth

“ It has been great helping YHDP clients and educating staff on eligibility requirements to help the staff identify these students that are in need of YHDP services and resources available for them. YHDP funding was able to help the PCOP purchase a new and reliable 2023 Chevrolet Suburban. The PCOP staff and YHDP are in need of their own vehicle right on hand, to help transport YHDP students, as well as having the extra room to haul cargo such as food distribution and clothing to each school as well as out of town.

Soon, the PCOP and YHDP will have a new shed to store and secure items that will not fit in our office, new washers and dryers to help with laundry services for clients, and added computers and iPads to allow students more access for education and employment uses.

As the Case Manager for YHDP we are currently serving eleven clients that are eligible for YHDP. Four out of the clients are Teen Parents who are doing a great job of raising their children as well as continuing their education at the same time.

Irene and I are helping in multiple ways to help break down any barriers that may be in the way of the clients/student's in order to help them succeed.

I am meeting with Counselors, Teachers and remote learning educators, to help with their education.

Assisting with Clothing.

Assisting with household utility bills.

Purchasing clothing.

Transportation.

Laundry services.

Hygiene Items.

Food.

Resources that are available in town and Montana.

There have been a few challenges:

- Getting the teenage students to feel comfortable and open up to me and explain they need YHDP services and resources.
- Having the student's stay in weekly contact with me to help achieve their goals as well as providing help to keep them in school. Needing that communication back from them.
- Needing more communication between other staff to help with making YHDP services go more smoothly for myself and the clients.
- More training for YHDP to help me assist the clients/students better.
- No Shelter for youth to go to that are Unaccompanied.

Some future upcoming events and opportunities that are coming available for clients/students:

- Health Fair located @ Blackfeet Community College March 22, 2023 there will be a much needed wellness for students, staff and the community.
- Boarding Dorm tour for students that need a safe place to go during the week.
- Nutrition cooking classes available for clients starting April 2023

If anyone would like more details or needs more resources for what YHDP has to offer please reach out to me and I would be more than willing to help.

Thank you.” – Monty Lucke