
Families in Transition

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Program Staff

Katie Danielson, Coordinator and direct student/family service, 1.0 FTE

Leanna Hudson, Social Worker, .4 FTE

Katie Greene, Math/Reading Interventionist 1.0 FTE (Myers Wilkins)

Carol Gallinger, Math/Reading Interventionist .6 FTE (Congdon)

What is McKinney Vento?

- Federal Law that provides students experiencing homelessness protections
 - The act states that children and youth who lack a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” will be considered homeless. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Shelter
 - Transitional Housing
 - Hotel/Motel
 - Doubled Up (Couch-Hopping/Couch-Surfing)
 - Camping
 - Living in a vehicle, abandoned building, etc.
 - Migrant

ISD 709 averages 400-450 students identified as homeless each school year.

McKinney Vento Supports

(Incomplete list)

- Enrollment
- VISPDAT for unaccompanied youth
- Assistance obtaining social security card and State ID
- Applying for MA and EBT (food support)
- Educational support in school (attendance, IEP meetings, etc)
- Transportation arrangements
- Assistance with college applications and FAFSA
- Coordination of service with housing agencies
- Limited clothing and food supports
- Referrals for mental health and chemical dependency

Who are our community housing partners?

- Chum (main shelter and family shelter)
- Safe Haven
- Loaves and Fishes Community (Dorothy Day House and Olive Branch)
- CASDA
- Daabinoo'Igan
- Center City Housing
- Harbor House-Superior
- Renaissance
- Another Door
- Bethany Crisis Shelter
- The Loft
- Salvation Army
- AICHO
- YWCA- Young Mothers Program

Advocacy

- Working with Coc Coordinator (Courtney Cochran) and Laura Birnbaum (SLC Housing and Homelessness Programs Supervisor) regarding ARP funds county wide
- Interviewed by Politico, MinnReformer, and Duluth News Tribune publications regarding homeless education
- Advocated to schoolhouseconnection.org , a national youth and families homelessness policy organization
- State homeless liaison trainer
- Working with SLC Public Health to bring Covid-19 vaccination clinics to underserved populations and now youth 12-15

Activities

- Member of the St. Louis County CoC (continuum of care)
- Member of the St. Louis County Coordinated Entry Team
- Member of the Safe Harbor Team (for youth that are at risk or are sex trafficked)
- Monthly meetings with shelters/housing agencies regarding students/families enrolled in ISD 709
- 1 of 5 statewide homeless liaison trainers
- 1st homeless liaison in the state to do VISPDATS with youth
- Recipient of MDE McKinney Vento Subgrant

Hope and Dreams

American Rescue Plan Funds: Phase 1

- Increase Leanna Hudson Social Work FTE
- Hire additional Social Work FTE specifically for MS FIT students
- Hire LPN/RN for wrap around nursing services for FIT students

American Rescue Plan Funds: Phase 2

- Continue the above services
- Hire Math/Reading Interventionist at middle school level for FIT students