



YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS
DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT

HISET/
Kinship-
G.R.G.

ĀISSĀOĀMMOĀTSIIYĀ•Ā
"WE HELP EACH OTHER"

Parent Community Outreach Program

Greetings,

As we continue to move through our winter season, we are continuing to assist families with connections to local resources such as the incident command center for fire wood assistance, mental health services, and support for food. We had a successful Secret Santa Event during December and really appreciate all of the assistance and collaboration with the Senior Toy Drive event. We will be offering professional development opportunities to our staff and students. Within these training opportunities, we include basic McKinny Vento information and procedures for referring to the homeless liaison or building point of contact. We are experiencing a shortage of "building contacts" and have been relying heavily on each building counselor and/or other office staff such as secretaries to assist us with providing support to our students. This may become an issue as those staff each have a heavy load as is but, we are working to find a good system that allows us to continue to provide adequate support to students and families.

McKinney Vento Act- Definition of homelessness:

"Any child or youth who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence is considered to be experiencing homelessness. This includes those who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason; staying in motels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of an adequate alternative; staying in shelters or transitional housing; or sleeping in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings. 42 U.S.C. §11434a(2)."

If the youth or young adult are also unaccompanied, then they're eligible for the YHDP program.

HI-SET/ Adult Basic Education ~

We are still awaiting to hire a new Hi-Set Tutor for the 24/25 SY. Until then, I've referred our previously enrolled students to the BCC Hi-Set Program. Once we are able to hire a qualified

Tutor, our goal will remain to recruit a total of 10 students and have all 10 ready to complete their Hi-Set test within 6 weeks of enrollment.

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

We've re-established a partnership with the Montana Kinship Navigator, Payton Vining, who serves the as a contact for Montana and Wyoming. We will be joining her for the MT Kinship Advisory Council Meetings. Which the first for this year is scheduled for Jan. 27th. If you'd like for me to include more about this program, please let me know.

We identified #224 students experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2023/2024. #179 24/25 SY

McKinney Vento (MV): I am finding a lot of my time and communication has been directed towards our students who are also a part of the Blackfeet Child & Family Services Program. Many of these students do not have updated Guardian/Contact Information which makes it difficult for school staff to make contact with these parents.

Foster Care (17); Teen Parents (4):

We have the baby pantry re-stocked with diapers, wipes, clothing, shoes, wraps, and hygiene items. We have connected our teen parents who recently graduated to other early childhood learning programs as well as the school based childcare program.

Current Positions available within the Parent Community Outreach Program:

- Hi-Set Tutor/Kinship Navigator

Special Thanks To:

- Gail Hoyt and her partners at the Methodist Church locally & in the Kalispell area. They provided our McKinney Vento Students (experiencing homelessness) with Christmas gifts.
- Shaylea Tatsey, Sienna Speicher, and the Senior Toy Drive Participants.

We are so thankful for your continued support and partnership throughout our journey and your work within the School District!