



YOUTH  
HOMELESSNESS  
DEMONSTRATION  
PROJECT

HISET/  
Kinship-  
C R C

ĀISSĖOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ•Ė  
“WE HELP EACH OTHER”

## ~PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM~

### HI-SET/ Adult Basic Education ~

Our HiSet Program is still seeking a Tutor to fill our open position. For the time being, if we receive referrals for students seeking information regarding this educational option, we will be connecting them with the BCC HiSet Program. We are currently re-evaluating the job description and duties for the Tutor to also be able to assist with the implementation of the other programs and supportive services offered by the Parent Community Outreach Program.

We currently have students within our district who are credit deficient and may also be older than their same grade level peers, who would benefit from an alternative route for accomplishing their educational goals. As we collaborate with the High School Principal and other Hi-Set/GED coordinators throughout the state, we will be able to identify our options as well as opportunities.

### Grandparents Raising Grandkids/Kinship (a program within āissĖoŌmmoŌtsiiyŌ•Ė) Kinship Program & Aging Mastery Program-

Our partners, Peyton Vining and Daniel Stotz, with the MSU Extension Healthy Aging and MT Kinship programs, offered another Caregiver Respite Retreat opportunity on September 24th, 2025. They returned to us as requested by the caregivers in our community and will be offering extensive support to most of our families. They implement a great food distribution program that will be delivering food boxes (2) once a month, directly to our families who experience food insecurities at home or who lack transportation.

#### ***Overview from the Care Giver Retreat:***

The presenters elaborated and provided the attendees with multiple modules to help them identify what sustains them and keeps them going as providers, caregivers, and parents.

One of the favorites was the trail mix collection. They used the trail mix items as metaphors in relation to and comparison to a “bag of tools”.

Emotional Support- Who do you have to lean on? Who is your support person?  
“Thank them, and share enjoyable moments with them too.

Carbohydrates- what is your pick-me up? (coffee, friends, family, nice quick walk; nature; favorite smell; engaging our senses;

Dried fruit-what can we do that is joyful in our lives? Recognizing those moments that bring us happiness. Listen to music, play guitar, and dance.

Candy- What dreams do we have that we are holding onto?

“Helping my kids graduate from school”. Suggestion: Share with your kids and share your why. That might be something they cling onto and also share.

Gardening- “Get out there and tend to it”.

It’s okay to dream and dream big! “When you dream big, others around you dream big as well”

Some of the positive affirmations that I heard amongst the group was:

Ikahkimaht; Believe & Trust in ; Faith; Don’t forget to have humor and laughter; Keep the Faith;

Another important take away was that there is a collective realization among the group. When we take care of ourselves, we can care better for others. We’re less stressed, more calm, and able to handle situations in crucial moments. Overall, every participant left the retreat feeling great and ready to continue on their journey of caregiving, geared with new self-care techniques.

***We identified #127 students experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2025/2026 SY.***

### **McKinney Vento (MV):**

During September I was able to partake in a few training sessions where updates and changes were provided regarding Infinite Campus- data collection processes. Our outreach efforts are moving along and we’ve been making time to visit our community partners to provide yearly information and education about our McKinney Vento Program as well as general PCOP information. Our on-line registration system has been great with notifying me of student/ families self-reporting their non-permanent living situations. This process makes identifying families or are eligible for further supportive services, easier.

An update that is in the works currently is a relocation for our PCOP office staff. Tamara has already relocated to the Buffalo Hide Academy and I will be preparing to move to the Middle School. We will still maintain the lower level of BES as a storage/meeting area if needed.

We're very thankful for this move, space, and opportunity provided by Mr. Charlie Speicher and Mr. John Salois. We will share more detail with district staff and the community when our relocation efforts are finished. However, we have communicated this change with our families and students as well as at our previous location.

***We've identified #8 students who are unaccompanied and experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2025/2026 SY.***

## **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)**

### **By: Tamara Guardipee, YHDP Case Manager**

The YHDP is providing supportive services to 5 students in the Browning School District. Working with unaccompanied youth who do not reside with their legal guardian who are experiencing homelessness. Our main goal for the YHDP is connecting students to resources in or around the community. Student participation in the program is attending school, weekly check-in, and attending group activities. The YHDP provides students with basic hygiene, clothing, shoes, transportation, etc. YHDP tries to limit the barriers for students so they can be successful.

YHDP will be educating the Buffalo Hide Academy students of this supportive service that is available to students who are eligible for the program Wednesday, 9/24. YHDP will be bringing students to their 1st support group that is being held at BCC on Monday and Tuesday, September 29th and 30th, GONA (Youth Gatherings of Native Americans).

## **Food Pantry's & Clothing Closets:**

With the collaboration of building Principal's, we are currently in the process of confirming and stocking the clothing closets.

I've applied for the Town Pump Food Grant and will be notified after October 1st. We will also be connecting families to receive the meal boxes, to their door steps. The elementary schools have received the referral instructions for how to refer students to the weekend backpack program.

Happy Autumn!

PCOP Staff, Irene and Tamara