



YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS
DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT

McKinney
Vento;
Kinship/
G.R.G

ĀISSĖOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ•Ė
“WE HELP EACH OTHER”

~PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM~

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

I am still working with the MSU Extension Healthy Aging Food Box program to get families (Kinship/McKinney Vento/YHDP) in our community signed up and prepared to receive the optional food boxes. Some of the barriers we are running into is that Fedex has difficulty with locating some of the addresses and/or will drop off at the neighboring house. We are working on identifying a solution to possibly identify one location for families to pick-up their deliveries.

We identified #177 students experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2025/2026 SY. (Based on the MV definition of homelessness)

McKinney Vento (MV):

This month I will be submitting our McKinney Vento Grant Application. This grant will not be a very large amount and we can foresee needing to increase our requests for donations such as new clothing and essential basic needs for students. I'm very grateful for Mr. Andreas (Napi), Mrs. Surechief (BES), and Ms. Ramona (KW/VINA) for their support with ensuring students in their respective buildings are receiving the necessary support and for their assistance with delivering the MFBN weekend food backpacks. These are not easy tasks to coordinate and there are many components to each that require confidentiality, empathy, and discrete delivery. These staff members are a big, big help with ensuring our students receive these services.

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 and Irene Augare

There are 4 main goals of the YHDP Grant that we are working to implement.

- 1) Identify Stable Housing measured by the number of Youth and Young Adults (YYA) placed into Host Homes;
- 2) Ensure students have Permanent Connections measured by the number of YYA connected to positive social networks;
- 3) Connect students to Education/Employment opportunities measured by the number of YYA connected to employment/educational pathways and;
- 4) Social-emotional well-being measured by the number of YYA connected with cultural, social, and emotional growth opportunities.

These goals will be obtained by working in partnership with youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness, their families of choice, hosts, and various community organizations and partners.

All but 2 of our YHDP students are enrolled in an educational program or employment. We are working to make contact via phone, email, and home visits with each of these individuals but it has been very hard to find them. Some of the YHDP students participated in the GONA (Youth Gatherings of Native Americans) held at BCC. It was a very valuable experience which provided the opportunity for students to learn more about themselves and their peers as well as leadership roles.

Struggles:

- A major barrier we are running into is the lack of communication and follow-through from community programs. We've scheduled meetings and appointments in the past two months that have either been canceled or missed and never re-scheduled. This is very frustrating as we are then unable to fully support our students without the collaboration and it sometimes leaves them feeling hopeless.

Successes:

- 1 of our 5 YHDP students will be exited from the program as she's returned to live with her legal guardian.
- The partnership we share with the Blackfeet ManPower Parenting or Pregnant Teen Prevention Program has been our greatest asset to ensuring that our pregnant or parenting teens receive the support from community services.

Food Pantry's & Clothing Closets:

We've just received information that we were awarded the major Town Pump Grant award of \$15,000 for our food pantries. We will be working to stock the pantries with shelf-stable foods that students can request for the weekends.

PCOP Staff, Irene and Tamara