



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

HISET/
Kinship-
G.R.G.

ĀISSPŌOMMOŌTSIIYŌ•P
"WE HELP EACH OTHER"

Parent Community Outreach Program

Greetings,

This month we are working on providing 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've are experiencing a shortage of "building contacts" and have been relying heavily on each building counselor and/or office staff. 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'd be eligible for the YHDP program.

These students and families who are experiencing homelessness, students in foster care, and kinship who are taking care of students, are our initial priorities. We meet with the families and students individually to identify supports or services needed to assist them with exiting homelessness. Through harm reduction and non-judgmental attitudes, we are better able to help eliminate any barriers the students and families may have. The services we provide are listed at the bottom page of this report and vary by availability, request, and staff.

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 āisspōōmmoōtsiiyō•p)
Kinship Program & Aging Mastery Program-

Some things we've been referring our Kinship families for is assistance with adoption and also Living Will specialists. Some of our Grandparents utilized our transportation support through "transit passes" but, we were unable to secure more, as the Director of the Blackfeet Transit Program refused to provide our program the option to purchase these necessary passes. His explanation included: 1.) Too many individuals' abuse the privilege to utilize the transit; 2.) He did not want his already limited staff to be overwhelmed with requests; 3.) ...the school district has a transportation department. This brought much concern, as the families we serve do not have regular transportation to get too and from important places, such as school/work. I am working with Rebecca, Jen, and Francis to come up with solutions but, ideas are always welcome.

We identified #224 students experiencing homelessness for the academic year 2023/2024. #167 24/25 SY

McKinney Vento (MV): As we move into the colder/winter months, we are ensuring our families have information related to heating and water resources. We are working to distribute the winter coats and gear we received plus the items that have been donated. We also made a delivery of smaller winter items for the HeadStart aged kiddos this month.



Foster Care (17); Teen Parents (6):

We have the baby pantry 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 for the school based childcare program.

School-based Clothing Closets:

Located at Bullshoe Elementary, Babb, Napi, BMS, BHS and the Academy. Unlimited access for any student of BPS.

Current Positions available within the Parent Community Outreach Program:

- YHDP Case Manager
- Hi-Set Tutor/Kinship Navigator

October Outreach Events:

OPEN HOUSE EVENT: We distributed over 350 items including clothing, shoes, blankets, household dishes and cups. The clothing ranged from newborn-Adult XXL. These were items donated, that were not being utilized within the closets. We were able to visit grandparents, aunts, uncles, and students who were very thankful for the free items. We also registered 12 new McKinney Vento Eligible students through this event, alone.

A BIG BIG THANK YOU TO: Mr. Robert Hall and Drew Landry for connecting us with Tyler Childers -Staff Member, Ian Thornton. They donated over 100 winter jackets, backpacks, and snow boots. They are also

donating winter gloves, hats, hygiene items, and some fun journals, pens, and games to our students and families experiencing homelessness. We received confirmation that this will be an ongoing partnership to assist our efforts with eliminating some of the barrier for these students. We will be sending a formal thank you as well!

Below is a photo of a student modeling her new winter jacket:



