



# **Horizon Montessori Public Schools District Plan for Children and Youth in Homeless Situations**

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

It is the policy of Horizon Montessori Public Schools District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, handicap, religion, race, color or national origin in its educational programs.



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## Section 1 Overview/General Information

### McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001

*The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Subtitle B—Education for Homeless Children and Youth), reauthorized in January 2002, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.*

#### **Definition of Homelessness (McKinney-Vento Act Sec. 725(2); 42 U.S.C 11435(2))**

The term “homeless children and youth”—

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence ...; and

(B) includes—

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings ...

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

#### **Unaccompanied Youth**

Unaccompanied youth include young people who have run away from home, been thrown out of their homes, and been abandoned by parents. These young people are separated from their parents for a variety of reasons.

#### **Policies and Procedures**

The Horizon Montessori Public School District shall ensure that each child of an individual facing a homeless situation and each youth facing a homeless situation will have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

The District shall also provide children and youths facing homeless situations with access to the education and other services that such children and youths need in order to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Homelessness alone is not a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.

## **Dissemination of Educational Rights**

All schools within the Horizon Montessori Public School District shall ensure that public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated where children and youth receive services under the Act. Posters in English and Spanish will be posted in all school campuses, family shelter, public housing authorities, low-cost motels, post office buildings, city halls, libraries, and welfare departments. Posters will also be placed at laundromats, convenience stores and other businesses that families who are homeless or at risk of losing their housing may learn about their educational rights and who to contact for help. **Campus parent educators and social workers** will be provided with posters and will disseminate them to the above mentioned agencies and businesses within their school boundaries.

## **Section 2 Identification and Eligibility**

### **Identifying Students in Homeless Situations**

Children and youth in homeless situations are difficult to identify for many reasons and often go unnoticed by school personnel. Students and parents may try to hide their situation because they are embarrassed by their homelessness. In addition, the fear of having children taken away often prevents families from informing school officials of their living circumstances. Unaccompanied youth may not report their homeless status for fear of being returned to unsafe family environments. Children and youth who are not enrolled in school and who are not living in shelters are even more invisible to schools and their communities. Yet these students must be identified as homeless if they are to enroll, attend and succeed in school. The law, therefore, requires all school districts, ensured by the District Homeless Liaison and in coordination with school personnel and other agencies, to identify students in homeless situations. Identifying students in homeless situations is also an important way to create greater awareness of homelessness in the school district and community. **Every current, re-entry and new student in the Horizon Montessori Public School District will do online enrollment via SchoolAdmin. One of the forms to be completed during enrollment is the McKinney-Vento Act Interview Script Form. This McKinney-Vento Act Interview Script will be used to determine if the student is facing a homeless situation.**

### **Eligibility of Students in Homeless Situations for Title I Services**

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sec. 1115(b)(2)(E); 20 U.S.C. 6315(b)(2)(E):

A child or youth that is attending the Horizon Montessori Public Schools District is automatically eligible for Title I homeless services, regardless of their current academic performance. These services might include tutoring, school supplies, counseling, and social work services.

## **Section 3 School Options**

### **School Selection**

Horizon Montessori Public Schools District will, to the extent feasible, keep students in homeless situations in their school of origin defined as the school attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled, unless it is against the parent or guardian's wishes.

Students can stay in their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing. They may also choose to enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

Homeless Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth (youth who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's wishes, and provide youth with notice of their right to appeal an enrollment choice that goes against their wishes.

## **Section 4 Enrollment**

### **Immediate Enrollment of Students**

Students in homeless situations will be immediately enrolled in Horizon Montessori Public Schools District even if they do not have required documents such as: school records, medical records, proof of residency, guardianship papers or other documents. The term "enroll" is defined as attending classes and participating fully in school activities.

Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school, and students must be enrolled in school while records are obtained.

Horizon Montessori Public Schools District shall remove any /all barriers to the enrollment and retention of children and youth in homeless situations. Students in homeless situations shall be free from segregation, isolation, and stigmatization.

### **Enrollment of Unaccompanied Youth and Notice of Appeal**

The Homeless Liaison must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school after considering the youth's wishes, inform youth of their rights to transportation and assisting youth in accessing transportation, and provide youth of their right to appeal school or school district decisions. The Homeless Liaison must ensure that unaccompanied youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of disputes that may arise over school enrollment or placement.

Unaccompanied youth have the right to:

- Remain in their school of origin (to the extent feasible)
- Transportation to and from the school of origin
- Immediately enroll in a new school serving the area in which they are currently living even if they don't have typically required documents (e.g. proof of guardianship)
- Equal access to programs and services such as gifted and talented education, special education, vocational education, and English Language Learner services.

### **Enrollment of Students Pending Resolution of Disputes**

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The child, youth parent, or guardian shall be referred to the PEIMS Business Office Clerk, who shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows.

- Work with the Homeless Liaison and Campus Administration to ensure that enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the enrollment disputes section of the McKinney-Vento Act as follows:
  - (i) the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
  - (ii) the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal
  - (iii) the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the PEIMS Business Office Clerk, who shall carry out the Dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
  - (iv) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

## **Section 5 Services**

### **Coordination of Services**

The Horizon Montessori Public Schools District campus **counselors** shall provide information regarding the availability of services from local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to children and youths and their families who may be facing homeless situations. (See Resources in Appendix B)



## **Comparable Services**

Each child or youth facing a homeless situation shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected, including transportation services, educational services for which the child or youth meet the eligibility criteria (Title I homeless services, pre-school, educational programs for children with disabilities or for students with limited English proficiency), programs in vocational and technical education, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs, as available.

## **Transportation**

Horizon Montessori Public Schools District will provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent or guardian's request. For unaccompanied youth Horizon Montessori Public Schools District will provide transportation to and from the school of origin at the homeless liaison's request. "School of Origin" is defined as the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. If the student's temporary residence and the school of origin are in the same district, that district must provide or arrange transportation. If the student is living outside the school of origin's district, the district where the student is living and the school of origin's district must determine how to divide the responsibility and cost of providing transportation, or they must share the responsibility and cost equally. In addition to providing transportation to the school of origin, the district must provide students in homeless situations with transportation services comparable to those provided to other students.

Even though transportation is a required part of the Homeless Education Plan in order to comply with the McKinney-Vento Act, Title I funds may not be used to support the transportation of students in homeless situations to and from their school of origin.

## **Section 6 Warning Signs of Homelessness**

Note: While these are considered warning signs, please recognize that they only offer general guidance. There is significant variability within the school age homeless population. Individual students may differ significantly from the following general characteristics.

### **Lack of Continuity in Education**

- Attendance at many different schools
- Lack of personal records needed to enroll
- Inability to pay fees
- Gaps in skill development
- Mistaken diagnosis of abilities
- Poor organizational skills
- Poor ability to conceptualize

**Poor Health/Nutrition**

- Lack of immunizations and/or immunization records
- Unmet medical and dental needs
- Increased vulnerability to colds and flu
- Respiratory problems
- Skin rashes
- Chronic hunger (may hoard food)
- Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)

**Transportation and Attendance Problems**

- Erratic attendance and tardiness
- Numerous absences
- Lack of participation in after school activities
- Lack of participation in field trips
- Inability to contact parents
- Absences on days when students bring special treats from home

**Poor Hygiene**

- Lack of shower facilities/washers, etc.
- Wearing same clothes for several days
- Inconsistent grooming (well-groomed one day and poorly groomed the next)

**Lack of Privacy/Personal Space after School**

- Consistent lack of preparation for school
- Loss of books and other supplies on a regular basis
- Lack of basic school supplies
- Refusing invitations from classmates
- Concern for safety of belongings
- Unable to complete special projects (no access to supplies)
- Incomplete or missing homework (no place to work or keep supplies)

**Social and Behavioral Concerns**

- A marked change in behavior
- Poor/short attention span
- Poor self-esteem
- Extreme shyness
- Unwillingness to risk forming relationships with peers and teachers
- Difficulty socializing at recess
- Difficulty trusting people
- Aggression
- “Old” beyond years; Worries about things considered to be more adult in nature.
- Protective of parents
- Clinging behavior
- Developmental delays
- Fear of abandonment
- School phobia (student wants to be with parent)
- Need for immediate gratification
- Anxiety late in the school day

### **Reaction/Statements by Parent, Guardian, or Child**

- Exhibiting anger or embarrassment when asked about current address
- Mention of staying with grandparents, other relatives, friends, or in a motel, or comments, such as:
  - “I don’t remember the name of our previous school.”
  - “We’ve been moving around a lot.”
  - “Our address is new; I can’t remember it.” (May hide lack of permanent address.)
  - “We’re staying with relatives until we get settled.”
  - “We’re going through a bad time right now.”

### **Typical Stressful Experiences of Children in Homeless Situations**

- Physical abuse
- Health problems
- Low self-esteem
- Malnutrition
- Sleeping problems
- Lags in language skills
- Learning disabilities
- Developmental delays
- Trauma

### **Possible Reactions of Children in Homeless Situations to Stress**

- Restless and leave projects half finished
- Fight for control at school
- Easily frustrated
- Cling to what they have; Aggressive in trying to claim something for themselves

## **Section 7 Educational Support**

### **District Homeless Liaison’s Role**

The Horizon Montessori Public Schools District’s **PEIMS BUSINESS OFFICE CLERK** is the District Homeless Liaison(s) and will:

- Ensure that procedures are established and followed at each campus and provide each student in a homeless situation with free and appropriate education.
- Disseminate critical information concerning the rights of students in homeless situations to all campuses.
- Provide training regarding homelessness to district staff responsible for identifying and working with students facing homeless situations.
- Work with campus staff and administration to facilitate success of the homeless program and each student facing a homeless situation.

### **Campus Homeless Liaison's Role**

Each campus will identify a Campus Homeless Liaison. **At the elementary campuses, the counselor will be the campus homeless liaison. At the secondary campuses, the counselor will be the campus homeless liaison. Each campus homeless liaison will:**

- Identify students that may be facing homeless situations.
- Enroll students in homeless situations immediately even without all required documentation.
- Inform parents and guardians and unaccompanied youth of all transportation services, including to the school of origin and assist in accessing transportation services.
- Stress school attendance.
- Facilitate training at the campus level.
- Ensure that procedures are established and followed to provide each student facing a homeless situation with a free and appropriate education.
- Send information regarding available school programs to shelters if students from a shelter attend your school.
- Post information regarding the availability of school programs and services for students facing homeless situations in shelters, post offices, churches, police departments, transitional housing projects, food and supply banks, etc.
- Post public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations at the campus.
- Provide parents with names and numbers of where to call for both school and community service assistance and personally assist them to make contacts and to attend meetings.
- Make sure parents feel welcome and set the tone for further parental involvement.
- Establish a trusting relationship with shelter staff and parents and visit shelters to meet staff and to understand the living environment.
- Meet with community agencies and volunteers to share resources and information and to evaluate impact of services.
- Assist parents to organize important records-Child Portfolio meetings.

### **What the Principal Can Do (\* indicates legal requirements)**

- Welcome students and parents and set the tone for further parental involvement.
- \*Appoint a campus liaison (**elementary-parent educator, secondary-social worker**) for students in homeless situations.
- \*Prepare support staff on enrollment procedures and exceptions to make for homeless students. A child or youth that is homeless is automatically eligible for Title I services, regardless of their current academic performance. All students in homeless situations must receive Title I services.
- \*Ensure that students in homeless situations are reported accurately in PEIMS by the campus administrator and that supporting documentation is filed inside the yellow At-risk folder in the student permanent record.
- \*Facilitate training at the campus level.
- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of students in homeless situations is disseminated

where children and youth receive services under the Act (Posters).

- Organize in-service training for all school staff to ensure sensitivity to the needs of students facing homeless situations.
- Remove barriers to promote a stable school environment and experience.
- Appoint a staff person to do a brief educational assessment, if necessary.
- Inform staff that the student is living in a homeless situation.
- Spend time with a homeless student.
- Visit shelters to understand the living situation and to provide support to shelter staff in helping students succeed in school.
- Keep in close contact with staff; encourage detection and prevention of problems.
- Facilitate a cooperative working relationship between school staff and community agency staff to ensure the provision of services to meet needs.
- Assist in the resolution of transportation problems.
- Implement procedures for identifying children and youth in homeless situations.
- Maintain a cumulative count of the number of students in homeless situations living within your school zone.
- Maintain a record of pertinent information regarding students facing homeless situations for school and community planning.

### **What the Teacher Can Do**

- Help students feel welcome.
- Select a student to be a “buddy.”
- Provide school supplies needed.
- Have necessary toiletry items on hand to assure proper hygiene at school.
- Help students arrange for transportation for after-school activities and special events.
- Help students enroll in support programs.
- Coordinate educational plans with counselor and with school staff in assisting children and youth in homeless situations.
- Be observant of medical and other needs and help with referrals for assistance.
- Develop mentor program or be a mentor.
- Do not stigmatize a student who is in a homeless situation.
- Expect and unobtrusively monitor regressions and absences.
- Closely monitor reasons for absences to uncover needs.
- Assign projects that can be broken into small components to insure success.
- Allow students to express frustrations and allow opportunities to do so in other ways in addition to verbalizing (e.g. drawing).
- Build self-esteem by providing work in which the child can experience success.
- Don’t assume students know how to play; they may need to be taught to do so.
- Recommend and help arrange for professional help if needed. Follow up to insure connections are established.
- Consider homeless situations when making assignments-students needing a place to study or to complete projects.
- Assist parents to organize important records-Child Portfolio meetings.
- Plan for the students’ need to talk about experiences, individually with you or, if comfortable, during class sharing time.
- Encourage and allow students to express fears.
- Communicate with parents and shelter staff about the student’s achievement, behavior, and attendance.

### **What the Counselor Can Do**

- Greet the student and parent(s) as soon as possible and offer assistance.
- Adopt an “open-door” policy in providing assistance.
- Build a trusting and safe relationship with students in homeless situations.
- Implement a buddy system.
- Facilitate the opportunity for students in homeless situations to participate in –school and after school activities.
- Communicate with the students’ prior school(s) to obtain necessary information to insure continuation of services.
- Coordinate with other school staff in assisting children and youth facing homeless situations.
- Assist school staff in understanding how homelessness affects the student’s ability to learn and to adjust at school.
- Educate parents about their children’s educational rights.
- Keep communication open with shelter care providers to collaborate services and to keep them informed regarding school activities.
- Identify local community resources to make referrals, e.g. food, housing, transportation, counseling.
- Encourage and assist members of the community to sponsor school-based and other support programs.
- Encourage parents of students in homeless situations to participate in school activities and programs for parents.

### **What the Campus Nurse Can Do**

- Assist parents with the completion of all necessary medical records.
- Assist parents in obtaining child’s medical information from doctors and clinics.
- Alert school and shelter care staff of any serious medical condition of the students.
- Inquire about health problems e.g. asthma, epilepsy, sickle cell anemia, lead poisoning and diabetes, etc.
- Assist in making arrangements for appropriate supervision if the student becomes ill and needs to go “home.”
- Coordinate with other school staff in assisting children and youths in homeless situations.
- Assist other staff members in understanding health and family issues with families/students facing homeless situations.
- Inform students/families of reliable and accessible community programs.
- Refer families for subsidized critical services, e.g. medical, dental, etc.
- Work with parent educators and social workers to coordinate with shelters and families to identify and meet the health, nutritional, and sleep/rest needs of students.
- As a resource to families, provide/coordinate instruction in first aid, safety, nutrition, and self-advocacy.
- Follow-up on students who are deficient in immunization requirements to determine assistance and help resolve the cause, e.g. incomplete immunizations, illness, behavior. The law requires that students be admitted regardless of immunization history.
- Have necessary toiletry items on hand to assure proper hygiene at school.

### **What Campus Support Staff Can Do**

- Greet the student warmly; make him/her feel welcome.
- Greet parents and staff from local shelters warmly and make the parents feel welcome.
- Notify counselor, teacher and nurse when a student facing a homeless situation, either from a shelter or in a doubled-up situation, is accessing the bus to get to school or is admitted to school.





*APPENDIX A*

**INTERVIEW SCRIPT FORM**

**PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING STUDENTS IN  
HOMELESS SITUATIONS**



# Horizon Montessori Public Schools District

## MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

### INTERVIEW SCRIPT FORM

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Campus: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am calling/visiting on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (campus name). I would like to speak to Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (parent or guardian) of \_\_\_\_\_ (student name). On the online **Student Residency Questionnaire**, you indicated that your child is presently living:

- In my own home, apartment or in Section 8 housing - **Code 0**
- In my own home but my home has no electricity or no running water - **Code 3**
- With more than one family in a house or apartment due to loss of housing or economic hardship- **Code 2**
- In a shelter or transitional housing because I do not have permanent housing - **Code 1**
- In a hotel or motel - **Code 4**
- In a tent, car, van, abandoned building, on the streets, at a campground, in the park, or other unsheltered location - **Code 3**

Your child/children may qualify to receive services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act, also referred to as Title X.

**Support services that the student may need after interviewing parent or guardian:**

Services	NEED? YES or NO
Community agency referral (s)	
Emergency utility assistance/referral	
Housing referral (non-emergency)	
Counseling referrals	
Medical/dental/visual assistance/referral	
Student/family support services/referral	
Emergency clothing/shoes	
Emergency food	
Emergency shelter	

Ask the parent for the names of the siblings or school-aged children living in the home. If they are school-aged, please indicate the campus and grade where they are enrolled.

Siblings	Campus	Grade

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or needs throughout the school year, please feel free to contact me \_\_\_\_\_ (parent educator, social worker name) at \_\_\_\_\_ (campus phone number).

Additional comments from parent educator, social worker, or person completing this form:

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Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Codes for PEIMS Data Entry:**

**HOMELESS STATUS CODES: *(Administrator is to select one-see above marked code)***

- 1- Student lives in a **shelter**, transitional housing, or is awaiting foster care at any time during current school year
- 2- Student lives temporarily **doubled-up** (sharing residence with a family or individual at any time during school year due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason)
- 3- Student is **unsheltered** (lives on the street, lives in cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailers (including FEMA trailers), or abandoned buildings and substandard housing (no electricity or running water) at any time during the school year)
- 4- Student lives in **motel or hotel** at any time during current school year (lost their housing, lack an alternative accommodation, and do not have a “fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence)

**PEIMS Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH STATUS CODES: *(Administrator is to select one)***

- 3- Homeless Student is in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian (i.e., homeless student is not unaccompanied) for the entire school year.
- 4- Homeless Student is not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian (i.e., homeless student is unaccompanied) at any time during the school year.

**PEIMS Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

PEIMS Administrator (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Return this form to the PEIMS Administrator for proper coding.**

# Horizon Montessori Public Schools

## McKinney-Vento Act

### Procedures for identifying children and youth facing homeless situations under the McKinney-Vento Act:

1. The campus counselor will use the **McKinney-Vento Act Interview Script Form** to follow up with an interview that will help clarify the student's homeless situation and what services he/she may qualify for.
2. The campus counselor will give the **McKinney-Vento Act Interview Script Form** to the Administrator in charge of PEIMS to review, assign codes and sign the form for those students that have been identified as facing a homeless situation or who may be unaccompanied. **The administrator will then give the completed form to the PEIMS clerk who will enter the proper code for homeless and unaccompanied youth in TxEIS and file the form in the yellow At-risk binder found in the student permanent record. The campus PEIMS clerk or social worker will keep a copy of the Interview Script Form as they work with the student facing the homeless situation.** The McKinney-Vento Act Interview Script Form in the At-risk Folder can be audited by TEA up to 5 years.
3. Students who meet eligibility as homeless maintain that eligibility for the remainder of the school year regardless of changes in circumstances relating to the parent's/guardian's employment or place of residence.
4. **If a student faces a homeless situation during the year, fill out an Interview Script Form and follow procedure. Families may make contact with the teacher, attendance clerk, counselor or any school employee when they become homeless. Make sure to immediately relay this information to the parent educator or social worker so that they can assist the family. Make sure to give the form to the PEIMS administrator to ensure proper coding is entered in TxEIS and information is placed inside the yellow At-risk folder in the permanent record.**
5. Questions regarding services to be provided to students facing homeless situations may be directed to the PEIMS Business Office Clerk at 956-969-3092.



**APPENDIX B**  
**RESOURCES**





## Rio Grande Valley Homeless Resources

PROGRAM TITLE	SERVICES	CONTACT
American Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief for fires, floods, hurricane and other natural disasters</li> <li>• Emergency services</li> <li>• Financial services for military personnel and their families</li> </ul>	Chris Delgado, Center Coordinator 1-800-785-7851 ext. 104
The Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, INC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency assistance with clothing, food, shelter, health services and housing for the moles.</li> </ul>	Berta Lozano, Social Worker Nelda de Leon, Social Worker (956)-831-6331 Fax: (956)831-8577
Rio Grande Children's Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 hour basic child care for dependent, neglected and orphaned children</li> <li>• Residential care for children in a long-term or short term setting</li> </ul>	Velma Baldonado, Case Worker (956)585-4847
County of Hidalgo Community Service Agency (CSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless Program</li> </ul>	Maribel Navarro, Executive Director (956)383-6240 1-800-522-4021
Diocese of Brownsville – Catholic Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary shelter for families</li> </ul>	Sister Norma Pimentel, Executive Director (956)702-4088 Fax: (956)782-0418
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, INC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributes food for the needy on an emergency basis through food pantries and feeding programs</li> </ul>	Terri Drefke, Executive Director 956-682-8101 1-877-682-8443 Fax: (956)682-7921
Information Referral Resources Assistance Incorporated, INC. (IRRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency housing assistance</li> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Clothing</li> </ul>	Mission Center Eddie Sanchez, Social Worker (956)519-2227 (956)393-2227
Motivation Education and Training (MET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing assistance such as deposits, rental assistance and emergency shelter</li> <li>• Eligibility: migrant or seasonal farm worker and their dependants</li> </ul>	Melissa Castillo, Housing Services Specialist Beatriz Farias, Housing Services Coord. (956) 447-1296
McAllen Housing Authority Weslaco Housing Authority Harlingen Housing Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local housing programs that provide information about eligibility for and vacancies in the subsidized housing</li> </ul>	McAllen: Arnold Padilla (956)686-3951 ext 225 Weslaco: George Pina (956)969-1538 Harlingen: Hilda Benavides (956)425-2521
Salvation Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency shelter</li> <li>• Clothing and food assistance</li> <li>• Financial assistance</li> </ul>	(956)682-1468

<p>Women Together Foundation, Inc. (Mujeres Unidas)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency services and shelter for adult victims of family violence, their children and other family members</li></ul>	<p>Estella de Anda (956)630-4878 <a href="http://www.mujeresunidas.org">www.mujeresunidas.org</a></p>
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