



# McKINNEY-VENTO NAVIGATOR

A Pickaway County ESC newsletter



## Strategies help parents meet challenges

By Dawn Whiteside  
McKinney-Vento liaison



Triple P is an evidence-based parenting program that provides a system of varying levels of intervention to meet families' needs.

As a parent you face the same kinds of challenges as other moms and dads when rais-

ing children.

Despite challenges, you want nothing more than to raise happy, successful children.

Triple P provides strategies for parents that help them manage challenges that children and parents can face. These strategies can



enhance kids' well-being.

Instead of making things up as you go, using bits and pieces you have picked up from your parents, friends or online, why not be confident that the positive parenting solutions and strategies you are using have been tried, tested, re-tested and proven to work.

I would be happy to share these strategies. Call me at (740) 474-7529 for more information.

## Defining homelessness not black and white

By Dawn Whiteside  
McKinney-Vento liaison

As the number of homeless continues to increase in the county, it's important to understand what is homelessness.

There is a lengthy definition for *homelessness*, per the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as well as a range of who is considered homeless.

In its simplest form, McKinney-Vento defines "homeless children and youths" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

This includes children and youth who are sharing housing

with others because of loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds because of

a lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; and 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 people.

### Homeless youth count continues to rise

Public schools identified nearly 1.3 million children and youth experiencing homelessness in the 2019-2020 school year — a record and roughly the population of Dallas, Texas. An additional 1.4 million children younger than 6 — infants, toddlers and preschoolers — are estimated to experience homelessness. In addition to children who experience homelessness with their parents,

at least one in 30 adolescents ages 13-17, and nearly one in 10 young adults ages 18-24, are estimated to experience homelessness on their own. These numbers are now likely much higher because of the pandemic and related economic and family stress.

From <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/>

## The connection between homeless and financial aid

A new SchoolHouse Connection analysis of federal data illustrates the impact of the pandemic and worsening barriers on FAFSA completion for youth experiencing homelessness and youth with experience in foster care.

- In the 2020-2021 academic year, the number of unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) FAFSA determinations declined by almost 10 percent from 2019-20. This decrease is nearly 10 times greater than the percentage drop in the total number of FAFSA applications submitted in 2020-21, and the first decline in UHY determinations in five years of data collection.
- The number of youth who requested FAFSA homeless determinations but did not receive them by the end of the appli-

### 2023-24 FAFSA

The new FAFSA is out Oct. 1. While the homelessness and foster-care questions will appear the same, revised federal guidance is anticipated later. For more information go to <https://tinyurl.com/38rcwy2w>.

cation cycle increased by 23 percent from 2019-20 and by 34 percent from 2018-19. This represents a significant increase in the number of students whose homeless status remains unknown because a determination was not made in response to

their requests for schools to consider their homelessness.

- The number of FAFSA applicants who were determined to be independent because both parents were deceased, or the applicants were in foster care, dependents or wards of the court decreased by 7 percent from 2019-20 — a significantly larger drop than the 1 percent decrease in the total number of FAFSA applications submitted in 2020-21. This continues a downward trend from previous years.

The FAFSA Simplification Act removes many FAFSA barriers for youth experiencing homelessness and youth who have come from foster care. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/bdnr9yjb>.