

Homelessness

Homeless Resources

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, a student is considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and meet one of the following criteria:

- A child who is sharing the housing of others (includes doubled-up families) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital, or is awaiting foster care placement
- A child who has 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
- A child who is living in a car, park, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or
- A migratory child/youth who qualifies as homeless because of the living circumstances described above (includes youth who have run away or youth being forced to leave home)

Students that are listed as homeless by the district's Homeless Liaison have the right to:

- enroll in school right away
- transportation to and from their school
- free school meals
- referrals to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing and other services as needed

Below are resources related to homelessness:

- Learn more about who is considered homeless and what the McKinney-Vento Act is about at <http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/identification.pdf>
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Education and Youth: <http://www.naehcy.org/>
- [Guide to the rights for homeless children and youth: https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/BasicMcKinneyBooklet2011.pdf](https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/BasicMcKinneyBooklet2011.pdf)
- Frequently asked questions and answers about homelessness: https://www.educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/FrequentlyAskedQuestion_112009.pdf
- [Iowa Finance Authority's](#) (IFA) mission is to finance, administer, advance and preserve affordable housing and to promote community and economic development for Iowans. IFA is a self-supporting public agency. IFA offers a variety of programs that address a continuum of housing needs, from homeless assistance to multifamily rental to single-family homeownership.
- [Iowa Legal Aid](#) is a nonprofit organization that provides critical legal assistance to low-income Iowans who have nowhere else to turn.
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#) is the voice and social conscience for the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. NAEHCY accomplishes this through advocacy, partnerships, and education.

- [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#) provides research, resources, and information enabling communities to address the educational needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- [National Coalition for the Homeless](#) is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission. That mission, our common bond, is to end homelessness.
- [National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty's](#) (NLCHP) mission is to prevent and end homelessness by serving as the legal arm of the nationwide movement to end homelessness.
- [National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness \(NPACH\)](#) provides facts and policy on homelessness at the national level. NPACH is a grass roots anti-poverty organization with a mission to ensure that national homelessness policy accurately reflects the needs and experiences of local communities.
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) funds programs to help the homeless. These programs are managed by local organizations that provide a range of services, including shelter, food, counseling, and jobs skills programs.
- [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)'s mission is to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to constellate a national partnership at every level of government and every element of the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation.