

Module 8: Connecting with Community Partners

Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness
An Interactive Learning Series for Early Childhood Professionals

Welcome!

This module is intended for professionals in Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care, including early childhood and school-age child care providers, Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agency or designated entity staff, and other key stakeholders.

Module Features

Before you get started, take a moment to review the features of this module. Select the numbered buttons on this page to learn more about each feature. When you are finished, choose "Next" to continue.

Select the **Menu** tab to:

- See a drop-down list of the module's contents
- Jump to a particular section by selecting its title
- Check your progress by selecting "Completion Status"
- Access your Certificate of Completion once you have completed all module sections

Select the **Transcript** tab to open a printable text version of this module.

Choose the **Resources** tab for a list of helpful resources.

Select the **Federal Policies** tab for links to sections of federal legislation and regulations related to family homelessness.

The **page numbers** show how many pages you have completed in a specific section, and how many you have left to complete.

Select the **"Play"** button to play the narration on each slide.

Select the **"Pause"** button to pause the narration on each slide.

Choose **"Previous"** to return to the previous slide.

Choose **"Next"** to go to the next slide.

Module Instructions

- Each module takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. You can spend as much or as little time as you like on a module, depending on your level of experience.
- If you are using your own computer, you can stop a module and come back to it later; the program will remember where you left off. However, if you are using a computer that others will also use to access the learning series, plan to finish the module in one sitting.
- Select the Transcript tab to download or print the text of the module.
- Select the Federal Policies tab for direct links to the federal legislation and regulations referenced in this module. You can bookmark these links for future reference.
- Select the Resources tab to view the full list of reference citations and helpful resources. A number at the end of a sentence indicates a reference citation.
- When you select a link within the module or through one of the tabs, the page will open in a new tab. To return to the module, select the module tab.
- When you finish all sections of this module, you can download a Certificate of Completion.

Introduction

Building strong working relationships with community partners is important to supporting families experiencing homelessness. It helps programs provide access to additional services and supports.

In this module, you will learn about:

- Community partners that offer support for children and families experiencing homelessness
- Local and state strategies and activities to build and broaden connections with community partners

Homelessness can be thought of as representing a cluster of challenges (Masten, 2014).¹

To address the multiple challenges of homelessness, programs, organizations, and agencies can work together to develop effective relationships at the local and state levels. Understanding the policies and procedures used by partners can help families access all of the benefits and resources for which they qualify. Knowing about available services and systems—including their eligibility criteria—helps ensure timely access to public benefit and service programs for families experiencing homelessness.

In Module 5, we focused on connecting with partners for outreach efforts and identification of families experiencing homelessness. This module focuses on connecting with partners to provide supports for children experiencing homelessness and their families.

Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: Why Partnerships Matter

Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agency or designated entity staff are required to collaborate and coordinate with one another. They also must connect and work with specific community agencies and programs, including state and local educational agencies (SEAs and LEAs), to ensure children and families experiencing homelessness have access to comprehensive services and supports.

See Appendix A for more information about the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) and CCDF Final Rule.

Connecting with Partners to Support Families Experiencing Homelessness

Working with partners is a key strategy for serving families experiencing homelessness. Partners may include other early childhood and school-age child care programs that use the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. § 11435a(2)] definition of "homeless" for children and youth, hereinafter referred to as the "McKinney-Vento Act's definition."

Partners may also be programs and services specifically focused on supporting children and families with issues related to financial well-being, health, safety, or other service needs. The impacts of family homelessness on child development and the supports children may need are described in Module 2.

See Appendix C for a full list of partners and contact information.

Activity: Connecting with Partners

Consider the partners you work with who provide supports to children and families experiencing homelessness, and those with whom you might connect.

- Explore the buttons on this page to see the list of partners in each category.
- Choose the partner to learn more about the supports they offer.
- Once you have completed the activity on each page, select the "Next" button to continue

Early Childhood and School-Age Child Care	Nutrition
Health	Social and Emotional, and Family Support
Economic and Self-Sufficiency	Housing
Additional Social Supports	

Early Childhood and School-Age Child Care

Choose an Early Childhood and School-Age Child Care partner to learn more about how each addresses the educational needs of children and families experiencing homelessness:

- Head Start and Early Head Start
- State Pre-K Program
- Child Care Resource & Referral Agency
- McKinney-Vento SEA Coordinators and LEA Liaisons
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C State Coordinators and Part B-619 State Directors
- Title 1

Head Start and Early Head Start.

Head Start (ages 3 to 5) and Early Head Start (pregnancy through age 3) programs help young children from low-income families prepare to succeed in school and life. These programs promote children's development, in partnership with their parents, through services that support early learning, health, and well-being. Head Start Collaboration Offices facilitate partnerships between Head Start agencies and other state entities providing services to benefit low-income children and their families.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

State Pre-K Program.

Information about state-funded pre-K programs can be found through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO). CEELO is intended to strengthen the capacity of SEAs to lead sustained improvements in early learning opportunities and outcomes. CEELO works in partnership with SEAs, state and local early childhood leaders, and other federal and national TA providers to promote innovation and accountability.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agencies.

CCR&R agencies provide many different services depending on state and community needs. Services may include child care referrals and other parenting supports, child care provider T/TA, and other efforts to increase the quality and availability of child care. CCR&Rs typically provide contact, vacancy, and quality information on early childhood and child care providers in communities.

See Appendix C partners' contact information.

McKinney-Vento SEA Coordinators and LEA Liaisons.

These partners identify young children experiencing homelessness and ensure their access to educational services programs for which they are eligible. Programs include Head Start, Early Head Start, child care, and preschool. SEA and LEA liaisons can also connect families with early intervention and special education services offered under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C and Part B Section 619 for children with special needs.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C State Coordinators and Part B-619 State Directors.

IDEA partners provide early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth–2) and their families (IDEA Part C). They also provide special education and related services to children ages 3–5 (IDEA Part B). Eligibility criteria are determined by states. Many states have enhanced practices for screening, evaluating, monitoring, transporting, and providing individualized educational interventions for children who meet the McKinney-Vento definition of "homeless."

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Title I.

Title I supports public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure their school success. Title I must coordinate with McKinney-Vento to support the needs of children experiencing homelessness since they often face problems of attendance due to mobility. LEAs must reserve Title I funds to provide these educational supports.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Nutrition

Choose a Nutrition Services partner to learn more about how each addresses the food and nutrition needs of children and families experiencing homelessness:

- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Breastfeeding Promotion and Support
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

WIC was established to safeguard the health of low- income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. They provide nutritious foods to supplement diets, nutrition education (including breastfeeding promotion and support), and referrals to health and other social services.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Breastfeeding Promotion and Support.

Public health agencies are a key partner in increasing breastfeeding rates. They play a role in improving this practice in the workplace, hospitals, and the community. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is supporting state health agencies and other partners to enhance breastfeeding efforts.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

CACFP provides aid to child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes. They offer nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children, and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired disabled persons.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

School districts and independent schools that choose to take part in these federally-assisted meal programs get cash subsidies and donated commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve nutritionally balanced meals that meet federal requirements and offer free or reduced-price meals to eligible children each school day.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

SFSP ensures that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. This summer, USDA plans to serve more than 200 million free meals to children 18 years and under at approved SFSP sites.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Health

Choose a Health Services partner to learn more about how each addresses the health and safety needs of children and families experiencing homelessness:

- Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP)
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)
- Maternal and Child Health Title V/Prenatal Care
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) See the Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP).

Medicaid and SCHIP offer free or low-cost health insurance. Children can get regular check-ups, immunizations, doctor and dentist visits, hospital care, mental health services, prescriptions, and more. Children in a family of four earning up to \$50,451 a year may qualify. Each state has its own rules about who qualifies for SCHIP.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT).

EPSDT provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services, including vision and hearing screening and immunizations.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Maternal and Child Health Title V/Prenatal Care.

Maternal and Child Health Title V/Prenatal Care is one of the largest federal block grant programs. It is a key source of support for promoting and improving the health of mothers and children. Its purpose is to address the health services needs of mothers, infants, and children, including children with special health care needs, and their families.

See the Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

FQHCs are community-based health care providers that receive funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program to provide primary care services in underserved areas. They must meet a stringent set of requirements, including providing care on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay and operating under a governing board that includes patients.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

Under the Affordable Care Act, MIECHV provides grants to states to coordinate, expand, and enhance home visiting services using federally designated evidence-based home visiting service models. Services are primarily focused on meeting the needs of pregnant women, infants, and toddlers; though some programs serve preschoolers, too.

See the Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Social and Emotional, and Family Support

Choose a Social and Emotional and Family Support Services partner to learn more about how each addresses the social and emotional needs of children and families experiencing homelessness:

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC)
- Domestic Violence
- Child Welfare Protective and Voluntary Services
- Family Well-Being Supports

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment.

Information can be obtained using the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator. It can assist in finding local resources around substance abuse, addiction, and mental health problems. It is a confidential and anonymous source of information for persons seeking treatment facilities and resources.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)

The first years of life provide the foundation for children's mental health and social and emotional development. Social development includes the ability to form healthy relationships with others, and the knowledge of social rules and standards. This partner provides mental health supports using this perspective, including addressing child and adult trauma.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC).

A growing body of evidence demonstrates the effectiveness of infant and *early childhood mental health consultation* for preventing and reducing the impact of *mental health* problems in young children. *This partner* provides support to children and families in early care and education programs and training for providers. Their focus is on lowering suspensions and expulsions.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Domestic Violence.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act supports state and territorial Domestic Violence Coalitions, which coordinate state and territory-wide improvements within local communities, social service systems, and programs for the prevention and intervention of domestic violence.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Child Welfare Protective and Voluntary Services.

Child welfare agencies and service providers can often be valuable partners in strengthening families, promoting positive parenting, and preventing child abuse and neglect. They can also help access supports for children and families.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Family Well-Being Supports.

Family well-being occurs when all family members are safe, healthy, and have chances for educational advancement and economic mobility. Support services such as early care and education, housing and food assistance, and physical and mental health care positively contribute to the well-being of families and their children. When families face challenges that cause stress, including poverty and homelessness, their health and wellness can be negatively impacted.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Economic and Self Sufficiency

Choose an Economic and Self-Sufficiency Services partner to learn more about how each addresses the financial, education, and workforce development needs of children and families experiencing homelessness:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- General Equivalency Diploma (GED), Adult Education, and English Literacy
- Workforce Development and Job Training

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

TANF is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish at least one of the purposes of the TANF program. Many states use a portion of their TANF funds to supplement CCDF for child care services.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

SSDI and SSI provide assistance to people with disabilities. While these two programs are different in many ways, both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria qualify for benefits under either program. SSDI pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. SSI pays benefits based on financial need.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

General Equivalency Diploma (GED), Adult Education, and English Literacy.

These programs provide instruction in reading and literacy, numeracy, GED preparation, English literacy, adult education services, workplace services, family literacy services, and integrated English literacy-civics education programs. Participation is limited to adults and out-of-school youths age 16 and older who are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law. Instruction is delivered through public schools, community colleges, libraries, community-based organizations, and other providers.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Workforce Development and Job Training.

Employment assistance programs help people search for jobs, find training, and answer other employment related questions. Workforce Development Boards direct federal, state, and local funding to workforce development programs, oversee the American Job Centers, and connect to various programs. The Office of Disability Employment promotes policies and practices to increase the number and quality of employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Housing

Choose a Housing Services partner to learn more about how each addresses the accommodation needs of children and families experiencing homelessness:

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Public Housing/Section 8
- Transitional and Supportive Housing
- Local Realtors, Landlords, and Developers

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP assists eligible households with their heating and cooling energy costs, bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization, and energy-related home repairs.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Public Housing/Section 8.

These agencies receive funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide rental assistance and other housing supports to qualifying families. Though waiting lists are long, there may be special efforts that families can benefit from over time.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Transitional and Supportive Housing.

These programs may provide formal services for families needing longer term and more intensive supports to achieve safety and stability. Such valuable partners ensure ongoing supports for parents in recovery, those with serious or debilitating disabilities, mental illness, or cognitive limitations, and those who lack extended family and social networks.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Local Realtors, Landlords, and Developers.

These groups can often be partners in providing safe, affordable housing to families, especially when they can provide stable housing close to an early childhood or school-age child care or school site. Local groups supporting realtors and landlords can be contacted to discuss possible collaborations.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Additional Social Supports

Choose a partner to learn more about how each addresses other social needs of children and families experiencing homelessness:

- Community Action, Faith-Based, Culture-Sensitive, and Other Nonprofit Organizations
- Veterans Affairs

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Community Action, Faith-Based, Culture-Sensitive, and Other Nonprofit Organizations.

In many communities, human service agencies, faith-based organizations, cultural centers, and other administrative entities provide short-term housing for families in crisis. They also may offer soup kitchens, clothes closets, and other resources to address the basic needs of families experiencing homelessness. These organizations can assist with identifying and engaging families and making referrals to early childhood programs.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information.

Veterans Affairs.

Veterans with children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless face different barriers than homeless veterans without children. In fact, homeless and at-risk veterans with children report the lack of child care services impact their ability to receive the VA healthcare and job training services they need. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) has urged Congress and the VA to ensure homeless veterans have access to child care when receiving such services.

See Appendix C for partners' contact information

Local-Level Strategies that Enhance Partnerships to Address the Needs of Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Consider strategies to strengthen existing partnerships and build new ones to expand access to supports and services for families. A first step is understanding how each partner system addresses homelessness. Identify potential chances to align policies and share resources, such as space, training, and recruitment efforts. The aim is to strengthen collaboration, increase service capacity for families, and more efficiently meet community needs.

Keep in mind that many community agencies may not be familiar with child development and the importance of high-quality early childhood and school-age child care programming. Early childhood and school-age child care providers may serve as advocates for services to children and families experiencing homelessness.

Plan for Partnerships

- Develop an interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to structure working relationships.
- Address confidentiality policies, sharing of data and information about families, among other issues.

See Appendix C for a list of handouts.

Expedite Referral Processes to Facilitate Enrollment and Service Access

- Take steps to ensure thorough understanding of eligibility criteria and application processes for partner systems.
- Address policies to protect confidentiality and procedures for Information Release/Request with key partners
- Share application forms or create streamlined referral and application forms.
 - Make these applications available on-site, along with brochures, flyers, and other materials that include contact information for referrals.
- Provide a meeting space for partner agencies to meet with or enroll families. Establish a regular schedule for these activities.
- Designate a key lead or liaison to handle referrals and follow-up about services delivered.
- Maintain ongoing contact among early childhood and school-age child care providers to share and enroll children in openings.
 - This includes regular contact among:
 - LEA McKinney-Vento liaisons
 - Head Start and Early Head Start Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA) staff

- CCDF Lead Agency staff or designated entities, including subsidy eligibility staff
- Program providers who receive CCDF subsidies
- Others who manage and facilitate enrollment into early childhood and school-age child care programs and services

Resource Fairs

- Attend, plan, and co-sponsor community resource fairs to publicize early childhood and school-age child care programs among families experiencing homelessness and other service providers.
- Provide flyers and other information to families and community providers about quality and eligibility criteria.

If possible, complete applications and conduct enrollment at these events.

Share Training and Professional Development Opportunities

- Regularly share information about services and training with other early childhood and school-age child care programs and providers, including Head Start, Early Head Start, CCDF Lead agencies (or designated entities), programs that receive CCDF subsidies, CCR&Rs, and LEAs. Invite key partners, such as McKinney-Vento liaisons and homeless service providers, to provide training about the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness and the services offered.
 - In return, offer to provide training about the critical importance of quality early childhood care and education.
- Share space and resources for training and technical assistance (T/TA) events.
- Plan and sponsor T/TA events for participants from multiple sectors to promote teamwork among community providers and strengthen working relationships.

Request or Share Data to Understand Community Needs

- Share aggregate program-level data about the number of families experiencing homelessness who have applied for or received services and the services delivered by community partners. This type of data-sharing can help facilitate interagency relationships and identify gaps in services.
- Develop any MOUs or data-sharing agreements needed to exchange program data and address confidentiality

Participate in Advisory Groups, Councils, and Task Forces

- Invite local community representatives to serve on program committees and designate someone to serve as a representative in return.
 - For example, the McKinney-Vento LEA liaison or representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care or CCR&R can serve on the Early Childhood Council or Head Start Policy Council as a community representative.
- Ensure that local- and state-level early childhood councils, cabinets, and advisories include local representation from housing and homeless services, domestic violence and recovery programs serving parents with young children, among others.
- Become a member of a homelessness services network or strategic planning taskforce, coalition, or committee to ensure that infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-aged children, and their families have a voice and their unique needs are made visible.

Joint Funding

- Write proposals that prioritize collaboration between early care and education and homelessness service providers.
- Seek funding to improve the coordination and expand the quality and quantity of available services and supports.

State-Level Strategies that Enhance Partnerships to Address the Needs of Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Working together at the state level with other points of contact, state systems, and designated leads for federal benefit programs and block grants can help to focus resources and strengthen systems for families experiencing homelessness.

CCDF Lead Agencies (and designated entities), Head Start Collaboration directors, and other points of contact for statewide entities, especially those focused on system building, can work together to build capacity to address the multiple service needs of children and families experiencing homelessness. State system leaders can help align policies, many of which are developed at the federal level, to streamline application processes and eligibility criteria. This is especially important in situations where family stability depends on timely access to an array of services and benefit programs managed by state agencies.

State-Level Coordination

- CCDF state administrators, Head Start State Collaboration directors, McKinney-Vento SEA coordinators, IDEA and MIECHV state leads, State Homeless Coalition directors, and other state-level leaders can share contact lists of local programs and links to online directories to facilitate partnerships at the local level.
- Partners can work together to ensure that CCDF Lead Agencies have relevant and up-to-date information about other services available to share with families experiencing homelessness in order to meet the CCDF requirement for disseminating consumer education materials.
- State leaders can increase work together to allow presumptive eligibility, aligned eligibility criteria, streamlined applications and referrals, joint or co-located application locations, and consumer-friendly application processes that use multiple formats (e.g., technology and print), multiple languages, and other adaptations to convey respect and concern for families.
- Ensure representatives of housing and homeless service providers, domestic violence and recovery program providers, and other providers of services to families experiencing homelessness serve on Governor-appointed Early Learning Advisory Councils, Head Start Act State Advisory Council, or Early Childhood Cabinet.
- CCDF administrators, Head Start State Collaboration directors, McKinney-Vento SEA coordinators, and key state leaders for housing and homeless services can collaborate to pool funding and offer competitive grants. Serve as reviewers for Requests for Proposal (RFPs) and/or grant proposals in order to learn more about the programs and the needs of the families served.
- State-level leaders can work together to host joint conferences or to offer a topical track within a broader conference to strengthen their partnerships and facilitate networking among local-level cross-sector providers.
- State-level administrators can engage homeless coalitions or their members to review the state CCDF plan prior to its submission for specific policies and practices that may impact families experiencing homelessness.
- State-level leaders can provide scholarships for state interagency teams to attend national conferences together and bring back information.

Planning to Enhance Partnerships to Support Children and Families

Use these handouts to support planning to strengthen and expand partnerships to meet the multiple service needs of children and families experiencing homelessness.

- Connecting with Partners Resource List
- Identifying Partners Planning Template
- Planning Templates for Partnership Implementation
- Program Memorandum of Understanding Template

See Appendix C for a list of handouts.

Completion Status

To complete Module 8, review all sections listed below. If a section is not checked, use the Menu tab to return to and complete that section. Once all sections are checked, select the "Next" button to continue to your Certificate of Completion.

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: Why Partnerships Matter
- ✓ Connecting with Partners to Support Families Experiencing Homelessness
- ✓ Activity: Connecting with Partners
- ✓ Local-Level Strategies to Enhance Partnerships
- ✓ State-Level Strategies to Enhance Partnerships
- ✓ Planning to Enhance Partnerships

Certificate of Completion

Congratulations! You have completed Module 8: Connecting with Community Partners.

To access your certificate, select the "Open Your Certificate" button. A PDF document will open in a separate tab. Enter your name and the date on the certificate. Print or save the certificate to your computer.

Appendix A: Federal Legislation and Regulations Related to Family Homelessness

Federal Legislation and Regulations Related to Family Homelessness	
McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/
Child Care and Development Fund Reauthorization	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/ccdf-reauthorization
McKinney-Vento Law Into Practice Brief Series Supporting Homeless Children and Youth with Disabilities: Legislative Provisions in the McKinney-Vento Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/idea.pdf
Head Start Program Performance Standards Program Operations, 45 CFR § 1302	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii
Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance, 45 CFR § 1302(A)	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-subpart-eligibility-recruitment-selection-enrollment-attendance
Determining community strengths, needs, and resources, 45 CFR § 1302.11	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources
Determining, verifying, and documenting eligibility, 45 CFR § 1302.12	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-12-determining-verifying-documenting-eligibility
Recruitment of children, 45 CFR § 1302.13	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-13-recruitment-children
Selection process, 45 CFR § 1302.14	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-14-selection-process
Enrollment, 45 CFR § 1302.15	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-15-enrollment
Attendance, 45 CFR § 1302.16	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-16-attendance
Family and Community Engagement Program Services, 45 CFR § 1302(E)	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-subpart-e-family-community-engagement-program-services
Community partnerships and coordination with other early childhood and education programs, 45 CFR § 1302.53	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-53-community-partnerships-coordination-other-early-childhood-education
Transition Services, 45 CFR § 1302 (G)	
Transitions between programs, 45 CFR § 1302.72 (a)	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-subpart-g-transition-services
Definitions, 45 CFR § 1305	
Terms, 45 CFR § 1305.2	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1305-2-terms

Appendix B: The McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) defines homeless as follows:

The term "homeless children and youths"--

- A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); 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 adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;* (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 (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C)); (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 (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

*Per Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, "awaiting foster care placement" was removed from the definition of homeless on December 10, 2016; the only exception to his removal is that "covered states" have until December 10, 2017 to remove "awaiting foster care placement" from their definition of homeless.

View the full text of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter119/subchapter6/partB&edition=prelim>

Appendix C: Helpful Links and Resources

Early Childhood and School-Age Child Care	
Head Start & Early Head Start Program Locator	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator
Head Start State Collaboration Offices	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/programs/head-start-collaboration-offices-state
State Pre-K Program	http://ceelo.org/state-information/state-map/
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies	http://childcareaware.org/ccrr-search-form/
State Educational Agency (SEA) McKinney-Vento Coordinators	https://nche.ed.gov/data/
Local Education Agency (LEA) McKinney-Vento Liaisons	See the State Resources Map https://nche.ed.gov/data/
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C	http://ectacenter.org/contact/ptccoord.asp
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) IDEA Part B 619	http://ectacenter.org/contact/619coord.asp
Title I	https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=158 http://www.titlei.org/about/state-titlei-leaders
Nutrition Benefits and Services Partners	
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-contacts
Breastfeeding Promotion and Support	http://www.astho.org/Maternal-and-Child-Health/Breastfeeding/
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/snap-application-and-local-office-locator
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-contacts
National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs	https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts
Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)	https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts
Health Benefits and Services	
Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	https://www.insurekidsnow.gov/coverage/index.html
Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)	https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/epsdt/index.html
Maternal and Child Health Title V/Prenatal Care	https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Home/StateContacts
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)	https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/
Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)	https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting/home-visiting-program-state-fact-sheets
Social Emotional and Family Support Services	
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment	https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/
Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)	http://mi-aimh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2010-LOS-Activity-Summary.pdf

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC)	https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/IECMHC/crosswalk-early-childhood-mental-health-services.pdf
Domestic Violence	https://nnedv.org/content/state-u-s-territory-coalitions/
Child Welfare Protective and Voluntary Services	https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/
Family Well-Being Supports Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, Family Support and Well-Being	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being
Family Well-Being Supports National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse	https://www.fatherhood.gov/for-dads/connect-with-programs
Economic and Self-Sufficiency Benefits and Services	
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/help
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Social Security Office Locator	https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) State Social Security Administrator	http://ncsssa.org/statessadminmenu.html
General Equivalency Degree (GED), Adult Education, and English Literacy	https://www2.ed.gov/programs/adultedbasic/index.html
Workforce Development and Job Training, CareerOneStop Local Locator	http://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx
Workforce Development and Job Training, State Resource Web Directory	https://www.servicelocator.org/StateWebDirectory.asp
Workforce Development Board State and Local Contacts	http://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/WorkforceDevelopment/find-workforce-development-boards.aspx
Housing Benefits and Services	
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/liheap-state-and-territory-contact-listing
Public Housing/Section 8	https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts
Additional Social Supports	
Community Action, Faith-Based/Culture-Sensitive, and Other Nonprofit Organizations	
Family Promise Affiliates	http://familypromise.org/find-an-affiliate/
Catholic Charities USA	https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/find-help
Association of Gospel Missions	http://www.agrm.org//agrm/Locate_a_Mission.asp
Salvation Army	http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/housing-and-homeless-services
Community Action Partnership	https://www.communityactionpartnership.com/
United Way	https://www.unitedway.org/local/united-states/
Veterans Affairs	https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/women-veterans
Handouts	
Connecting with Partners Resource List	
Identifying Partners Planning Template	
Planning Templates for Partnership Implementation	
Program Memorandum of Understanding Template	

Appendix D: Reference Citations

Reference Citations
<p>¹ Masten, A. S., Cutuli, J. J., Herbers, J. E., Hinz, E., Obradović, J., & Wenzel, A. J. (2014). Academic risk and resilience in the context of homelessness. <i>Child Development Perspectives</i>, 8(4), 201-206.</p>