

Module 9: Partnering with Families Experiencing Homelessness Due to Domestic Violence

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. It is intended for use at program and systems levels.

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

This module explores family homelessness as a result of domestic violence. It addresses how to partner with families and identify local and state programs for domestic violence prevention and response.

In this module, you will learn about:

- The prevalence of family homelessness as a result of domestic violence
- The meaning of domestic violence
- Strategies to engage families experiencing homelessness and domestic violence, including how to:
 - Partner with families and children
 - Develop partnerships with local and state programs
- The importance of self-care in fostering staff well-being

Keep in mind the following concepts:

- Language and cultures matter
- Focus on family strengths

Select the "Next" button to explore each of these concepts in more detail.

Language and Cultures Matter

Throughout this module, we use people-first and gender-neutral language to show respect to all children and families.

When we use people-first language, we refer to the person before the situation they may be experiencing. We recognize that they are not defined by their circumstances. For example, we use the terms "parents and children experiencing domestic violence" and "parents using domestic violence" rather than "victims" and "perpetrators" of domestic violence.

We also use language that shows respect for families' cultures and home languages. We recognize that domestic violence can affect people of all backgrounds. Our cultures influence how we view ourselves and others. It is important to understand our own cultures and how those perspectives influence our views of families. We think about our assumptions and how to set aside our biases and judgments in our work with families.

Focus on Family Strengths

We focus on strengths in our relationships with each family. Using strengths-based approaches helps promote resilience and trust with those who are experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence.

Facts About Domestic Violence and Family Homelessness

Domestic violence is common among families who experience homelessness. For many, it is a cause of their homeless situation.

Thirty-eight percent of people experiencing domestic violence become homeless at some point in their lives.¹

Studies show that as many as 57% of women experiencing homelessness report domestic violence as its immediate cause.²

A study of women with children experiencing homelessness found that 80% had previously experienced domestic violence.³

In a study of residents in domestic violence shelters across the country, 84% reported that they needed help finding affordable housing.⁴

In a single day in 2017, 19,048 children were living in a domestic violence shelter or transitional housing facility. Another 5,974 children sought services at a non-residential program.⁵

See Appendix C for reference citations.

To learn more, review:

- Domestic Violence and Homelessness:
 - [Statistics \(2016\)](#)
 - [Understanding the Connection Between Domestic Violence and Homelessness](#)

See Appendix B for the McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

What Is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that is used by a person to gain or maintain power and control over their intimate partner. Controlling behaviors include physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and psychological actions or threats that influence another person.

The Power and Control Wheel



The Power and Control Wheel describes domestic violence as a pattern of actions that a person uses to intentionally control or dominate their partner. That is why the phrase "power and control" is in the center of the wheel.

This commonly used tool describes different actions a person might use to control their partner including:

- Minimizing, denying, and blaming.
- Using:
 - Intimidation.
 - Emotional abuse.
 - Isolation.
 - Children.
 - Male privilege.
 - Economic abuse.
 - Coercion and threats.

Minimizing, Denying and Blaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making light of the abuse and not taking their concerns about it seriously • Saying the abuse didn't happen • Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior • Saying they caused it
Using Intimidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a partner afraid by using looks, actions, or gestures • Smashing things • Destroying their property • Abusing pets • Displaying weapons
Using Emotional abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting a partner down, calling them names • Making them think they are crazy, playing mind games • Humiliating them • Making them feel bad about themselves • Making them feel guilty
Using Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling what a partner does, who they see and talk to, what they read and where they go • Limiting outside involvement • Using jealousy to justify actions

Using Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a partner feel guilty about the children • Using the children to relay messages • Using visitation to harass a partner • Threatening to take the children away
Using Male privilege	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treating a partner like a servant • Making all of the big decisions • Acting like the “master of the castle” • Being the one to define men’s and women’s roles
Using Economic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing a partner from getting keeping a job • Making them ask for money • Giving them an allowance • Taking their money • Not letting them know about or have access to family income
Using Coercion and threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to a partner • Threatening to leave, to commit suicide, to report them to welfare • Making them drop charges • Making them do illegal things

Homelessness as a Result of Domestic Violence

Families may experience homelessness as a result of domestic violence. A parent may lose their job, increase debt, or lose their housing due to the actions of the person using violence. Families in these situations are often stressed and overwhelmed. They may be worried about the safety and well-being of their children and other family members.

Families may experience challenges related to economic circumstances, safety concerns, and feelings of isolation. Select the "Next" button to explore examples of these challenges.

Economic Circumstances or Barriers

- Families may have bad credit or a bad rental history because the partner using domestic violence did not pay rent, child care, or other bills. Issues with credit and background checks can be a barrier for parents applying for jobs or new housing.
- Families may miss work or lose a job due to relocation, transportation issues, lack of child care, safety concerns, or ongoing harassment from their partner.

Safety and Isolation Issues

- Families may have to leave a homeless shelter or home of a friend or family member out of fear from their partner who uses domestic violence.
- Families may become isolated from extended family or friends due to their partner using violence or re-location.

Knowledge Check: Identifying and Understanding Domestic Violence

Q1. Experiencing domestic violence is one cause of homelessness. (True/False)

<p>That is correct. The answer is True.</p> <p>Families experiencing domestic violence can face eviction from rental properties because of noise complaints from neighbors or repeated calls to the police. Additionally, parents who are experiencing domestic violence may be forced to leave their homes and community. They may not have the resources to find other housing. These are just two examples of how experiencing domestic violence can lead to homelessness.</p>	<p>That is not correct. The answer is true.</p> <p>Families experiencing domestic violence can face eviction from rental properties because of noise complaints from neighbors or repeated calls to the police. Additionally, parents who are experiencing domestic violence may be forced to leave their homes and community. They may not have the resources to find other housing. These are just two examples of how experiencing domestic violence can lead to homelessness.</p>
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Q 2. Experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence can lead to a parent feeling stressed, overwhelmed, and worried about the safety and well-being of their children and themselves. (True/False)

<p>That is correct. The answer is true.</p> <p>Parents in these situations can feel stressed, overwhelmed, and worried about their families' safety and well-being. They may experience challenging economic circumstances, safety concerns, and feelings of isolation.</p>	<p>That is not correct. The answer is true.</p> <p>Parents in these situations can feel stressed, overwhelmed, and worried about their families' safety and well-being. They may experience challenging economic circumstances, safety concerns, and feelings of isolation.</p>
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Trauma, Stress, and Resilience

What Is Trauma?

Trauma occurs when frightening events or situations overwhelm a child's or adult's ability to cope or deal with what has happened.⁶

Families may experience the effects of trauma in different ways. Their circumstances, cultures, and other factors affect how they react to traumatic events. Trauma can influence family structures and relationships and affect how families cope. For more information, refer to Family Connections' [Short Papers for Staff](#).

Homelessness and domestic violence are traumatic events for children and families. Many children are impacted by domestic violence, homelessness, and stress. However, not all children experience the impact of homelessness as a result of domestic violence in the same way.

Children may react to being in an unfamiliar living situation and changes in routines. It may be a new experience for them to see and be with only one parent. They may miss the other parent. They may be afraid the parent they are with will leave, too.

Healing is possible. Children and adults can and do recover. Relationships with loving, compassionate adults support children's positive development. Predictable and consistent routines help children learn and feel secure. Positive and interactive environments can help build resilience. Early childhood programs can help reduce the negative effects of homelessness and domestic violence for children and their families.

What Is Resilience?

Families are resilient. They have strengths that can help them heal from the trauma of domestic violence and homelessness. Families may have a strong sense of unity or cultural and spiritual beliefs. They can use problem-solving skills and other supports. Families can connect with extended family, neighbors, friends, and others in the larger community. Early childhood programs offer connections and supports that can help families to heal and succeed.

Resilience

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from challenging experiences and keep going. This ability builds on specific personal strengths, such as flexible thinking and being able to look at the same situation from different perspectives. It also builds on certain life conditions, such

as a close and caring relationship with at least one trustworthy adult who consistently offers unconditional acceptance and encouragement.

Healing

The healing process repairs disruptions in health and well-being. It leads to the recovery of abilities and functions. Along the way, growth occurs that builds new strengths. Healing from a traumatic event does not mean forgetting it or erasing its effects.

Knowledge Check: Trauma, Stress, and Resilience

Q1. Healing is almost impossible once children have experienced homelessness as a result of domestic violence. (True/False)

That is correct. The answer is false.

Healing is possible. Children may experience the impacts of homelessness and domestic violence in different ways. Relationships with loving, compassionate adults are the number one factor to support children's resilience and ability to recover.

That is not correct. The answer is false.

Healing is possible. Children may experience the impacts of homelessness and domestic violence in different ways. Relationships with loving, compassionate adults are the number one factor to support children's resilience and ability to recover.

Q2. Trauma occurs when frightening events or situations overwhelm a child's or adult's ability to cope or deal with what has happened.⁶ (True/False)

That is correct. The answer is true.

Trauma occurs when frightening events or situations overwhelm the ability to cope or deal with what has happened.⁶ Families may experience the effects of trauma in different ways. These reactions depend on their circumstances, cultures, and other factors. Trauma can influence family structures and relationships. It can also affect a family's way of coping. See Family Connections' [Short Papers for Staff](#) for more information.

That is not correct. The answer is true.

Trauma occurs when frightening events or situations overwhelm the ability to cope or deal with what has happened.⁶ Families may experience the effects of trauma in different ways. These reactions depend on their circumstances, cultures, and other factors. Trauma can influence family structures and relationships. It can also affect a family's way of coping. See Family Connections' [Short Papers for Staff](#) for more information.

Promoting Healing for Families and Their Children

Early childhood programs have a unique opportunity to promote healing and resilience through their everyday interactions with children and families. Staff help provide predictable and consistent routines that foster children's healthy development and learning. They can also support strong relationships among parents and their children.

Staff can provide resources to help parents support their children's healing. They can work with Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation experts in their states or programs for suggestions on how to talk with or support families and children experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence. Providing a referral to a trauma-trained counselor or clinician is sometimes needed. Program staff and parents can explore making a referral to other services and assessments.

For more information about when and how to make referrals for children and families who may need help, talk with your supervisor or refer to your program's policies.

Strategies for Partnering with Families

Programs and staff can partner with families experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence in many ways. Staff can use strengths-based approaches to develop strong relationships with families. Programs can offer resources and services to families and children.

- Connect with families. Provide non-judgmental and caring responses to build resilience and trust. For example, staff may say:
 - Thank you for sharing your story.
 - This is not your fault.
 - What else can I do to help?
- Offer support and resources to families. For example, staff may:
 - Create a welcoming environment for all families. Focus on families' strengths and show respect for their cultures. Offer information in languages spoken by families in the program, where possible.
 - Partner with families to access resources that address both homelessness and domestic violence. Make plans with families about following up on these resources.
 - Offer families opportunities to connect with other parents and families in the program and peer networks in the community.
 - Suggest simple strategies to keep children active and engaged in learning and free family activities. Family members can play, dance, sing, tell stories, read, and count with their children.

- Make connections to medical, dental, and mental health services. For example, staff may:
 - Connect families with mental health centers and medical homes with behavioral health specialists. Specialists can assess children's and families' mental health needs during transitions involving homelessness and domestic violence.
 - Help families access and meet requirements for health insurance. Become familiar with regulations that provide flexibility or grace periods for submitting required forms. Complete forms with families, if needed.
 - Work with families to identify or maintain connections to medical and dental homes where they can get preventive care with the same medical providers.
 - Promote ongoing well-child visits with medical and dental providers.
 - Ensure children complete health and developmental screenings.

- Make referrals to community agencies that partner with families experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. For example, staff may:
 - Connect families to stable or safe temporary housing that includes services focused on healthy relationships and domestic violence prevention.
 - Connect families with food and nutrition assistance programs.

- Share information about community programs and resources.
 - Provide families with information about libraries, museums, parks, community centers, and agencies that promote wellness and healthy environments for children and families.
 - Connect families with parent-led networks and community and cultural organizations that offer free activities and events.

Program staff should keep their own safety and self-care in mind when meeting with families after program hours or away from the program or center.

See Appendix D for resources and handouts.

Strategies for Partnering with Local and State Programs

Head Start, Early Head Start, and other early childhood and school-age child care programs, domestic violence programs, and family networks can work together in engaged partnerships to develop and implement a community-wide strategy to promote healthy and positive relationships.

Domestic violence programs can support families who are experiencing both domestic violence and homelessness. Staff are trained to counsel people in crisis and help families make a plan to be safer. These programs focus on safety and trauma-informed care. They can connect families

to legal, housing, financial, health, and other advocacy services. Some domestic violence programs also offer specialized counseling or services for children. See *Service Providers and Networks That Address Domestic Violence and Homelessness*.

Together, programs and community partners can communicate an important message to family members. **They are not alone, it's not their fault, and help is available through a system of support.**

Programs can identify local and state services and national networks that support families experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence. See *Service Providers and Networks That Address Domestic Violence and Homelessness* for more information. Programs can also partner with local providers to co-lead trainings and offer resources to staff.

Staff can share what they know about services and networks to help families feel safe and reduce the risk of further violence. They can rely on their personal connections with staff in other community programs to help families feel more confident about accessing support. Head Start staff may feel better prepared to have conversations with parents about domestic violence when they know how to make warm referrals.

Warm Referral

In a "warm referral," staff partner with a family to access needed services from another agency or organization. Together, they make a plan to follow up on the referral. The staff person introduces the family to a specific contact person at the partnering organization. For example, staff and families may call the contact person together. Later, the staff person follows up with the family and their contact about the referral. Staff also work with the community partner to refine the referral process as needed.

Some domestic violence organizations offer a Battering Intervention Program (BIP). A BIP is one promising practice for working with people who use domestic violence. It helps support participants to change their behaviors. BIPs teach them about building healthy relationships and taking accountability for their abusive behaviors.^[7] BIPs are an alternative to other interventions, such as couples counseling and anger management, that can increase the risk for more violence.

Knowledge Check: Practice Scenario

Practice what you've learned about this topic using a real-life scenario. Decide what your next steps would be to offer support. Remember, each family's situation is unique. This scenario may or may not be what the families you partner with are experiencing.

For this scenario:

- Review the Power and Control Wheel.
- Think about services offered by programs in the community.
- Consider the circumstances of the scenario.
- Discuss the situation with a peer or supervisor, if possible.
- Select your answers and read all feedback to learn more.

Scenario: A parent shares that they and their children have recently moved because their partner was hurting them. The family is sleeping on their sister's couch and the parent is unsure of how long they can stay. The parent wants to give you a copy of the restraining order they have filed. The order states their partner cannot have unsupervised contact with the children.

Which of these steps would you take? Choose all that apply.

- Call the local domestic violence program for information and guidance.
- Call the local homeless service provider for information.
- Send a safety alert to all families letting them know about the situation.
- Include a copy of the restraining order in the family's file and let key staff know about the situation.
- Ask the family to leave the program due to safety concerns.

Option	Best Answer
Call the local domestic violence program for information and guidance.	Yes. It's important to have complete and up-to-date information on local community partners that can offer support when you meet with a person experiencing domestic violence. Find out key details, such as program requirements, services offered, transportation options, contact person, and hours. Consult with the domestic violence program staff on ideas for how to help the family stay safe. Follow your program's guidelines for maintaining the family's confidentiality.

Option	Best Answer
<p>Call the local homeless service provider for information.</p>	<p>Yes. Because the parent has been displaced due to domestic violence and is "doubled up" with their sister, the family meets the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homeless. See Appendix B for the definition.</p> <p>Homeless service providers may be able to offer resources that complement and support the services offered by the local domestic violence program. If the homeless service provider is not able to offer resources, contact the local domestic violence service provider.</p>
<p>Send a safety alert to all families letting them know about the situation.</p>	<p>No. The disclosure of domestic violence must be kept confidential. Information can be shared only if a parent has signed a parental consent or release form.</p> <p>You can talk with the parent about whether or not they feel comfortable sharing their experience with others in the program.</p>
<p>Include a copy of the restraining order in the family's file, and let key staff know about the situation.</p>	<p>Yes. Respond to the parent's immediate concerns by talking about referrals or long-term safety issues. Talk with your supervisor about who else on staff needs to know about the restraining order.</p> <p>Remember, it is important to balance the confidentiality of the person experiencing domestic violence and the safety of your program's staff and families. Only disclose information that supports both confidentiality and safety.</p>
<p>Ask the family to leave the program due to safety concerns.</p>	<p>No. Parents experiencing domestic violence have the right to services, as long as they can be provided safely. People experiencing violence are experts in their situation, including managing safety risks.</p> <p>It is critical that you consult with your local domestic violence program for guidance and specific supports to ensure safety for program staff and families.</p> <p>Some parents may choose to leave your program because they are worried that the person harming them will follow them there. In this case, you can help facilitate transferring the family to a program in another location.</p>

Staff Wellness

As program staff partner with families experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence, they may experience work-related stress. Self-care is one way to address stress and support staff wellness.

Staff can create self-care routines that include:

- Being physically active.
- Eating regularly and staying hydrated.
- Getting enough sleep.
- Practicing breathing exercises.
- Creating time to nurture personal relationships.
- Taking time to rest, relax, and recharge.
- Participating in professional development, organizations, and networks.
- Staying in regular contact with supervisors, mentors, other staff, friends, and family.

Programs can support staff wellness and promote self-care. They can provide opportunities for professional development, coaching, and reflective supervision. Supervisors can encourage staff to use reflective practice. Supervisors and staff can work together to determine manageable caseloads.

Programs leaders can ensure staff have access to mental health services and resources. Programs can engage mental health consultants as a resource for staff and families.

Module Summary

Here are the key learning points from this module:

Many families experiencing homelessness have also experienced domestic violence.

Research has shown that experiences of family homelessness as a result of domestic violence and other traumatic events can affect social relationships, emotions, and behaviors. They can have a negative impact on children's healthy development and learning.

Healing is possible for children and adults. Relationships with loving, compassionate adults support children's positive development. Predictable and consistent routines help children learn and feel secure. Positive and interactive environments can help build resilience.

Early childhood education professionals can partner with families to support safety and resilience in many ways. They can work to:

- Understand how domestic violence impacts family homelessness.
- Develop partnerships with local and state domestic violence and homelessness programs to enhance outcomes for families.
- Provide support, information, and warm referrals to families to connect them with relevant services in their community. Refer to the Resources tab for more information.

Programs can support staff and promote self-care routines and activities through professional development, reflective supervision, and access to mental health services.

Completion Status

To complete Module 9, 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
- ✓ Facts About Domestic Violence and Family Homelessness
- ✓ Trauma, Stress and Resilience
- ✓ Promoting Healing for Families
- ✓ Strategies for Partnering with Families
- ✓ Strategies for Partnering with Local and State Programs
- ✓ Staff Wellness
- ✓ Module Summary

Certificate of Completion

Congratulations! You have completed Module 9: Partnering with Families Experiencing Homelessness Due to Domestic Violence

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: Module 9 Reference Citations

¹ Raphael, J., McKean, L., and R. Levin. (2004). <i>Pathways to and from Homelessness: Women and Children in Chicago Shelters</i> . Center for Impact Research. Retrieved May 5, 2020.
² National Center on Family Homelessness & Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network. (2003). <i>Social Support for Homeless Mothers</i> . Retrieved May 5, 2020.
³ Institute for Children & Poverty. (2002). <i>The Hidden Migration: Why New York City Shelters are Overflowing with Families</i> . Retrieved May 5, 2020.
⁴ Homes for the Homeless and Institute for Children & Poverty. (1998). <i>Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America</i> . Retrieved May 5, 2020.
⁵ Aratani, Y. (2009). <i>Homeless Children and Youth: Causes and Consequences</i> . National Center for Children in Poverty. Retrieved May 5, 2020.
⁶ Office of Head Start. (2020). <i>Attachment B: Office of Head Start Guidance on Implementing a Trauma-Informed Approach</i> .
⁷ Baker, C. K., Cook, S. L., & Norris, F. H. (2003). Domestic Violence and Housing Problems: A Contextual Analysis of Women's Help-Seeking, Received Informal Support, and Formal System Response. <i>Violence Against Women, 9</i> (7), 754–783.
⁸ Lyon, E., Lane, S., & Menard, A. (2008). <i>Meeting Survivors' Needs: A Multi-State Study of Domestic Violence Shelter Experiences</i> . Retrieved May 5, 2020.
⁹ Safe Housing Partnerships (2017). <i>Infographic: The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness</i> . Retrieved May 5, 2020.
¹⁰ National Domestic Violence Hotline. (2014). <i>Intervention Programs for Abusive Behavior</i> .

Appendix D: Module 9 Helpful Links and Resources

<p>Domestic Violence and Homelessness: Statistics (2016) Review federal statistics around domestic violence and homelessness. https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/dv-homelessness-stats-2016</p>
<p>Domestic Violence and Homelessness: Understanding the Connection Domestic violence may be an immediate cause of homelessness for families. Learn more about the connection. https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/domestic-violence/</p>
<p>Families Thrive, Zero to Five Safety Card Use this business card-sized folded brochure as a discussion guide for program staff to share with families. It includes information about healthy relationships, the impacts of violence on children and ways to support them, and resources for parents experiencing domestic violence. https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/families-thrive-zero-five-safety-card</p>
<p>Family Connections: A Mental Health Module This preventive and system-wide training guide and mental health consultation model supports early childhood professionals in engaging children and families. Use these resources to work with parents struggling with adversities. They can also be used with children in classrooms and in the home. https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/article/family-connections-mental-health-consultation-model</p>
<p>Family Connections: Short Papers for Staff Discover information on topics central to understanding resilience, depression, and best practices in engaging parents facing adversities. https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/article/family-connections-mental-health-consultation-model#staff</p>
<p>Office on Violence Against Women Review the federal definition of "domestic violence." https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence</p>

Taking Care of Ourselves: Stress and Relaxation

Use this collection of resources to help program staff and families reduce stress, boost relaxation, and take care of themselves.

<https://www.ecmhc.org/relaxation.html>

The Physical and Mental Health of Head Start Staff

This 2012 study finds that Pennsylvania women who work with children in Head Start programs have poorer physical and mental health than other U.S. women with similar sociodemographic characteristics.

http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/13_0171.htm

The Power and Control Wheel

This commonly used tool from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program describes domestic violence as a pattern of actions that a person uses to intentionally control or dominate their partner.

[https://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels/.](https://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels/)

Tips for Responding to Disclosures About Domestic Violence

Find examples of how to respond to family members who have disclosed or shared their experiences of domestic violence.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/tips-responding-disclosures-about-domestic-violence>

Twelve Ways Parents Can Help Young Children Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence Heal

Share concrete ways parents can support their children and help them to feel loved.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/twelve-ways-parents-can-help-young-children-who-have-experienced-domestic-violence-heal>

Safe Housing Partnerships: Understanding the Intersections

Housing programs can provide critical services and are often a key component in helping find safety and stability.

<https://safehousingpartnerships.org/intersection>

Understanding Trauma and Healing in Adults

Explore this series of five briefs to learn about trauma and how traumatic events can impact families and staff. Find information that may help guide your conversations with families. Use these resources to promote healing and resilience and to increase family well-being. When families know they are understood, they can be more engaged and responsive to support.

Available on Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) website.

Technical Assistance and Training Resources

These national resource centers can provide training or resources to help staff support families experiencing domestic violence.

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence | 415-568-3315

Resources and training about domestic and sexual violence, trafficking, and other forms of gender violence in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. <https://www.api-gbv.org/>

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center | 855-649-7299 (toll-free)

Training and resources about domestic violence, sexual violence, and healthy relationships for Native Americans. www.niwrc.org

National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities | 651-646-5553

Resources and training to address domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in Latin@ communities. www.nationallatinonetwork.org

National LGBT Institute on Intimate Partner Violence | 206-568-7777

Resources and training to better support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people experiencing domestic violence. www.lgbtqipv.org

Ujima: The National Resource Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community | 844-778-5462 (toll-free)

Resources and training about domestic violence, sexual violence, and community violence in the Black community. www.ujimacommunity.org

For a complete list of organizations in the Domestic Violence Resource Network, please visit: www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/family-violence-prevention-services/programs/centers

Handouts

Types of Domestic Violence Program Services

Meeting with Families Experiencing Homelessness as a Result of Domestic Violence

Understanding Trauma and Healing in Adults