Implementing the 2016 CCDF Final Rule:

North Carolina’s efforts to implement provisions that increase access to child care subsidies for families experiencing homelessness

Beyond Housing 2020: A National Conversation on Child Homelessness and Poverty
Friday, January 17, 2020
New York, NY
Overview

- Explain provisions of the 2016 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule related to increasing access to subsidized child care for families experiencing homelessness.

- Describe North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) contracted outreach to increase access to quality subsidized early care and education.

- Describe Child Care Services Association’s Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) activities to increase access to quality subsidized early care and North Carolina aimed at enhancing access to early childhood services overall.

- Activity: Explore ways of enhancing access to child care subsidies and quality early childhood services in your community.

- Questions, resources, discussion.
Presenters

Grace Whitney
Director of Early Childhood Initiatives
SchoolHouse Connection, Washington, DC

LouMecia Staton
Community Outreach Manager
Partnership for Children of Guilford County

Beth Branagan
School Social Worker and Homeless Education Liaison
Transylvania County Schools, Brevard, North Carolina

Marsha Basloe
President
Child Care Services Association, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org

Education Leads Home

Education Leads Home is a national campaign building futures for homeless students.

- Young children will participate in quality early childhood programs at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.
- A 90 percent high school graduation rate among homeless students by 2030
- A 60 percent post-secondary attainment rate by 2034

www.educationleadshome.org
Systemic Barriers to Access

- System confusing for parents, other providers
- Eligibility, enrollment requirements vary (records, health forms, proof of residency/guardianship, application process, due dates)
- Limited capacity, wait lists, hours available
- Mobility, instability
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger, trauma, adversity, stress
- Developmental delays, behavior (toilet training)
- Prejudice and misunderstanding
- Lack of clean clothing, diapers, etc.
- Cost, copays
- Transportation
### Preschool, Head Start, and Child Care Policies for Children Experiencing Homelessness

**Updated: October 4, 2016**


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<tr>
<td><strong>Applicability</strong></td>
<td>Applies to all local educational agencies (LEAs), including LEAs that do not receive McKinney-Vento subgrant funding. 81 Fed. Reg. 14432 (March. 3, 2016). The McKinney-Vento Act's preschool provisions apply to all LEA-administered preschool programs, including Head Start programs that are administered by LEAs. 2016 Guidance, N-4.</td>
<td>Applies to Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships Programs. §1302.1.</td>
<td>Applies to all states that receive CCDF funds via the state’s Lead Agency and all child care providers/programs funded by CCDF. §98.13(b)(1).</td>
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</table>
| **Reauthorization**                                                  | Reauthorized in 2015  
Non-regulatory guidance published July 2016  
Administered by the U.S. Department of Education | The Head Start Act was Reauthorized in 2007  
Regulations (Head Start Program Performance Standards) published September 2016  
Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Authorizes the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Reauthorized in 2014  
Regulations published September 2016  
Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services |
Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule

- Definition of Homelessness
  - §98.2 Definitions
- Prioritizing Children Experiencing Homelessness
  - §98.46 Priority for child care service
  - §98.45 Equal access
  - §98.92(b) Penalties and Sanctions
- Grace Periods and Immunizations/Health and safety Requirements
  - §98.41 Health and safety requirements
- Access, Outreach, and Training
  - §98.51 Services for children experiencing homelessness
- Coordination of Services
  - §98.14 Plan process
- Data Collection and Reporting
  - §98.71 Content of reports

What the data tells us?

- Using the narrower HUD definition, shelter & census data indicate young children are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
- DOE and ACF data indicate that young children experiencing homelessness are under-enrolled in school district and Head Start early childhood programs.
- Data demonstrate the need for increasing access to quality early childhood programs for young children experiencing homelessness.
- Identification is a factor – using the correct definition prevents under-identification, misinformation, confusion over definition.
North Carolina CCDF Efforts to Increase Access

North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) contracted with Salvation Army of Wake County to provide required outreach activities:

- Strengthen working relationships with key partners:
  - McKinney-Vento liaisons and local school districts
  - Housing providers and Continuums of Care
  - Head Start and CCDF providers, e.g., DSS, CCR&R and Smart Start/NC Partnership for Children
- Provide resource materials and training on young children and homelessness and on how to access child care subsidies
- Sponsor resource fairs to bring community partners and families together
- Support communities to create sustainable networks to continue to connect families with subsidized services, e.g., COC Children’s Subcommittee
# Targeted Outreach: Resource Fairs & Community Networking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the 2017-18 School Year</th>
<th>December of 2018</th>
<th>November 2019</th>
<th>Success!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guilford County Schools</strong> identified 3,247 children and youth experiencing homelessness.</td>
<td><strong>Agencies partnered to sponsor “Winterfest” to provide resources to families in need.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Agencies again partnered to sponsor “Fall Fest: Early Childhood Resource Festival 2019”</strong></td>
<td><strong>Guilford County’s second year in hosting this event targeting families in transition living in our county.</strong></td>
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<td>Based on 12 years of data from the Partners Ending Homelessness and Guilford County Continuum of Care Point in Time Count, on any given night in Guilford County, there are 100-200 children birth to age 17 experiencing homeless.</td>
<td>The resource fair was funded partially by a grant from the North Carolina Department of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) to increase access to child care subsidies for families experiencing homelessness.</td>
<td>Part of a statewide series of resource fairs, spearheaded by The Salvation Army of Wake County under contract with DCDEE aimed at increasing access to child care subsidies and quality early education for children between the ages of 0 to 5 who are facing transitions including homelessness.</td>
<td>By jumping ahead of the winter months, this allowed our planning team to add the element of a coat giveaway for families in transition. We also provided food for free to those visiting and fun activities for the children including face painting and other family friendly activities!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some Fall Fest Planning Team Members

**Back row (L-R):** Jessica Barner (The Salvation Army of Wake County Project CATCH), Jamie Fuller (The Salvation Army Family Success Center), & Tawanda Johnson (The Salvation Army Family Success Center).

**Front row (L-R):** Camila Dos Santos (Healthy Relationships Initiative), Elizabeth Danley (City of Greensboro), Desmond Greenland (The Salvation Army of Greensboro), Shakeda Muldrow (The Salvation Army of Wake County Project CATCH), Kelsey Merritt (NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension), & LouMecia Staton (Partnership for Children of Guilford County)
Fall Fest Agencies Partners:

- Guilford Parent Academy
- Healthy Relationships Initiative
- Try Health (NC A&T State University’s Cooperative Extension Program)
- Partnership for Children of Guilford County
- The Salvation Army of Greensboro
- Family Success Center
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Blue
- Parents as Teachers of Guilford County
- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
- NC Pre-K of Guilford County
- Children’s Developmental Services Agency (CDSA)
- Greensboro Children’s of North Carolina
- NC Public Health /Family Outreach & Health Line
- Guilford Child Development (Head Start/Early Head Start)
- Center for New North Carolinians/Thriving at Three
- Guilford Co. DSS Child Care Subsidy
- Guilford Co. DSS Work First
- Kellin Foundation
- Greensboro Public Library
- Greensboro Housing Authority
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
- Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine (TAPM)
- Cone Health Black & African American Health Network Group
- Cone Health Nutrition and Diabetes Education Services
Outcomes

Winterfest 2018

• 23 families participated
• 53 children participated
• 24 community agencies participated
• 12 volunteers assisted in the event
• 22 parent surveys collected
• Community donations provided giveaways, including children’s books, clothing, shoes, toys, personal hygiene items, etc. to families.
• Food items were provided for to those attending and fun activities were available for the children including a balloon artist & face painting!

Fall Fest 2019

• 33 families participated
• each family brought between 2 and 4 family members with them with estimated attendance: 125
• 24 community agencies participated
• 23 volunteers assisted in the event
• Each family member left with a coat, and giveaways donated by generous donors (blankets, mittens and gloves, hats, toiletry bags, etc.)
• 91 food tickets were given out to families for food during the event
Family surveys indicate increased knowledge of quality early childhood resources in 2018 and 2019

- Quality of child care is very important to families experiencing homelessness

- Programs that are free, low-cost, affordable, or those that accept child care subsidy are equally as important.

- Parents who are experiencing homelessness also want to feel that they can trust their child’s teachers and that they know them; they also desire that their child care program meets the developmental and educational needs of their child/family. Helping families with the resources that they need is critical to their success and survival.

Future events will measure the number of families accessing state subsidies as a result of attending each resource fair event

Outcomes
Sample Giveaways for Families

Sponsors coordinated with Sesame Street in Communities (SSIC) and were the first community in the country to utilize Sesame Street’s resources to help families experiencing homelessness for our event, including their children’s book entitled, “We Got This”.

We're preparing for Fall Fest 2020!
Children and Youth Subcommittee in Rural North Carolina

- Transylvania County is a rural county in Western NC.
- Population 33,956
- Total Enrollment in TCS: 3,427
- Free/Reduced Lunch: 55%

Beth Branagan, BASW
School Social Worker and Homeless Education Liaison, Transylvania County Schools, Brevard, North Carolina
Region 2 - North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness (NCCEH)

Balance of State CoC Regional Committees
The Southern Mountains Regional Committee
(Transylvania, Henderson, Rutherford, and Polk)

- Meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month
- Approximately 30 regular attending members from schools, mental health, housing programs, job programs, shelters, veterans organizations
- Responsible for implementing the COC’s initiatives locally
- Children, Youth, and Family

Homelessness was often overlooked
Children and Youth Subcommittee

October 2018
First conference call with SHC, NCCEH

April 2019
Launch Event - “Forum on Family Homelessness”

May 2019
First Meeting of the Children and Youth Subcommittee
Family Forum on Homelessness

- Approximately 50 attendees with representatives from all 4 counties who work with children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness.
- Introductions, Connections, Networking!
- Identified strong collaborations, Identified Gaps, and developed the start of an Action Plan.
We have a name!

Children/Youth Homeless Action Coalition (CHAC)

Goals:

- Meetings held every other month
- Members rotate hosting the meeting
- Host provides presentation about their agency’s programs/services
- Invite speaker to every meeting
- Inform the regional coalition of our work/findings/advocate for children and families
- Grow the Subcommittee (Ensure Child Care Subsidy program staff are at the table)
- Create a Resource Directory of programs/services in our 4-county region
- Host/Co-Host a Regional Resource Fair for families (Planning for January)
- Ensure our work is advertised on news media/social media outlets
- Continue to refine/develop our goals
- Give Children/Youth/Families a Voice!
Current Activities and Achievements of CHAC

Official GMail Account: chacsubcommittee@gmail.com

Facebook Page: Children and Youth Homeless Action Coalition (https://www.facebook.com/groups/48532353451829/)

Assisting our Homeless Coalition with PIT Count/Hosting Resource Fairs (Jan 2020)

Childcare Provider Training (Spring 2020)
Child Care Resource & Referral

Marsha Basloe, President
Child Care Services Association
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Child Care Services Association

Ensuring affordable, accessible, high-quality child care for all young children and their families.

Through research, services and advocacy, Child Care Services Association realizes improvements to the child care system throughout North Carolina and across the country.

https://www.childcareservices.org/
Yay Babies, NC
Promoting Access to Early Childhood Services for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Our Goal:
To ensure NC children birth-5 experiencing homelessness receive early intervention services for developmental and mental health needs and have access to high-quality affordable early education/care.

Our objectives are consistent with US DHHS Policy Statement on Meeting the Needs of Families with Young Children Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness (October 31, 2016)

Contributors to the Work:
State and local early childhood providers; early intervention (IDEA Part C); university-based researchers; homeless services, housing, and shelter providers; Head Start; CCR&R, child care subsidy; Smart Start; NC homeless education administrators and liaisons; NC Infant Mental Health Association; child and family advocates (local and national); Continuum of Care representative.
North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan

4. SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING
4. SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING

Babies, toddlers, young children and their families across North Carolina will have access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

- Over 26,000 NC children under age 6 are homeless, or roughly 1 in 28.

Part 1) Decrease the percentage of children across North Carolina under age six experiencing homelessness by 10% from 26,198 to 23,578, according to data from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

Part 2) Decrease the number of children K – third grade enrolled in NC public schools experiencing homelessness by 10% from 9,970 to 8,973, according to data provided by the NC Department of Public Instruction.
The Role for CCR&R

Connecting families with NC Subsidized Child Care Assistance

- Funding allocated to counties through a needs based approach.
- Managed by DSS (most counties) or other organization
- Families must meet certain criteria to qualify for subsidy:
  - Residency
  - Citizenship
  - Age of child/children
  - Situation
  - Income
- Child care subsidy voucher must be used for child care program that is licensed by DCDEE
The Role for CCR&R

Situation Eligibility Criteria

- Working (or, in some counties, looking for work)
- Currently in school or a job training program
- Child with developmental needs
- Care is needed to support child welfare or child protective services

Income Eligibility

- Based on gross income, family size and age of child/children
- No income limit if care is needed to support:
  - child protective services,
  - child welfare services.
  - foster care services
Targeted Outreach: The Role for CCR&R

Homelessness Set-Aside

- 4% set-aside for families experiencing homelessness per the McKinney-Vento definition
- Situation requirement varies by county, for example:
  - Parents/Responsible Adult must be working 30 hours or more/week
  - Parents/Responsible Adult can be seeking employment
North Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies’ Knowledge and Practice Related to Families Experiencing Homelessness

Survey Process

- Conducted online in October 2018 & November 2019
- All 64 Lead and Local CCR&R agencies across the state were invited to participate
- 42% response rate in 2018; 45% response rate in 2019 (15 out of 29 responded in 2018)
The Role for CCR&R: CCR&R Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness

Most CCR&Rs acknowledge that they serve, or may serve, families experiencing homelessness.
The Role for CCR&R

Do you do outreach targeted to families experiencing homelessness about your services in any of the following locations?

Do you work with the McKinney-Vento Coordinator/Liaison in your county’s school system?
The Role for CCR&R

Do you do outreach targeted to families experiencing homelessness about your services in any of the following locations?

Other outreach mentioned: Health Department (3), convenience stores (2), laundromats (2), free clinics (2), School System (2), local colleges/universities, public parks
There was an increase in working with the McKinney-Vento Coordinator this year. 24% of this year’s respondents answered “yes” compared to only 19% last year.
The Role for CCR&R: Training & Homelessness

Have you taken the training by DCDEE available through Moodle, “Serving Young Children Experiencing Homelessness”?

Have you viewed the modules on homelessness from the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement?
The Role for CCR&R: Activities Around Homelessness

What other activities, if any, do you engage in around the issue of serving families experiencing homelessness?

- Serve on a variety of committees working on behalf of families experiencing homelessness
- Serve as a drop-off for coats, hats, mittens, etc.
- This issue is discussed and explored in a committee I participate in
- We have been involved with a community resource forum that highlighted Poverty and Its Effect on Wellness which included homelessness resources.
- We have connections and refer to local agencies such as the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Family Care Center, Soup Kitchens and Cooperative Christian Ministry.
- We offer family support through support groups for parents, parenting classes, resource library, free diaper bank, which is for anyone.
Statewide Resource Platform: NCCARE360

Network Model: No Wrong Door Approach

- **Investing in connections**: Statewide coordinated network to connect citizens, healthcare providers, and human service providers
- **Strong public-private partnership** to create foundation for healthy opportunities
Investment in social determinants of health can improve health & decrease health care costs.

The first statewide coordinated care network to (a) electronically connect those with needs to community resources and (b) allow for a feedback loop on the outcome of that connection.

- Benefits
- Ensures accountability for services delivered
- Provides a “no wrong door” approach
- Closes the loop on every referral made

NC DHHS & United Way/211
## CCDF State Plans
### 2019-2021

### Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness
**FY2019-FY2021 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plans**

Excerpts from: CCDF state plan sections mentioning homeless, including direct responses related to questions about strategies to support families experiencing homelessness

<table>
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<th>Alabama</th>
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<td><strong>Section 1.4,</strong></td>
<td>The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) houses the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for Homeless Education. The coordination with ALSDE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator has led to training on Subsidy Program eligibility and services for city and county homeless liaisons and training for Child Care Management Agencies and Quality Enhancement Agencies on the coordination of priority eligibility policy for homeless families. The State McKinney-Vento State coordinator is a member of the Child Care Coordinating Committee. The Child Care Coordinating Committee makes recommendations to the lead agency on the array of child care services offered by the lead agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section 3.1.5,</strong></td>
<td>Homeless individuals, as defined by the Lead agency’s subsidy policy, may receive priority services (not subject to the waiting list) for <strong>up to 90 days</strong> to prove eligibility. Minor parents (parents under the age 18) may qualify for priority services should they meet an allowable activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section 3.2.2,</strong></td>
<td>Families are allowed <strong>up to 90 days</strong> of service to allow time to obtain required documentation</td>
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Activity

- Work alone to reflect on what is currently happening in your community related to outreach
- Write down one or two new things you would like to try in the next six months
- Share your ‘Action Plan’ with someone sitting near you
- When we reconvene, feel free to share your ‘Action Plan’ with the larger group of participants.
Questions, Resources, Discussion
Learning Resources

Module 4: Determining a Family’s Homeless Situation
Module 3: Understanding and Applying the Federal Definition of Homeless in Early Childhood Programs
Module 2: Facts About Family Homelessness in Early Childhood
Module 1: Overview of Family Homelessness

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

Module 8: Connecting with Community Partners
Module 7: Building Relationships with Families
Module 6: Enhancing Program Access and Participation for Children Experiencing Homelessness
Module 5: Identifying and Reaching Out to Families Experiencing Homelessness

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

Learning Resources

ZERO TO THREE Journal—March 2019: Young Children And Families Experiencing Homelessness

Webinars:
- Family Homelessness Part 1 - Targeting Services for Infants, Toddlers and their Families (May 8, 2019)
- Family Homelessness Part 2 - Partnerships and Policies that Enhance Supports for Infants, Toddlers and their Families (August 7, 2019)
Learning Resources

Sesame Street in Communities: Family Homelessness
https://sesamестreetincommunities.org/topics/family-homelessness/

SchoolHouse Connection Sesame Street Implementation Guides:
https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/guide-to-using-sesame-street-in-communities-resources-on-family-homelessness/

Traumatic Experiences
https://sesamестreetincommunities.org/topics/traumatic-experiences/
Data Resources

Out of the Shadows: A State-by-State Ranking of Accountability for Homeless Students
http://www.icphusa.org/national/shadows-state-state-ranking-accountability-homeless-students/

The United States of Homelessness – Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness
https://www.icphusa.org/interactive_data/the-united-states-of-homelessness/
Data Resources

Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile January 2016


Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile June 2017


Early Childhood Homelessness – State Profiles 2018


Early Childhood Homelessness – State Profiles 2019

US DHHS ACF Resources

- ACF Early Childhood Development Expanding Early Care and Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness
  https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children

- HHS-HUD-ED Early Childhood Homelessness Policy Statement

- Well-being of Young Children after Experiencing Homelessness
  https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/homeless-families-research-briefs
Contact Information

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