Homeless Assistance/McKinney-Vento

IF YOUR FAMILY IS LIVING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- In a shelter, emergency housing, or transitional housing
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Staying in a motel or hotel due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- Living in a vehicle, camper, motor home, park, campground, public space, abandoned building, or substandard housing due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations

*Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.*

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference.

  * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.

- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children’s needs.

*If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the people below to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.*

- The counselor at your child’s school
- Palouse School District Local Liaison – Calvin L. Johnson - 509-878-1921
The McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

Defining Homeless

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters or transitional housing (this generally includes a time limit on the housing assistance and case management by the housing agency)
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations