



Addressing Challenges for Youth Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19

[Webinar] Thursday, 8/6 | 1PM ET

Hosted by School-Based Health Alliance and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council

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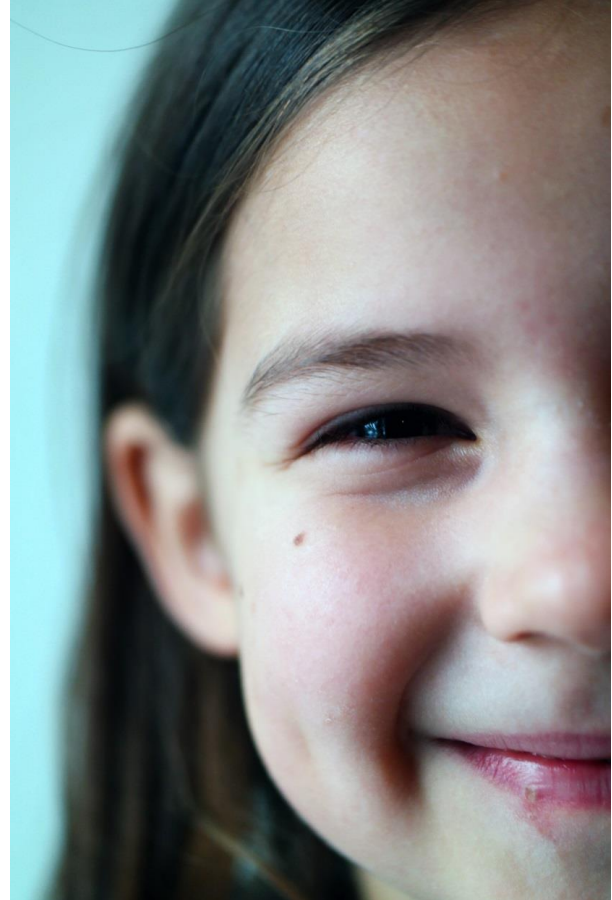
e.g., Tammy Jones +3





We Believe...

In the transformational power of
the health and education
intersection



Re-Imagining School-Based Healthcare Together :
SUPPORTING STUDENTS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

NATIONAL

HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS

COUNCIL

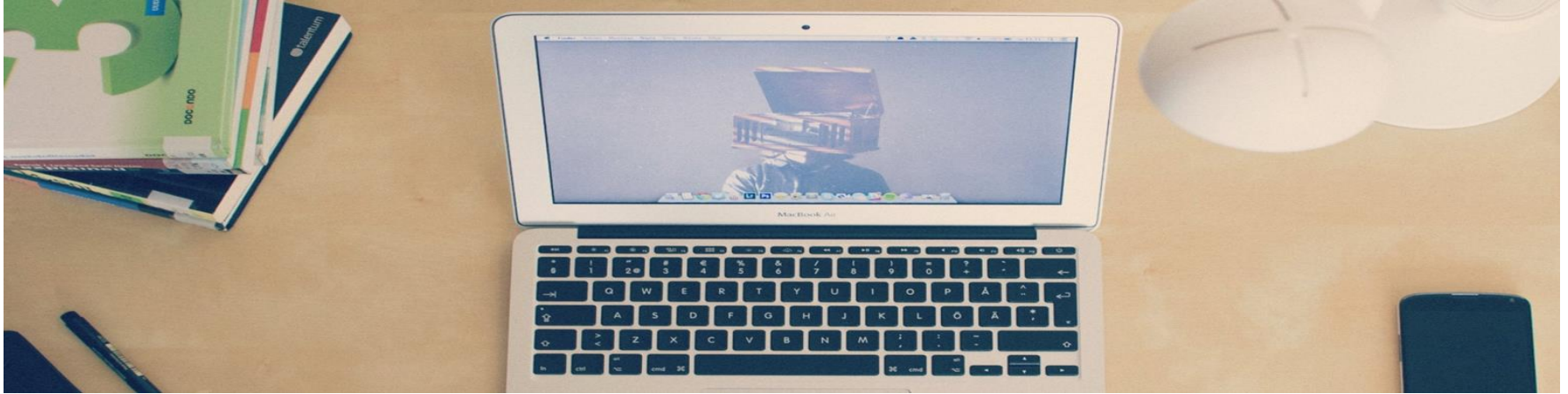
Grounded in human rights and social justice, the NHCHC mission is to **build an equitable, high-quality health care system through training, research, and advocacy** in the movement to end homelessness.

Reminders

- All attendees are in **listen-only mode**.
- We want to hear your questions! To ask a question during the session, use the **“Chat” icon** that appears on the bottom your Zoom control panel.



- Please complete evaluation poll questions at the end of the presentation.



Webinar Archive

- [School-Based Health Centers in the Time of COVID-19](#)
- [Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention During COVID-19: What School-Based Staff Need to Know](#)
- [Lead the Way: Engaging Youth in Health Care](#)
- [How You\(th\) Are the Key to Tackling the Stigma on Mental Health](#)

Today's Presenters

- **Ashley**, SchoolHouse Connection Scholar
- **Patricia Julianelle**, Senior Strategist for Program Advancement and Legal Affairs, SchoolHouse Connection
- **Jillian Sitjar**, Program Manager, Higher Education, SchoolHouse Connection

A black and white photograph of a person with long hair, seen from behind, sitting on a radiator in front of a large window. The person is looking out the window, which shows a bright, overexposed outdoor scene. The radiator is in the foreground, and the window frame is visible. The overall mood is contemplative and somewhat somber.

Today's Agenda

1. Youth Homelessness Background and Context
2. **Youth Voice:** COVID-19 and youth experiencing homelessness
3. **Telehealth:** Challenges and opportunities
4. **School Re-entry and Access to Services:** Challenges and opportunities

A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, there are rows of empty, light-colored plastic chairs with attached desks. In the background, a bulletin board is visible with several papers pinned to it, including one with a drawing of a person. To the right, a white door and a blackboard are partially visible.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the **extent of student homelessness** and associated health risks
2. Understand **challenges** students experiencing homelessness face accessing health care in light of COVID-19
3. Understand challenges students experiencing homelessness face with the **return to school this fall**

About 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.

- [Website](#)
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

Poll



The McKinney-Vento Act

Two-page overview of McKinney-Vento, One-page overview of Title I and Homelessness
www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/k-12/

- Federal law providing rights and services for students experiencing homelessness.
- Applies to all local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools.
- Requires every LEA to designate a homeless liaison.



Definition: Who is “Homeless”?

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
[75% of identified MV students in 2017–18]
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
[Motels: 6.% of identified MV students in 2017–18]
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
[8% of identified MV students in 2017–18]
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- College students living in dorms, if they do not have a place to stay when dorms close.

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



A youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

YRBS Data Analysis: Prevalence of Homelessness

4.9% of students reported homelessness in the last 30 days.

Survey results show:

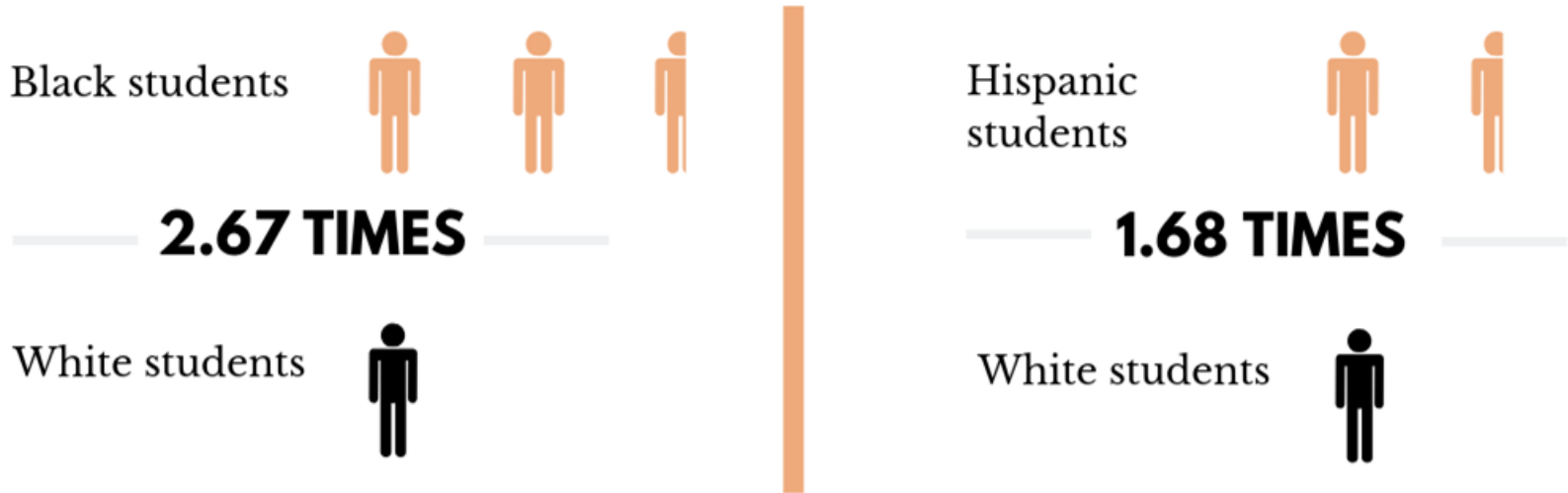
4.9% OF STUDENTS EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS AT SOME POINT DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

For every
17.7 students,
1 student has
experienced
homelessness



YRBS Data Analysis: Race and Ethnicity

LIKELIHOOD TO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS



YRBS Data Analysis: Sexual Orientation

LIKELIHOOD TO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

LGBQ
students



2.94 TIMES

Heterosexual
students



29.8%

of homeless
students are LGBQ
(compared to 13.8%
of all students)

College Student Homelessness



- Homelessness affects 17% of survey respondents at two-year institutions
- Homelessness affects 16% of survey respondents at four-year institutions

[Source] [#RealCollege2020 Research Shows 17% of College Students Experienced Homelessness in 2019](#)

TABLE 1. Disparities in Basic Needs Insecurities by Race/Ethnicity

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
Racial or Ethnic Background				
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5,472	55	61	28
Black	15,737	54	58	20
Hispanic or Latinx	28,796	47	54	16
Indigenous	2,624	60	66	31
Middle Eastern or North African or Arab or Arab American	2,897	40	50	19
Other Asian or Asian American	7,958	35	38	16
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	2,032	47	53	23
Southeast Asian	5,588	38	41	16
White	83,295	36	43	17
Other	3,694	45	55	22
Prefer not to answer	2,283	48	56	23

TABLE 3. Disparities in Basic Needs Insecurities by Gender Identity and Sexuality

	Number of Students	Food Insecurity (%)	Housing Insecurity (%)	Homelessness (%)
Gender Identity				
Female	90,440	41	49	16
Male	36,202	35	40	19
Non-binary/Third gender	2,152	55	59	31
Transgender	1,883	52	57	28
Self-describe	930	50	56	34
Sexual Orientation				
Heterosexual	101,095	37	44	16
Gay or Lesbian	4,773	47	53	23
Bisexual	13,808	50	53	24
Self-describe	4,052	47	54	25

College Student Homelessness During COVID-19

38K+ STUDENTS TOLD US THAT...

NEARLY
3 IN 5
were experiencing
basic needs insecurity

FOOD INSECURITY
AFFECTED

44% at two-year
institutions

38% at four-year
institutions

15% & **11%**
AT FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS AT TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

were experiencing
HOMELESSNESS
due to the pandemic



THE
BLACK/WHITE GAP
IN BASIC NEEDS
INSECURITY WAS
19 percentage
points

[Source] [#RealCollege During the Pandemic | The Hope Center](#)



- Youth experiencing homelessness face higher health risks.
- COVID-19 has increased those risks while making it even harder to access health and mental health care.

YRBS Data Analysis:

Mental Health

LIKELIHOOD TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE

Students not
experiencing
homelessness



7.19 TIMES

Students
experiencing
homelessness



36.9%
of homeless
students
reported a
suicide attempt.

YRBS Data Analysis:

Substance Abuse

LIKELIHOOD TO MISUSE PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICINE

Students not experiencing homelessness



4.63 TIMES

Students experiencing homelessness



40.6% of homeless students misused prescription pain medicine.

YRBS Data Analysis:

Substance Abuse

LIKELIHOOD TO ENGAGE IN BINGE DRINKING AT LEAST ONE DAY PER MONTH

Students not experiencing homelessness



2.41 TIMES

Students experiencing homelessness



24.7%
of homeless students engaged in binge drinking at least one day per month.

YRBS Data Analysis:

Physical Dating Violence

LIKELIHOOD TO BE VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL DATING VIOLENCE

Students not experiencing homelessness



5.88 TIMES

Students experiencing homelessness



24.8%
of homeless students reported being victims of physical dating violence.

YRBS Data Analysis:

Sexual Violence

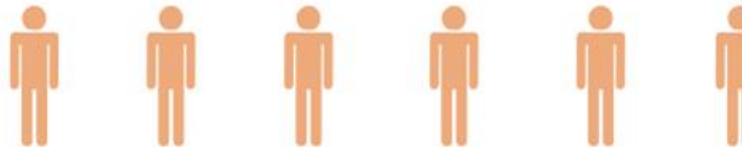
LIKELIHOOD TO BE FORCED TO DO SEXUAL THINGS (KISSING, TOUCHING, OR SEXUAL INTERCOURSE)

Students not
experiencing
homelessness



5.59 TIMES

Students
experiencing
homelessness



34.9%
of homeless
students
reported being
forced to do
sexual things.

COVID-19 and Youth Homelessness: A Firsthand Account

1. How has COVID-19 affected you, practically speaking– in your living situation, school, work? What have been some big challenges?
2. How has COVID-19 affected you emotionally?
3. Have you accessed any kind of health or mental health care since COVID-19 started? If so, what was that like? What were barriers you faced?
4. Have you wanted to get health or mental health care, but have not been able to get it? If so, tell us what prevented you from being able to access care.
5. Tell us about any challenges you face following any of the COVID-19 safety guidelines like social distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands.
6. Do you have ideas for how health care providers can help youth experiencing homelessness?

Impact of COVID-19

Increased mobility and crowding.

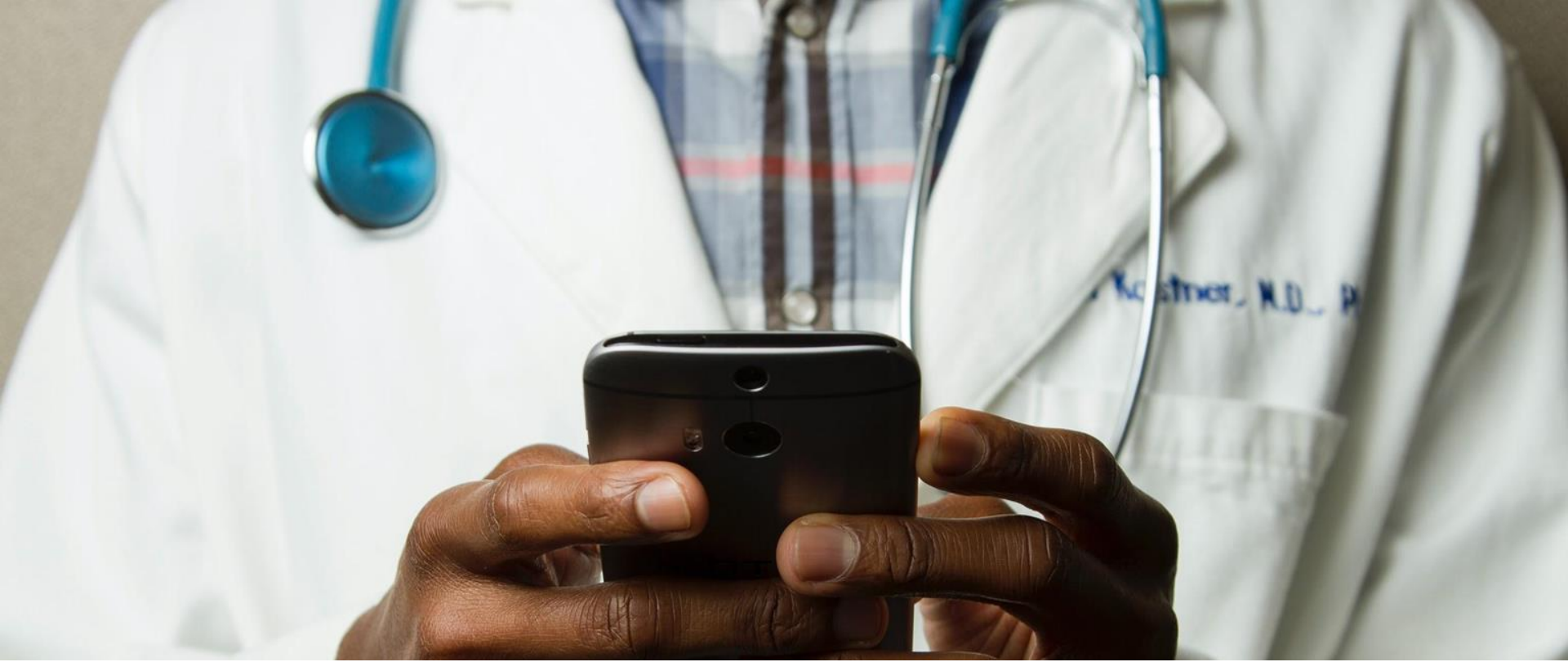
- Youth have been forced out of dorms, shared housing, shelters, motels, and campgrounds.
- They have few if any safe shelter options.
- Many youth have to work, and few have access to adequate hygiene, PPE, or social distancing.

Increased social isolation and mental health stressors.

- Schools and after-school/summer programs are closed or limited.
- Shelters and other services are closed or limited.
- Contact with peers and mentors is limited.

Decreased access to services.

- In-person services are limited or non-existent.
- Access to internet connectivity, devices, and electricity is a serious challenge.



Telehealth: Challenges and opportunities in reaching youth experiencing homelessness

Telehealth Challenges

- 1. Consent for unaccompanied minors.**
 - a. "State laws on minor consent for routine medical care"
- 2. Lack of adequate internet, device, and/or electricity.**
 - a. Connectivity resources: "Removing Barriers to Online Enrollment"
 - b. Provide portable chargers where possible.
- 3. Privacy.**
 - a. In a crowded or public location, how can youth share information discretely and safely?

Telehealth Considerations

1. Tailor Services:

- a. Understand trauma history and ACEs - past telecommunications may be linked to traumatic experiences or abusive relationships
- b. Empower youth with lived experience to help design telehealth systems
- c. Safety Plan for service delivery and briefing youth on privacy considerations

2. Engage community based youth organizations:

- a. Ensures continuity of care through team based case management
- b. Use existing Drop in center space with private rooms for appointments
- c. Continuums of care, community centers, libraries, food banks, YMCA, YWCA

What's working in YOUR program or community?

- Have you found ways to address any of these challenges?
- What are you doing differently in telehealth clinical care as it relates to COVID-19?
Operations?



**School Re-entry and Access to Services:
Challenges and opportunities for youth
experiencing homelessness.**

Re-entry and Access Challenges

- 1. Youth experiencing homelessness are difficult to identify, contact, and follow.**
 - a. Share information about McKinney-Vento widely.
 - b. Maintain at least weekly personal contact.
 - c. Provide pre-paid cell phones
 - d. [“Keeping in Touch with Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness”](#)
- 2. Distance learning/services are challenging to access and do not provide the mentorship and support youth experiencing homelessness need.**
 - a. Prioritize for in-person classes and services where available.
 - b. Prioritize for transportation where available.
 - c. Maintain at least weekly personal contact.

Re-entry and Access Challenges

3. **COVID-19 and social isolation have triggered trauma for many youth experiencing homelessness.**
 - a. Screen youth for trauma as a matter of course.
 - b. Connect youth to in-person mental health support where possible.
 - c. For virtual services, strategize with youth on privacy and connectivity.
 - d. Provide flexible scheduling of appointments.
4. **Youth lack basic safety precautions such as hygiene supplies, PPE, and the ability to socially distance.**
 - a. Prioritize for hygiene supplies and PPE where available.
 - b. Strategize with youth about possible living situations.



College Campus Reopening and Access to Services: Challenges and opportunities for college students experiencing homelessness

Campus Reopening and Challenges

1. **Youth experiencing homelessness are difficult to identify.**
 - a. Colleges can partner with high schools and liaisons to inform them of incoming students experiencing homelessness.
 - b. Institutions can create surveys or questionnaires to help identify students.
 - c. Faculty members can create a syllabus note to normalize students experiencing homelessness and resources available.
 - d. [Strategies for Identifying Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)
2. **Distance learning and virtual classes can hinder student success.**
 - a. Prioritize for in-person classes and services where available.
 - b. Offer laptop loans and hotspots for students in need.
 - c. Faculty members can create needs assessment survey for students.

Campus Reopening and Challenges

- 3. COVID-19 and social isolation have triggered trauma for many youth experiencing homelessness.**
 - a. Proactively conduct outreach and check-in with students.
 - b. Offer teletherapy and other virtual mental health services.
 - c. Create a cohort model/peer mentorship group for students experiencing homelessness to build a sense of community
- 4. College students lack basic safety precautions such as hygiene supplies, PPE, and the ability to socially distance.**
 - a. Prioritize students for on-campus housing.
 - b. Create socially distanced housing options.
 - c. Offer COVID-19 testing kits prior to campus and on campus. Make sure to ask for student address in advance, or offer onsite testing and a space to self-isolate until results come back.
 - d. Prioritize for hygiene supplies and PPE where available - campus kits.
 - e. Continue to keep food pantry open and stocked with cleaning/hygiene supplies too.
 - f. Provide shower and laundry access.

Campus Reopening and Challenges

5. **Students experiencing homelessness often experience barriers accessing financial aid**
 - a. Remind students the FAFSA is available starting on Oct. 1st.
 - b. Train financial aid administrators on their responsibility for determining unaccompanied homeless youth.
 - c. Provide financial aid office hours (in-person or virtual) specifically for students experiencing homelessness.
 - d. Prioritize emergency aid and CARES funding.
 - e. [Strategies for Financial Aid Administrators for Homeless Youth during COVID-19](#)

What's working in YOUR program or community?

- Have you found ways to address any of these challenges?
- Is your school/SBHC reopening?
- What approaches are you considering for re-entry?
- For SBHCs: Are you working with your school on re-entry plans?



**Youth experiencing
homelessness need all
agencies to work together.**

Who are key partners to address these
challenges in your community?

Questions

Resources

- [McKinney-Vento Summary](#)
- [YRBS Analysis](#)
- [Higher Education Homelessness Overview](#)
- [Higher Education Webinars](#)
- [Tip Sheets for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College](#)
- [NASFAA Financial Aid FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 and Higher Education Resource](#)
- [Five Strategies to Help Homeless Youth Transition to College During COVID-19](#)
- [How Financial Aid Administrators Can Respond to COVID-19's Impact on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Seeking Financial Aid](#)
- [Hope Center 2020 Report](#)
- [Hope Center COVID-19 Survey](#)



**Learn More
+
Apply Now**

SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program

> 2020 Application is now open!

www.schoolhouseconnection.org/youth-leadership/scholarship-program/

THANK YOU!



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