

Resources for Detroit-Area Students Experiencing Homelessness

What is homelessness?

- Definition: The McKinney-Vento Act defines children and youths experiencing homelessness as those who “lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” This includes children and youths who due to loss of housing or economic hardship are living in hotels, motels, trailer parks, camping grounds, another person’s housing, emergency or transitional shelters, or any place not meant for human habitation (such as cars, public spaces, or abandoned buildings).

Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan databook: [The Educational Implications of Homelessness and Housing Instability in Detroit](#)

Information on the [Detroit Phoenix Center](#):

- The center is a nonprofit organization that responds to the needs of underserved and street-connected youth in Detroit. They support young people, ages 13-24, through direct services including a daily drop-in center for young adults, afterschool enrichment programs for teens, youth action board, emergency crisis housing, and a scholarship fund. Get in touch at info@detroitphoenixcenter.org or 313.482.0916.

Advocacy and information on legal rights and support

- [School House Connection](#)
 - A great resource for trainings or if any school personnel have questions about educational rights related to homelessness.
- [Michigan Homeless Education](#) - Michigan Department of Education homelessness webpage has many links, lists, and information items, as well as a list of local contacts for students experiencing homelessness.
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#) - Provides training resources and data by state on student homelessness.
- [National Association for Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#)
- [National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty](#)

What to do if you identify a student experiencing homelessness in Detroit?

Go to the Detroit Public Schools Community District [McKinney-Vento information page](#) and use the referral links below, and call the phone numbers on the website.

- Internal Referral Link
 - If you are a DPSCD Staff and know a student who may qualify for services under McKinney-Vento, [please complete the internal form](#).
- External Referral Link

- If you know a student who may qualify for services under McKinney-Vento and you are a student, parent/guardian, or community agency, [please complete the external form.](#)

Resources in the Wayne Metro Area

- Community Assistance Hotline: Established to support the educational needs of students experiencing homelessness or transiency of foster care during the COVID-19 health crisis. The hotline will be answered 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Please call 734.334.1567.
- [Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency](#)
- [Michigan Alliance for Families](#)
 - A statewide resource that connects families of children with disabilities to resources that help improve their children's education. They help facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities.