**MKV Liaison Community Resources**

This guide provides guidance and connection to local support services for children, families, and youth experiencing homelessness to remove educational barriers to help ensure students engage successfully in school and cultivate their unique strengths and talents. These resources support district compliance of the McKinney-Vento Act Title IX of ESSA.

 **What is the McKinney-Vento Act? Who Qualifies?**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless youth as students whose living situation is not fixed, regular, and adequate. Unaccompanied youth are defined as students fitting the definition of homelessness and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. The McKinney-Vento Act is a Federal Law and is Title IX of ESSA (Every Students Succeeds Act).

The McKinney-Vento Act provides educational accommodations and supports. Students may qualify if they are staying in the following categories:

• Shelter or transitional housing program • Motel, hotel (paid or with vouchers) • Doubled up with friend of relative due to loss of housing and economic hardship • Unsheltered/Inadequate Housing- cars, RVs, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, inadequate trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations • Unaccompanied youth not in the physical custody or presence of a parent or legal guardian and living in one of the above situations

Homeless and unaccompanied youth lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing have the following rights:

• A permanent address is not needed to enroll in school • Students won’t be denied enrollment in a DPS school in instances where school records or other enrollment documents are not immediately available. • Students can remain in their same school (school of origin) even if their family moves. • Transportation services to and from school of origin (if requesting and qualify). • Schools must provide written explanation if a placement dispute occurs. • Students automatically qualify to participate in free breakfast and lunch programs on the campus. • Participation in extracurricular activities and all federal, state or local programs for which a student is eligible.

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| **Housing Search and Housing Authorities** **Housing Authorities Statewide** [**https://www.hud.gov/states/colorado/renting/hawebsites**](https://www.hud.gov/states/colorado/renting/hawebsites%20%20) **Colorado Housing Connects:** [**http://www.coloradohousingconnects.org/**](http://www.coloradohousingconnects.org/%20)**1-800-926-6632**  **Online property searches:** **•** [**http://www.socialserve.com/**](http://www.socialserve.com/%20)**•** [**https://www.gosection8.com/**](https://www.gosection8.com/%20)**•** [**https://www.zillow.com/denver-co/apartments**](https://www.zillow.com/denver-co/apartments%20)**•** [**https://www.apartments.com/denver-co/low-income**](https://www.apartments.com/denver-co/low-income%20)**•** [**https://affordablehousingonline.com/housing-search/Colorado/Denver**](https://affordablehousingonline.com/housing-search/Colorado/Denver) |
| **First Month’s Rent and Deposit Assistance/Eviction and Rental Assistance** |
| **United Way 2-1-1** (you can call to be connected to a Resource Navigator) or for online searches: <https://211colorado.communityos.org/cms/node/142> |
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| **Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs/Community Resource Centers** |
| **United Way 2-1-1** (you can call) or for online searches: <https://211colorado.communityos.org/cms/node/142> |
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| **County or Municipal Human Services** |
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| **Food Assistance/Public Food Benefits/Community Meals/Summer Program** |
| **PEAK:** This is an online service for Coloradans to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. To apply or check status online at: <https://coloradopeak.secure.force.com/> |
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| **Health Services: Insurance, Expense Resources, Family Planning** |
| **Prescription Medication: Partnership for Prescription Assistance** is a national program. Contact 1.888.477.2669, or visit [http://www.coloradodrugcard.com/index.php](http://www.coloradodrugcard.com/index.php%20) to receive a prescription drug card to use at pharmacies. |
| **PEAK**: This is an online service for Coloradans to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. To apply or check status online at: <https://coloradopeak.secure.force.com/> |
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| **Hospitals & Clinics/Dental Care/Medical Equipment/Screening/Rehab** |
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| **Mental Health Evaluation, Counseling & Addiction Treatment** |
| **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** 1-800-273-8255<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> |
| **National Runaway Safeline** 1-800-RUNAWAY[www.1800RUNAWAY.org](http://www.1800RUNAWAY.org) |
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| **Child Care and After School Programs** |
| **Colorado Shines**[**https://www.coloradoshines.com/search**](https://www.coloradoshines.com/search) |
| **Colorado Child Find** <https://www.cde.state.co.us/early/childfind>Services offered through Child Find: (at no cost to the family) Developmental Screenings, Hearing/Vision Screenings and Multi-disciplinary Evaluation These services address concerns in the areas of, but not limited to: Speech/Language/Communication, Education, Motor (Gross/Fine), Social/Emotional development, Vision, and Hearing |
| **PEAK**: This is an online service for Coloradans to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. To apply or check status online at: <https://coloradopeak.secure.force.com/> |
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| **Early Childhood Education, HeadStart Programs, and Mentoring** |
| **Colorado Child Find** <https://www.cde.state.co.us/early/childfind>Services offered through Child Find: (at no cost to the family) Developmental Screenings, Hearing/Vision Screenings and Multi-disciplinary Evaluation These services address concerns in the areas of, but not limited to: Speech/Language/Communication, Education, Motor (Gross/Fine), Social/Emotional development, Vision, and Hearing |
| **Mentor Colorado** Connect your student to a mentoring program. <https://www.comentoring.org/> |
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| **Legal Resources** |
| **Colorado Legal Services** <https://www.coloradolegalservices.org/>Legal help for low-income Coloradans seeking assistance with civil legal needs |
| **Colorado ID Project** <https://coloradoidproject.wordpress.com/>Assists low-income, disabled, homeless and elderly citizens seeking documentation of their identity, immigration, or citizenship status in order to obtain healthcare, public benefits, housing, transportation, employment and secure other essential human rights |
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| **Employment Resources** |
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| **Clothing Assistance** |
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| **Utility Assistance****Colorado LEAP** • Nov. 1 thru April 30: Apply for heating assistance through Colorado’s Low- Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). Call toll-free 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1866-432-8435) for an application. LEAP is federally funded and managed through the county offices of the Colorado Department of Human Services. • Nov. 1 thru April 30: If you have a letter from LEAP saying you do not qualify for LEAP assistance, you may still apply for heating assistance through Energy Outreach Colorado’s partner agencies. Call 1-866-HEAT-HELP to find an agency near you. Energy Outreach does not provide direct help to individuals. For a list of participating agencies go to [www.energyoutreach.org](http://www.energyoutreach.org) • May 1 thru Oct. 31: Call 1-866-HEAT-HELP to find an agency near you. Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) Heat Help 866.432.8435  |
| **Unaccompanied McKinney-Vento Youth Resource Guide**The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless youth as students whose living situation is not fixed, regular, and adequate. Unaccompanied youth are students fitting the definition of homelessness and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. |
| **Higher ED** |
| **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** for Unaccompanied students in CO colleges: SPOC helps student navigate the college process for unaccompanied students. [http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless\_hespocs](http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/homeless_hespocs%20) (click on list of college contacts link)  |
| **FAFSA (Federal Student Aid)**Making **Unaccompanied Youth FAFSA** determination tool: [http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/faa\_det\_tool.pdf](http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/faa_det_tool.pdf%20%20)   **Dependency Status** Excerpt from FAFSA [http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/webinar/avg\_excerpt\_dep\_status.pdf](http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/webinar/avg_excerpt_dep_status.pdf%20%20)  college-bound homeless students, including fee waivers for Advanced Placement exams, college entrance exams, and college application fees. **Avoiding FAFSA Errors** <http://www.naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/fafsa-errors.pdf> |