

**State/Territory Plan  
2022 - 2024**

**1.4 Coordination with Partners to Expand Accessibility and Continuity of Care**

**1.4.1 Describe how the Lead Agency coordinates the provision of child care services with the following programs to expand accessibility and continuity of care and to assist children enrolled in early childhood programs in receiving full-day services that meet the needs of working families (658E(c)(2)(O); 98.12(a); 98.14(a)).**

**a. The Lead Agency is required to coordinate with the following agencies. Provide a description for how coordination occurred.**

| <b>State/Territory</b> | <b>1.4.1a-xi: McKinney-Vento state coordinators for homeless education and other agencies providing services for children experiencing homelessness and, to the extent practicable, local McKinney-Vento liaisons. Describe the coordination goals, processes, and results:</b>  |
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| Alabama                | The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) houses the McKinney-Vento State Homeless Program. Coordination efforts have resulted in training on Subsidy Program eligibility and services for city and county homeless liaisons and training for Child Care Management Agencies and Quality Enhancement Agencies and in the development of a priority eligibility policy for homeless families. ALSDE has representation on the Lead Agency's Child Care Coordinating Committee, which makes recommendations to the Lead Agency on the array of child care services offered by the Lead Agency. |
| Alaska                 | The Child Care Program Office (CCPO) has conducted outreach to the McKinney-Vento state coordinator and local liaisons and provides Child Care Assistance and Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program information to the school coordinators statewide. Goals include increased awareness of programs administered by the CCPO and opportunity for increased collaboration and coordination with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator and local McKinney-Vento liaisons during the 2022-2024 CCDF plan cycle.  |

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| American Samoa | <p><i>Although American Samoa does not have a designated McKinney-Vento liaison or state coordinator, the Lead Agency maintains its commitment to ensuring that all children whose families meet the financial and non-financial requirements for subsidized child care assistance are afforded equal opportunities and access to services. In addition and where practicable, the Lead Agency ensures that a child whose family meets the McKinney-Vento definition of being or are at risk of becoming homeless are prioritized for placement given the more urgent need for these families to gain more financial stability and increased self-sufficiency.</i></p> <p><u>Coordination Goals:</u> <i>However, the Lead Agency consults with the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Human and Social Services, which administers emergency sheltering, rapid rehousing, and homelessness prevention programs, to offer prioritized access to child care for their clients who need child care assistance.</i></p> <p><u>Processes:</u> <i>Formal and informal interactions (meetings, telephone calls, emails, and other modes of communication) and dissemination of child care program brochures are employed so families who are or are at risk of homelessness can access child care assistance quickly.</i></p> <p><u>Results:</u> <i>Clients who are served at emergency shelters or needing rapid rehousing assistance have access to information about the American Samoa Child Care Program and their caseworkers can help them access these services right away.</i></p> |
| Arizona        | <p>The <a href="#">Arizona Department of Education</a> (ADE) houses the Arizona Homeless Education Program - The McKinney Vento Act. The Arizona Homeless Education Program ensures that all children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to the public education to which they are entitled under the federal McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act. ADE works towards this goal by ensuring that Arizona state policies comply with federal law, by providing technical assistance to Arizona’s local homeless liaisons, and by providing informational and awareness materials to educators and other interested community members throughout Arizona.</p> <p>Children residing in homeless or domestic violence shelters are eligible for child care assistance upon verification of residency provided by a representative of the shelter. In partnership with ADE and other key state agency partners, ADES is reevaluating the policy specific to homeless families. The goal is to align definitions and eligibility across state agencies where appropriate and applicable.</p>  |
| Arkansas       | <p>DCCECE coordinates with childcare providers and local agencies to provide services for families experiencing homelessness. DCCECE partners with the Arkansas Out of School Network (AOSN). AOSN serves as a bridge for all school age populations including the homeless and near homeless youth in terms of school community partnerships, providing technical assistance and professional development, and cross-sector collaboration to ensure quality out-of-school time supports and programming would be doing this for all populations, not just homeless children and youth. Additionally, DCCECE collaborates with the TANF funded initiative “100 Families” which assists families experiencing homelessness and other significant risk factors to ensure a successful transition into employment and/or educational programs.</p>  |

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| California  | <p>The Lead Agency will work with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator, and the Housing and Homelessness Branch within CDSS to support families accessing housing supports and coordination on the homeless education program. The CHSSCO and the CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch will have shared responsibilities to coordinate and collaborate at the state level to provide information and resources to best serve California's most vulnerable population, including children and families who are homeless. The intended outcome of this partnership is to foster and encourage local connections and outreach to homeless children and families by providing education and resources to the field. The alignment of CCDF programs, supports and services within the CDSS as the Lead Agency will facilitate and streamline services for children and families experiencing homelessness. The CDSS Housing and Homelessness Branch oversees programs vital to securing housing for families in poverty, including the CalWORKs Housing Support Program and the recently launched Project Roomkey. As the Lead Agency, CDSS will have the capacity to coordinate across programs to better support McKinney-Vento state coordinators through the homeless education program.</p>   |
| Colorado    | <p>Coordination with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator focuses on providing increased access to child care and coordination between state and local organizations for children and families experiencing homelessness in Colorado. Strategies include: 1) Strengthening connections for families experiencing homelessness with infants and toddlers to services; 2) Evaluating and strengthening trainings for CCCAP caseworkers working with families experiencing homelessness; 3) Reevaluate policies to incorporate the needs of homeless parents relative to engaging in job search, employment or training, in order to establish a stabilization period necessary for families to engage in eligible activities and provide required documentation. One output of this collaboration and coordination is that child care licensing aligns its rules on health care requirements including immunizations to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regulations in compliance with McKinney-Vento.</p>   |
| Connecticut | <p>The OEC is engaged in ongoing and regular communication with the State McKinney Vento Coordinator to improve the referral pathway into education programs for children experiencing homelessness. OEC provides state-wide training to child care providers on The Trauma of Homelessness: The Impact on Very Young Children &amp; Families. The training focuses on the McKinney Vento the definition of homelessness. The OEC requires local McKinney Vento Liaisons to be members of local School Readiness Councils. This coordination improves child care provider's knowledge serving for children experiencing homeless. OEC is working through the Head Start Efforts around homelessness with the Department of Housing to assign 150 housing vouchers specifically to families with young children. We are also working with the Coalition to End Homelessness on homeless diversion with flexible funds for families to avoid homelessness through PDG. The OEC is engaged in ongoing and regular communication with the State McKinney Vento Coordinator to improve the referral pathway into education programs for children experiencing homelessness. OEC provides state-wide training to child care providers on The Trauma of Homelessness: The Impact on Very Young Children &amp; Families. The training focuses on the McKinney Vento the definition of homelessness. The OEC requires local McKinney Vento Liaisons to be members of local School Readiness Councils. This coordination improves child care provider's knowledge serving for children experiencing homeless.</p> |

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| Delaware             | <p>The lead agency has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education (DOE). This MOA coordinates activities implemented through CCDF. DOE is the agency that houses the McKinney-Vento coordinator. Through the University of Delaware, Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood Education the state has developed "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless," a free three-hour training offered online through <a href="http://www.depdnow.com">www.depdnow.com</a>. This course provides staff with an understanding of homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento act, an opportunity to be reflective about the impact on children and families, as well as gives them strategies and resources to assist families. The Department of Education also offers an online training for "Homeless Liaisons" in each local education agency to prepare them to train their school staff on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. The goal of this collaboration is to ensure enhancement and alignment of quality services for children who are considered part of this vulnerable population.</p>  |
| District of Columbia | <p>The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) McKinney-Vento Liaison partners with the CCDF Administrator and Co-Administrator (from OSSE's Division of Early Learning-DEL) to provide training to OSSE's McKinney-Vento team and to the homeless liaisons and registrars in local education agencies (LEAs). The trainings help build awareness of and eliminate barriers children and families experiencing homelessness face in accessing subsidized child care.</p> <p>The Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) serves as an intake hub for screening and placement for families seeking emergency shelter and other essential resources. OSSE has established a partnership with VWFRC to provide OSSE staff onsite to assist parents who have children in need of child care or educational supports, such as immediate enrollment and transportation assistance. OSSE developed a Homeless Education Program Fact Sheet for Parents which provides guidance on the educational rights of children, youth and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the CCDF Co-Administrator and a representative from one of the District's child care providers that work primarily with families experiencing homelessness delivered a joint training with local early care and general education leaders on supporting these children and families.</p> <p>OSSE also has partnership agreements with the Child and Family Services Agency via its contractor, the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP), the DC Department of Human Services (DHS) and LEAs to facilitate the timely provision of child care for families experiencing homelessness. TCP coordinates the District of Columbia's integrated system of care, including prevention services, street outreach efforts, emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.</p> |
| Florida              | <p>The Homeless Education Program in the DOE participates on advisory groups and provides consultation, as needed, on outreach and identification of qualifying families. Local Education Agency (LEA) Homeless Education Liaisons provide SR Program information to newly identified homeless families and make referrals to their local ELC. Head Start, Early Head Start and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs also coordinate with their McKinney-Vento Liaisons to recruit and enroll homeless families through partnership agreements with LEAs. This coordination of services assists the state in developing a supply of quality care for the homeless population.</p>   |
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| Georgia | <p>The state currently coordinates services among many programs serving homeless and low-income populations. First, Local Education Agencies that receive Pre-K funding must comply with McKinney-Vento’s mandates by providing children who are experiencing homelessness equal access. Second, Georgia provides child care subsidies and Georgia’s Pre-K funding to high-quality early learning programs that serve families who are homeless and coordinates the two funding sources to ensure that families who are homeless have access to full-day, full-year care. Third, children who are homeless are currently a priority for the Lead Agency’s Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant and the state’s subsidy funds.</p>  |
| Guam    | <p>The Department of Public Health &amp; Social Services' Division of Public Welfare, Bureau of Social Services Administration (BOSSA) in conjunction with the Guam housing and Urban Renewal Agency assist in the tracking of the homeless population on Guam and makes referrals to the CCDF office for homeless families with children in need of child care.</p> <p>Homeless shelters also work directly with the CCDF office to assist their clients obtain child care while their parent(s) try to seek housing and/or employment. This collaboration fosters smooth transitions and enhances and aligns the quality of service for infants and toddlers through school age children which enables the lead agency to link comprehensive services and develop a supply of quality care for these vulnerable populations. The homeless families/children applying for child care are prioritized.</p> <p>CCDF provides consultation to the GELC: Social Emotional Wellness Work Group in the development of guidelines for children that have experienced toxic stress and are wards of the state. CCDF has provided input to ensure children that are homeless or wards of the state are provided child care services immediately to support the child's need for a stable and nurturing environment during the day and return to the foster parents, or emergency residential Shelters in the evenings.</p> <p>Through monthly consultation with the GELC Social Emotional Wellness Work Group, the CCDF program is strengthening its collaboration and working to improve/implement a more timely and supportive process for homeless families, foster children, and children who are wards of the state to obtain quality child care services.</p> |
| Hawaii  | <p>The Hawaii Department of Human Services is the lead CCDF agency, and the Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division, which houses the CCDF administrators, continues to collaborate with the Department's Homeless Program Office, which is the statewide agency in the same Division that oversees state and federally funded contracts for homeless services throughout Hawaii, on strategies to improve coordination of services for homeless children whose families may be eligible for child care subsidies and other early childhood services which may be needed to meet the needs of homeless children. The Homeless Program Office will support the Department's outreach efforts to the contracted homeless service providers regarding early childhood services available to homeless families with young children, as well as other agencies providing services to homeless families, including the McKinney-Vento coordinators. The Department's Child Care Advisory Committee includes stakeholder members representing preschool programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, private community-based preschools, and the Department of Education, and the Department will collaborate with these stakeholder members regarding improving coordination of services for homeless children whose families may be eligible for child care subsidies and other early childhood services.</p>  |

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| Idaho    | The CCDF administrator and McKinney-Vento coordinator sit on various state councils together, and they strive to coordinate meetings when mutually beneficial to share information and develop resources and tools that can assist both statewide coordinators in the schools and community partners serving families in local communities who are experiencing homelessness.  |
| Illinois | The Lead Agency coordinates with McKinney-Vento state coordinator (ISBE) on serving families experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento state coordinator is a member of the Child Care Advisory Council with the goal of reducing barriers to child care services for children experiencing homelessness. The result of this coordination is greater representation of issues affecting children experiencing homelessness on the Lead Agency's advisory council, and greater expertise in council discussions regarding potential policy changes to better support children experiencing homelessness.  |
| Indiana  | OECOSL has aligned CCDF policies and procedures with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. OECOSL's goal is to increase the availability of provider trainings on best practices for serving children and families who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurities and to increase awareness of PTQ and the CCDF voucher program among agencies serving homeless families. OECOSL will coordinate with the Indiana Department of Education McKinney-Vento state coordinator to align and share resources for identifying and supporting children who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurities. OECOSL will continue to provide training and technical assistance through Spark Learning Lab and the Department of Education McKinney-Vento liaison to child care providers serving families who are experiencing homeless and housing insecurities. Through this partnership, the IHSCO Director is now connected to the Education Leads Home (both national and local) and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. The three year goal is to increase providers' knowledge and skills around serving children and families who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurities and continue to promote collaboration between partners. The OECOSL team will also begin to create strategies to support these efforts and provide additional education, data, and resources across the system. |
| Iowa     | Lead Agency staff met with the McKinney-Vento staff from the Department of Education with the goal of discuss connections and ways to support those experiencing homelessness. The discussion lead to the ideas of adding information about Child Care Assistance to the Department of Education page on homelessness and to adding a Lead Agency staff to the discussion board used by all the local McKinney-Vento liaisons throughout the state. This is in the process of being completed. The discussion resulted in a plan for additional ways to support families experiencing homelessness and both parties anticipate the outcome will be additional knowledge on the part of the local liaisons and families experiencing homelessness.  |

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| Kansas        | The office was consulted with specific plans for services to homeless families, training for child care providers and providing consumer education on the KQN website. Goal to increase consumer education regarding homeless thru child care professional development opportunities. DCF met with Kansas Department of Education's (KSDE) McKinney Vento Homeless Act Liaison regarding the development of online training coursework for child care providers. Serving homeless families is included within the Kansas Early Learning Standards toolkits, created thru a collaborative effort with members of the Kansas State Agencies Early Childhood team and the Kansas Inservice Training Service (KITS) project. The expected results would be that more child care providers are better positioned to assist homeless families with meeting their needs or identifying resources. |
| Kentucky      | DCBS works in collaboration with the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator housed in the Kentucky Department of Education to identify children experiencing homelessness and prioritize services to those families. Those experiencing homelessness applying for child care assistance are eligible for expedited services. They are entitled to immediate approval and enrollment with a child care provider. Families experiencing homelessness have up to three calendar months from the date of application to return the other documentation.  |
| Louisiana     | <b>The Lead Agency is the Louisiana Department of Education which includes the State Homeless Coordinator; therefore, coordination is constant regarding access and quality. Note that local McKinney-Vento liaisons are integrated into the enrollment eligibility process by each local community network lead agency with the goal of seamless eligibility that is not impaired due to a family's homelessness. This integration is required to be documented in the local community's coordinated enrollment plan.</b>   |
| Maine         | <u>The Lead Agency and DOE's Homeless Education Consultant (McKinney-Vento state coordinator) continue to have interdepartmental exchanges that require updates and coordination between the two departments including work on the initial PDG grant.</u>  |
| Maryland      | The Division of Early Childhood's Office of Child Care Scholarship branch has a staff person assigned to the Homeless Advocacy Workgroup. That staff person shares information relevant to the provision of child care scholarship services to homeless families and works with the LDSS/vendor to expedite child care scholarship application processing. The goal is to strengthen services provided to, and advocate for, homeless families. In addition, an advocate for homeless children is an appointed position on the Early Childhood Advisory Council to strengthen and align the coordination of services, including child care for extended day and transitions, for the education of young children experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Veto is housed within the Maryland Department of Health and is an integral part of the state advisory councils.                       |
| Massachusetts | ESE, which sits within EOE, is the lead agency responsible for administering the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act in Massachusetts. The Secretary of EOE serves as an ex officio member of the Board of EEC, which meets a minimum of ten times annually to decide high level policy issues, including issues impacting all CCDF funded programs and services. The broad membership and regular meeting schedule of the EEC Board allows for substantial and ongoing consultation and coordination with EEC's stakeholders and key partner agencies.   |

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| Michigan    | The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and Special Populations Manager, also part of the lead agency, worked with the program to develop a "working with homeless children and families" training that is offered through the GSQ Resource Centers across the state. Regular meetings ensure the training is up to date and relevant. Beyond the regular meetings there are also opportunities for the homeless liaisons in local communities to share information about the child care program with families.   |
| Minnesota   | The department's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) coordinated with the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness, local CCAP agencies and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to design an expedited application process for families applying for CCAP. The process began in September 2020 and was implemented in Sept. 2021. In addition, the department established two grant contracts with local agencies that provide enhanced outreach and referral services for families to connect them to child care and CCAP. Another round of grants are currently in process. The Department has also developed training for child care providers on serving homeless families. It is delivered through the Child Care Aware system. |
| Mississippi | McKinney-Vento State Coordinators for Homeless Education were consulted regarding consumer education related to child care subsidies available to the homeless population. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) administers the program for the state, and the Lead Agency coordinates closely with MDE to help ensure alignment of goals and works closely with McKinney-Vento state coordinators to develop recommendations and coordinate planning efforts. The overall goal of coordination is to expand accessibility and continuity of care and improve quality within the early childhood system.  |

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| Missouri | <p>The Lead Agency’s homeless coordinator collaborates with state social service agencies through participation in the Special Education Advisory Panel and State Interagency Coordinating Council. These councils include members who are professionals working in the areas of health and mental health, preschool programs, community organizations and other agencies. One of the goals of these councils is to improve the provision of comprehensive education and related services to homeless preschool-aged children and their families. Additionally, the state homeless coordinator conducts at least two webinars each year and presents at a number of conferences (e.g., Governor’s Council to End Homelessness, Continuum of Care, Federal Programs Conference, DHSS School Nurses Conference, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference, and the Conference on the Young Years) in order to raise awareness on topics relevant to the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program. The state homeless coordinator and the assistant director of Missouri State Head Start Collaboration Office are participating members of the Governor’s Task Force on Homelessness. The Lead Agency provides ongoing training to ensure all LEAs are compliant with the school of origin inclusion for preschool students and to ensure that preschoolers experiencing homelessness have equal access to public preschool programs administered by the Lead Agency and LEAs as provided to other children. The Lead Agency reviews and monitors preschool policies and practices of LEAs through the Tiered Monitoring System, including the requirement that LEAs ensure that homeless preschool-aged children are identified by school personnel. This includes children with disabilities under Part B of the IDEA or qualified students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Finally, the Lead Agency provide trainings on the Child Care Subsidy program for community organizations who serve homeless families. One of the goals for these community organizations is to have an understanding of the policies and the necessary documentation required for the Child Care Subsidy program so the organizations can assist families in the application process.</p> |
| Montana  | <p>The State Coordinator for Homeless Education is housed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction. This person is involved with the Advisory Council and closely collaborates with the Lead Agency regarding this topic. They bring expertise in early literacy, homelessness, Title 1, Part B and C and preschool programming. Several projects and services have been coordinated because of these relationships. The Lead Agency worked with the Public Health and Safety Division and Child Care Licensing Program to establish a procedure for how a family experiencing homelessness would be able to comply with immunizations in order to participate in the Best Beginnings Scholarship Program.</p> <p>Goals: Increased access to child care services for families who may be homeless by reducing barriers regarding policies and statute. Policy development will support child care providers as well by increasing the resources and knowledge available on enrolling a child whose family is experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Results of this work include updates to subsidy program policy allowing for greater flexibility to gather documentation provided to families experiencing homelessness, and providing support to eligibility staff in R&amp;Rs to support those families.</p>   |

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| Nebraska      | <p>The McKinney-Vento program and the CCDF Subsidy program have met over the years to provide each other program overviews and updates. Representation from the McKinney-Vento has also participated in the state's ECICC council. When Subsidy regulations changed, the Lead Agency notified the McKinney-Vento program that CCDF Subsidy now uses the McKinney-Vento definition for homelessness. Homelessness is now a need for services for families newly applying for child care subsidy, which allows families time to seek employment and secure employment while receiving full-time child care subsidy. The overarching goal between the Lead Agency and Nebraska's McKinney-Vento will continue to be to reach subsidy-eligible children by educating and assisting in child care subsidy eligibility and authorizations, but also provide information on other economic assistance programs (SNAP, TANF, LIHEAP, etc.). The CCDF/Subsidy will create an informational brochure/handout for the McKinney-Vento liaison to distribute. Ongoing meetings and communication sharing will take place to implement these goals. Results will lead to increase access to child care for homeless families, which can assist in securing stable housing and employment.</p> |
| Nevada        | <p>CCDP has coordinated policy and processes with the Nevada McKinney-Vento Homeless Outreach program to facilitate and streamline the referral and application process for families experiencing homelessness.</p>   |
| New Hampshire | <p>The NH Department of Education serves as the lead agency for McKinney-Vento. The goal of the coordination is to ensure that child care and Head Start programs have DOE and local school liaison contact information for making mutual referrals. Internal to DHHS, DES, BCDHSC partners with the DEHS Bureau of Housing Supports to provide consumer information/education to early childhood/school age programs and families via the NH Connections website <a href="#">Resources on Homelessness</a> pages, which include information (including videos) on McKinney-Vento, what homelessness looks like, health and wellness of children experiencing homelessness, homelessness in NH, and resources for providers and families. Behavioral Health will partner to explore strategies to better support the child care/Head Start needs of children and families without homes over the next three years.</p>  |
| New Jersey    | <p>The McKinney-Vento homeless liaison is housed within the Department of Education and is part of the DHS/DFD Child Care Advisory Group. In 2019, DHS/DFD assembled a workgroup comprised of local government, homeless services providers, a shelter operator representative, CCR&amp;Rs, Head Start State Collaborator, as well as the DOE McKinney-Vento homeless liaison to develop a policy to make access to child care easier for families experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Vento liaisons provided training to CCR&amp;Rs to provide better support and more effectively serve families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, DHS/DFD provided technical assistance to the CCR&amp;Rs regarding policy implementation and how to help community-based homeless service agencies understand how to assist families' access child care services quickly. The workgroup involvement contributed to a new policy in alignment with DOE and Head Start, (i.e., priority group and services) and led to statewide standardized practice across CCR&amp;Rs related to outreach, collaboration, coordination and referrals to and from social service agencies, and shelters.</p>  |

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| New Mexico               | The Lead Agency partners with state McKinney-Vento liaisons within the Public Education Department to improve access to child care services for homeless children. Coordination goals entail working jointly to improve access to services and addressing the unique needs of homeless children and their families. The Head Start State Collaboration Director held monthly meetings with McKinney-Vento liaisons to develop a joint process for referrals and outreach. The Lead Agency distributed program brochures to liaisons to support their referral and outreach efforts. A survey of liaisons was also conducted to gauge the level of awareness of the CCDP and child care assistance.   |
| New York                 | OCFS works with NYS's McKinney-Vento liaison with the goal of increasing access and continuity of care to children who are homeless, including how OCFS can best outreach to homeless children. Efforts to prioritize homeless families for child care subsidies, and help child care providers better meet the developmental needs of children who are homeless remain as priorities. Lead Agency staff will consult with the McKinney-Vento liaison to continue work related to coordination of goals and process. The Lead Agency will continue to participate in the ECAC Supporting Families who are Homeless Workgroup.  |
| North Carolina           | NC DCDEE participates in the NC Yay Babies Initiative with state McKinney Vento coordination staff to increase early intervention and early education services delivered to children birth to 5 years experiencing homelessness. Current <b>coordination goals</b> are to ask the McKinney-Vento state coordinator to provide feedback for the CCDF Plan on activities related to homelessness, make data recommendations to the NC Early Childhood Action Plan and collaborate to work on homeless support activities which are a part of the Preschool Development Grant and Yay Babies work. Additionally, NC DCDEE is coordinating with the McKinney-Vento state coordinator on the inclusion of NC Prekindergarten programs and programs that have completed specialized technical assistance related to supporting families experiencing homelessness on the Head Start referral application which will be used by homeless education liaisons to refer parents experiencing homelessness to child care programs. The <b>process</b> for coordination will be emails and meetings with the McKinney Vento coordination staff, and the <b>results</b> are the number of NC Pre-Kindergarten programs and programs completing specialized TA listed on the referral application and the number of joint projects completed (Eg. jointly provided trainings). |
| North Dakota             | The Lead Agency and Child Care Aware of North Dakota continue to meet with the McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for homeless education to work on consistently, accurately and effectively identifying families experiencing homelessness, as well as coordinating professional development for child care providers so they can best support the children and their families that are experiencing homelessness.  |
| Northern Mariana Islands | The CNMI does not have a McKinney-Vento State Coordinator.   |
| Ohio                     | The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services collaborates with the Coordinator for Homeless Education at the Ohio Department of Education. The required staff orientation training for all child care program staff includes information on identifying and serving homeless families. Feedback from our partners was extremely valuable in guiding the content of this training. A goal of continued collaboration is to enhance current efforts to assist homeless families and children.  |

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| Oklahoma     | <p>The goal of working with other agencies serving homeless children and families is to increase access to quality child care for all families. Child Care Services personnel collaborate with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to promote awareness of and services to families and children experiencing homelessness. A publication was developed by the Lead Agency for use by anyone working with children and families experiencing homelessness across the state, including public schools. The publication is designed to inform families of services that might be available including child care subsidy, SNAP, WIC, Sooner Care (Medicaid) and TANF.</p> <p><a href="https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/okdhs/documents/okdhs-publication-library/17-17.pdf">https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/okdhs/documents/okdhs-publication-library/17-17.pdf</a> The Lead Agency works to expand the availability of child care to homeless families through contact with CCR&amp;R and other local and state public and non-profit agencies. Eligibility determination staff is out-stationed at several homeless shelters around the state to take applications and distribute informational materials regarding subsidized child care. Lead Agency and Head Start Collaboration Director collaborate to provide ways to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness by partnering together to offer full-day, full year care.</p> |
| Oregon       | <p><u>Coordination Goals:</u> Assess services to families who are homeless and develop improvement plans that enhance education outcomes for children whose families are experiencing homelessness. <u>Processes:</u> The Oregon Department of Education's State Coordinator for Homeless Education Program and the Early Learning Division co-convene a group with child care policy staff from the Oregon Department of Human Services. <u>Results:</u> Services to families who are homeless are assessed, and continual improvement plans are developed in order to enhance educational outcomes for children whose families are experiencing homelessness.</p>   |
| Pennsylvania | <p>OCDEL continues to coordinate with the PDE McKinney-Vento Liaison to provide guidance for identifying children experiencing homelessness so that their access to quality early childhood programs under OCDEL can be improved. OCDEL works with PDE to identify the coordinators for services to families experiencing homelessness in each of the state's 500 school districts. Through this collaboration, OCDEL continues to identify families and how to best meet their child care needs as part of their broader plan to secure permanent, stable housing, and greater self-sufficiency.</p> <p>To support families experiencing homelessness, OCDEL implemented waivers for certain verification and immunization requirements. Under presumptive eligibility, families experiencing homelessness may receive up to 92 days of child care while seeking employment. Children from families experiencing homelessness are also prioritized for funding to ensure expedient connection to services. Head Start now has a 3 percent capacity they can hold to serve families experiencing homelessness. HSSCO continues to educate the field about this new rule and OCDEL continues to present its services at the Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness State Conference.</p>  |

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| Puerto Rico    | <p>The Lead Agency has established effective coordination with the Department of the Family, which is the governmental agency in charge to provide services to homeless families through referrals. This working relationship has been centered in identifying and supporting families with children that became homeless as a result of the 2017-2021 hurricane, earthquake and COVID-19 pandemic disasters. The Department of the Family has an office to assist homeless families as one of their priorities. A collaborative agreement was made to offer child care services to homeless children through referrals, thereby providing appropriate access to needed services for children and their families that lost their homes. The Lead Agency assembled a workgroup, in collaboration with DF homeless service providers, to develop and implement a plan, outlining procedures and training that address the specific needs for effectively serving homeless children.</p>  |
| Rhode Island   | <p>The state strives to ensure the support of our state's children experiencing homeless from birth-age 5 through Head Start. The DHS child care subsidy system is preparing to more effectively serve this at-risk population by facilitating a streamlined eligibility process which then leads to prompt, immediate enrollment. This enables our licensing body to prioritize homeless children by fast-tracking certain key licensing considerations to ensure at-risk families are appropriately supported at a time when they clearly need it the most. The Lead Agency (DHS) also has ongoing discussions with the Head Start Collaboration Office to develop strategies which will address the ongoing child care needs of these families for comprehensive services in ways that will support children and families in securing self-sufficiency and out of homeless status. The Office of Child Care at DHS does not have a waitlist for families seeking child care assistance. As such, the Department can prioritize the enrollment of homeless children into care immediately. The McKinney Vento Coordinator sits at the Department of Education and participates on the Early Learning Council. Discussions occur regularly between the McKinney Vento Coordinator, TANF Administrator and RI Coalition for the Homeless, to inform the need for services for this population and to provide policy guidance to the lead agency. A priority of the Children's Cabinet is to ensure all children experiencing homelessness have access to high quality early care.</p>            |
| South Carolina | <p>The DECE continues to partner with the SDE's McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, the SC Coalition for the Homeless, and the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless to develop referral processes for child care vouchers to increase access to high quality care. The SDE administers the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act), which is the primary federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The coordinator oversees work of the local school district liaisons which includes outreach, determining eligibility, school placement, enrollment, and providing transportation. The coordinator also administers grants to selected school districts that provide additional coordinated services. While some local school district liaisons can identify families with very young children, their primary focus is on the 4k through grade 12 population. DECE is augmenting this by coordinating additional referral processes with the four regional Coalitions for the Homeless. The majority of the family shelters they operate are funded through HUD and can serve as a valuable source of referrals for families with very young children. The South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless functions as a coordinating and service entity, designed to assist the local coalitions. CCDF funds are being used to support the Homeless Support Liaison located in the current SC CCR&amp;R contract. Work activities are coordinated with the DECE's SC Voucher staff.</p> |

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| South Dakota | <p>Child Care coordinates on an ongoing basis with the South Dakota Department of Education Title X Part C - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Office and the SD Housing Development Authority to ensure child care services are known and accessible to the homeless population in South Dakota. As a result of this coordination The Homeless Education Director provides information and links to shelter coordinators and Homeless Education Liaison Offices about Child Care. The information relates to licensing, child care assistance, car seats, training and technical assistance, and other child care services. The Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters, developed by the Administration for Children and Families/US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has been shared with the Housing for Homeless Consortium. CCS staff will continue to attend the annual state conference on homeless populations with a goal to share services and resources available that support families, including those experiencing homelessness. A representative from Child Care participates in the Youth Committee for the Consortium of Care as part of South Dakota Housing for the Homeless to share services, develop new partnerships, and coordinate new initiatives that effect youth experiencing homelessness. An additional goal for this plan period is to continue to share resources and identify ongoing training opportunities for lead agency staff, the Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) System and child care providers.</p> |
| Tennessee    | <p>The Lead Agency established relationships with the Tennessee Association of Community Action (TACA) through a partnership with the DHS Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program to collect data on children (ages 0 to 5) statewide experiencing homelessness and the Tennessee liaison to the National Center for Homeless Education to share information and coordinate activities associated with services for homeless children and families. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are private nonprofit and public organizations created out of Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to combat poverty. CAAs assess community needs and resources, establish priorities, determine strategies to address local poverty issues, and in partnership with community organizations, deliver a broad range of comprehensive services to create economic opportunity and have a measurable impact in the lives of those in our communities.</p>   |
| Texas        | <p>TWC works with the Texas Department of Housing &amp; Community Affairs (TDHCA) to coordinate services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, TEA's State McKinney-Vento Coordinator and a representative of TWC's CC&amp;EL division serve together on the ECI State Advisory Council. Boards coordinate with local homeless shelters and organizations serving homeless families. Boards also work with ISDs to identify and provide outreach to homeless children served by public schools. This coordination is in conjunction with workforce services to homeless families through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).</p>   |

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| Utah    | <p>The Lead Agency coordinates with the McKinney-Vento state coordinators through the Utah State Board of Education's involvement on the OCC Advisory Committee. In addition, the Lead Agency includes the state's Office of Homeless Services. This office is engaged in serving Utah's homeless population and supporting homeless service providers. As a result, child care is incorporated in discussions with serving the needs of families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency is implementing policy changes to increase the number of families that may receive Homeless Child Care Assistance.</p> <p>Homeless families may receive Homeless Child Care Assistance when referred by a homeless agency. The Homeless Child Care program is available to families who are in sheltered care and do not meet the Employment Support Child Care work requirements or qualify for TANF. A referral must be provided by the recognized homeless agency to approve the Homeless Child Care program. Families may receive up to twelve months of child care to support activities including, but not limited to, employment, job search, training, shelter search, or working through a crisis situation. In addition, the Lead Agency has homeless outreach workers located in shelters and housing sites throughout the State to assist families who are homeless or facing eviction. The workers are trained to assist families in obtaining employment and applying for various types of assistance. Connecting families to child care assistance, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and other childcare services is an important component of this homeless outreach initiative. Additionally, the Utah Office of Child Care regularly presents child care assistance and resource information at homeless conferences and coordinates with the outreach teams located at the shelters. The goal of the coordination across these agencies is to ensure children experiencing homelessness have access to high-quality child care and education programs. Specific outcome measures will be developed to support the coordination efforts.</p> |
| Vermont | <p>The Vermont Agency of Education is the designated McKinney-Vento state coordinating agency for homeless education. Within DCF/CDD, the Vermont Head Start Collaboration Office supports access to services for children and families experiencing homelessness through coordination with state and local education agencies implementing McKinney-Vento requirements. These entities include the state McKinney-Vento Coordinator, local education agency McKinney-Vento Liaisons, the VT Office of Economic Opportunity (including Family Supportive Housing programming), statewide domestic and sexual violence shelters, Specialized Child Care programs and services, and VT Head Start/Early Head Start grantees. Specifically, the VHSCO has partnered with HS/EHS grantees and their local Continua of Care to review and update Coordinated Entry Housing Crisis Referral and Coordinated Entry Partnership Agreement forms to improve the effectiveness of referral processes for families served by HS/EHS programs and community organizations providing housing services. The VHSCO also participates in the national HSSCO Learning Community on Homelessness which informs its work to identify potential collaboration models for providing access to housing for vulnerable families and the development and implementation of strategies with an ultimate goal of increasing the percentage of HS/EHS families experiencing homelessness that acquire housing.</p>  |
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| Virgin Islands | <p><u>The VI Department of Human Services, through the Office of the Commissioner, oversees the issuance of local government grants to non-profit agencies that provides services for the Homeless population. Such agencies include: Community First Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix Mission Outreach, the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, Family Resource Center and various others. The Lead Agency traditionally provides funding for these agencies. The VI Department of Human Services hired a Director of Homelessness Services. The Director ensures homeless families that require services such as child care subsidies are given priority access. Information about the Lead Agency's designation of Homeless children as a priority group is shared across the Homelessness Provider network. This coordination will be greatly expanded during the triennial period of this VI CCDF Plan. This coordination goal is to increase access to quality childcare to homeless children. Greater emphasis with increased public Virgin Islands advertisement of this service will be highlighted on the Lead Agency's Consumer Education Website. The Lead Agency also participates in the annual homeless count. The Lead Agency's goal is to provide this vulnerable population of families with young and school age children improved access to information on the availability of quality child care in the Virgin Islands</u></p> |
| Virginia       | <p>The McKinney-Vento State Coordinator serves on various Lead Agency child care workgroups, consults on issues and guidance regarding services to children who are homeless, assists with development and modification of the statewide child care disaster plan, and consults on training for local departments of social services staff on outreach to homeless families, as well as resource materials and training for providers.</p> <p>In addition, Virginia has been awarded a small grant from Education Leads Home (ELH). This project seeks to engage state leaders working at the intersection of education and homelessness by building and scaling best practices, including through a virtual Community of Practice to develop customized activities, policies, guidelines, and/or standards-based on each state's unique context. The Lead Agency is one of Virginia's state agencies engaged in this work, with a focus in the early childhood space of ensuring that children experiencing homelessness participate in child care and early education at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.</p>  |
| Washington     | <p>DCYF coordinates with OSPI's McKinney-Vento State Coordinator for Homeless Education by periodically attending and participating in McKinney-Vento Liaison training, and through collaboration on specific projects impacting families experiencing homelessness. DCYF assists the State Coordinator on, e.g., data requests regarding families experiencing homelessness participating in DCYF administered programs. Goals for the collaboration include expanding access to quality early learning programs for families and children experiencing homelessness so all children, including the most vulnerable, arrive to kindergarten ready to learn, impacting their later academic and professional success, and to assist providers serving children and families experiencing homelessness. DCYF works with the Coordinator and CCA to develop training and technical assistance to providers on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness.</p>   |
| West Virginia  | <p>The Division of Early Care and Education in conjunction with the West Virginia Department of Education Office of Federal Programs reviewed and discussed the State Plan expectations for planning and implementation.</p>   |

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| Wisconsin | <p>Wisconsin's focus on equity and inclusion includes Lead and partnering agency participation in Collaborating Partners, where the DPI Education for Homeless Children and Youth staff ensure coordination for serving homeless families in determination of eligibility for Wisconsin Shares. Braided funding supports staff time for a Homeless Outreach Specialist to promote collaborations and connections between regional stakeholders. This position promotes effective practices related to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, ensuring equal access to early childhood educational opportunities. In addition, the newly created Equity Advisory Council (EAC) will work to raise awareness of the unique needs and hopes of all vulnerable and underserved populations, including homeless children and families.</p> |
| Wyoming   | <p>The Department oversees the Wyoming State Homeless Program and works with the Wyoming Department of Education's McKinney-Vento Coordinator and the Homelessness Collaborative. It is the intent that coordination between the Department and homelessness programs will result in identification of children and families who may be eligible for services, including child care and other early childhood programs. Training is available to homelessness providers to identify and properly refer homeless families to child care assistance. As the Department has a representative on the Homelessness Collaborative Board, the Department will ensure that information and support is provided to assist homeless families.</p>  |