

**State/Territory Plan  
2022 - 2024**

**6.2 Training and Professional Development Requirements**

**6.2.5 The Lead Agency must provide training and technical assistance (TA) to providers and appropriate Lead Agency (or designated entity) staff on identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness (658E(c)(3)(B)(i)).**

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>a. Describe the state/territory’s training and TA efforts for providers in identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness (relates to question 3.2.2):</b>	<b>b. Describe the state/territory’s training and TA efforts for Lead Agency (or designated entity) staff in identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness (connects to question 3.3.6):</b>
Alabama	The Lead Agency collaborates with Alabama Department of Education Homeless Liaison to bring training to Child Care Management Agency eligibility staff as they work with families who may be experiencing homelessness. Training is presented to Quality Enhancement Agency staff to help them identify training objectives and connections to provide TA to providers who work with families experiencing homelessness.	Policy has been created to address identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness. Staff may submit questions for clarification, obtain further information on resources to assist families needing financial assistance and housing, as well as any other needs of the family. The state does not provide training to staff however staff are required to adhere to policies that align with the McKinney Vento Act. Training on those policies are provided to staff upon policy enactment by the lead agency.
Alaska	Alaska’s Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, provides training to child care providers. Some thread staff who deliver training have received trainings themselves on indicators to assist them in identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness, so they are able to incorporate that knowledge into trainings they deliver to child care providers. Additionally, there are resources on the Child Care Program Office (CCPO) website to assist any staff, grantee, or child care provider in being responsive to families experiencing homelessness. Licensing discusses the regulatory requirement related to supporting families experiencing homelessness during the licensing orientation. This orientation will also be available in an online training platform in the coming years.	In Alaska’s Child Care Resource and Referral Network, thread, ensures all staff who provide child care referrals to families as well as training staff who deliver training to child care providers, have received training and indicators to assist them in identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness. Information was presented to Child Care Assistance Program grantees that administer the program and some CCPO staff who work in the program during the Local Administrators teleconference on August 25, 2016. Child Care Assistance brochures were emailed to all the school district McKinney-Vento liaisons asking them to share our information with a particular focus on reaching families who are experiencing homelessness.
American Samoa	<i>The Lead Agency provides training and technical assistance, as well as materials, to raise awareness about the McKinney-Vento Act and its impact on the CCDF.</i>	<i>The Lead Agency consults with organizations that provide support services for homeless families with young children to increase awareness about the availability of subsidized child care assistance to increase economic self-sufficiency</i>

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<p>Arizona</p>	<p>Each of the scopes of work that the Lead Agency holds with contractors for delivering training and TA statewide includes the requirement that the training and TA shall be offered to staff from ADHS Certified Group Homes, ADHS Licensed Centers, ADES Certified Family Child Care Providers and ADES Certified In-home providers, Tribal Nations and Homeless Shelters holding a registration agreement with ADES and shall be conducted in locations convenient for participants (on-site, centrally located, or other locations as required), and provided in a culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate manner to the population served. The Lead Agency also has entered into contracts with five residential homeless/domestic violence shelters for the purpose of providing child care services to be conducted at the site of a residential or homeless and/or domestic violence shelter that provides employment and education case management. Through these contracts, the Lead Agency has encouraged its Quality Set Aside training and TA contractors to provide direct support through training and TA opportunities for child care providers and staff. These training contractors include course offerings related to understanding trauma, including the impact of childhood trauma and building a trauma informed classroom. In addition, the Lead Agency is seeking support through its partnership with the ADE and its Homeless Education division to promote existing training opportunities and develop informational materials aligned with best practices for child care providers to support, identify and serve children experiencing homelessness and their families.</p>	<p>Lead Agency Staff are provided training and on-going Technical Assistance and policy updates relating to statewide standard process for verification of an eligible activity when the client is unavailable to care for their child for a portion of the day due to participation in domestic violence shelter or homeless shelter directed activities (CCA 2-07-01-02 Verification of Unable/Unavailable Status), and general eligibility for families experiencing homelessness (CCA 2-05-01 General Eligibility Criteria). Staff are also aware of the policy related to Temporary Cessation of an Eligible Activity which allows for additional service authorization of up to three calendar months of Child Care Assistance to an ongoing client who reports a break or loss of an eligible activity. This Cessation policy is in place to promote continuity of care for children and families while the client engages in job search or resumes an eligible activity after a temporary break. The Lead Agency has encouraged its Quality Set Aside training and TA contractors to provide direct support through training and TA opportunities for child care providers and staff to enhance their education and understanding of identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness. In addition, the Lead Agency is seeking support through its partnership with the ADE and its Homeless Education division to promote existing training opportunities and develop informational materials aligned with best practices for identifying and serving children experiencing homelessness and their families.</p>
<p>Arkansas</p>	<p>The McKinney-Vento Act seeks to address the challenges that homeless children and youths may face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. The Family Support Procedures Manual outlines the procedure for homeless families. Homeless families are a priority population for CCDF. Family Support Procedures Manual</p>	<p>Arkansas contracts for training that supports vulnerable populations, such as homeless families. Strengthening Families is one example. This training identifies five Protective Factors: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children, that can be used to support all families including those experiencing homelessness</p>
<p>California</p>	<p>Trainings for providers occur virtually and/or in-person at statewide conferences, local regional area trainings and at individual contractor level trainings. All trainings focus on how contractors can meet the regulatory requirements of identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Lead Agency provides professional development and training opportunities and resources to support families experiencing homelessness. A full list of resources can be found at Resources for Homeless Children and Youth and Professional Development Training.</p>	<p>Staff attend trainings provided at the national and state level. Staff share the information from these trainings with other state staff. These trainings focus on how contractors can meet the regulatory requirements in identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Lead Agency provides resources to support families experiencing homelessness. A full list of resources can be found at Resources for Homeless Children and Youth including the recently released resource: Identification Strategies in Response to Coronavirus for Homeless.</p>

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<p>Colorado</p>	<p>The Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (Colorado Shines PDIS) operates as a statewide learning management system. Supporting Children and Families Impacted by Homelessness reviews how to determine if a family meets the definition of being “homeless” and the services available for these families. It also covers what early care and learning programs can do to support children and families experiencing homelessness. After completing this course, learners will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define who is considered homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act</li> <li>2. Dispel myths about homelessness in early learning programs</li> <li>3. Help families and children experiencing homelessness find local resources</li> </ol> <p>In addition, the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement eLearning course is published to the Colorado Shines PDIS. This course reviews how to determine a family's homeless situation, build relationships with families and how to find state and local partners who can support community outreach to families experiencing homelessness. After completing this course, learners will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify who is considered homeless as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act</li> <li>2. Understand the challenges and barriers facing families experiencing homelessness</li> <li>3. Identify state and local partners who can support efforts to provide community outreach to homeless familiesIdentify strategies to increase access to and participation in programs for children and families experiencing homelessness</li> </ol> <p>Training for county supervisory and eligibility staff with the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) includes an overview of rules that relate to enrolling and serving children experiencing homelessness. This training includes details for how the family’s contribution will be calculated and to whom it will be applied. These staff also have access to the two earlier mentioned eLearning courses that address supporting families experiencing homelessness within the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Learning Management System.</p> <p>The Office of Early Childhood contracts with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies statewide. These agencies collaborate locally with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to identify and provide referrals to child care.</p> <p>The Provider Self Service Portal offers a help desk to access additional technical assistance if needed.</p>	<p>The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood contracts with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies statewide. These agencies collaborate locally with homeless service providers, McKinney-Vento liaisons and others who work with families experiencing homelessness to identify and provide referrals to child care in partnership with the Colorado Shines Call Center and county departments of human services. Both eLearning modules review how to determine if a family meets the definition of being “homeless” and the services available for these families. These courses also include information regarding the required grace period of at least 90 days to gather documentation of immunizations and other health and safety requirements for families experiencing homelessness for licensed providers. The grace period for licensed exempt care is at least 60 days.</p> <p>Training for county supervisory and eligibility staff with the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) includes an overview of rules that relate to enrolling and serving children and families experiencing homelessness. Course content specifically addresses the required grace period. These staff also have access to the two earlier mentioned eLearning courses that address supporting families experiencing homelessness within the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Learning Management System.</p> <p>The Provider Self Service Portal offers a help desk to access additional technical assistance if needed.</p>
<p>Connecticut</p>	<p>The OEC has contracted with the regional Education Service Center (EASTCONN) to provide a series of train- the-trainer events to inform providers about the trauma of homelessness. The target audience for this activity is providers who receive the Care 4 Kids subsidy, and other key partners that work with this population including the Coordinated Access Networks and the state’s McKinney Vento Liaisons. The purpose of the training is twofold: 1) increase the knowledge base of trainers around the trauma of homelessness and 2) prepare them to be facilitators and trainers on this and related topics. The contractor’s activities include provision of training and technical assistance on identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness based on the McKinney-Vento definition; designing and implementing statewide technical assistance to providers in screening homeless families utilizing OEC approved technical assistance personnel; providing a needs assessment to OEC regarding statewide TA needs; and developing and implementing a TA plan and delivering four trainings. The training participants will be linked with relevant OEC initiatives including Pyramid Model Training.</p>	<p>The OEC has designated a lead staff to guide the work of the contractor identified above and these staff participate in training as appropriate. The OEC staff lead is also the Pyramid Model project lead who holds responsibility for integrating Pyramid and efforts to identify and serve children and families experiencing homelessness.</p>

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<p>Delaware</p>	<p>Through DIEEC, the State developed "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless," a free three-hour training for providers offered online through Delaware's learning management system for early childhood, DEPDNow: <a href="http://www.depdnow.com/">http://www.depdnow.com/</a>. This course provides early childhood program 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, and strategies and resources to assist families. The Department of Education also offers this online training for Homeless Liaisons in each local education agency (school district or charter school) to prepare them to train their teaching staff on identifying and serving homeless children and their families.</p>	<p>All Lead Agency staff are able to access the same training as providers on DEPDNow: "Supporting Children When They Are Homeless."</p> <p>Lead Agency partner staff at Department of Education are encouraged to take Delaware Homeless Educator Training. This online or in-person course focuses on the definition of homelessness, signs of homelessness, the impact of homelessness on students, and the steps that should be taken once a potentially homeless student is identified, including how to connect the student with appropriate housing and service providers is required. The training presentation, "McKinney-Vento ESSA Law" was developed by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAECHY) and the US Department of Education to ensure that children and youth, including unaccompanied youth, experiencing homelessness enroll in and have a full and fair opportunity to succeed in school and to ensure that families, children and youth have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible.</p>
<p>District of Columbia</p>	<p>The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) provides professional development with a sequential learning approach that addresses the complexity of homelessness. OSSE offers various training opportunities for providers, local education agencies and community partners focusing on this population, including topics relevant to homeless children and their families such as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015; Routines that Support Emotional Well-Being and Stability in the Classroom; Recognizing Signs of Stress in Young Children; Eco-mapping: A Tool for Assessing Support Systems; and Engaging and Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness. OSSE facilitates collaboration and partnership with the District's community-based organizations that serve homeless families to improve developmental outcomes for at-risk children.</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, OSSE's Homeless Education Program staff will continue to provide training for child development directors and enrollment coordinators on how to identify and support families that are experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) continue their partnership to ensure that the District's central intake center for families who are experiencing homelessness has an onsite child care intake specialist. Training has been provided to all DHS child care intake staff and community staff in Level II child development sites on the eligibility criteria. Families experiencing homelessness are categorically eligible for child care subsidy and Head Start and Early Head Start.</p>

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<p>Florida</p>	<p>The <i>Early Care and Education Career Pathway</i> has included a course in the core requirements training addressing trauma in young children. This course covers the emotional trauma that may come for children in housing transition. The DEL's SharePoint site for ELCs contains resources and links to training and technical assistance to be shared with providers regarding serving homeless children and families. The DEL program staff continuously research and take courses in trauma and serving children experiencing homelessness. In the fall of 2020, the State Coordinator for Title IX, Part A, Florida McKinney-Vento Program, asked the DEL to participate in a grant writing effort to focus efforts across multiple agencies serving the early childhood. While the grant was not funded, the opportunity opened communication and identified areas where professionals may work together to better inform the field. In addition, a new trauma-informed care course is currently in development and will take a closer look at how to identify and connect families who are experiencing homelessness to services.</p>	<p>The DEL's SharePoint site for ELCs contains resources and links to training and technical assistance to be shared with providers regarding serving homeless children and families. The DEL program staff continuously research and take courses in trauma and serving children experiencing homelessness to provide technical assistance to coalition staff. The DEL CCR&amp;R Network staff provides training to each ELC CCR&amp;R. DEL also created the Florida's Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist Training Service Delivery modules. Each training model encourages trainees to be mindful of children and families who may be experiencing homelessness, aware of local services and supports for these families, and other agencies that may also provide assistance. Module 2 of the series specifically discusses definitions of "homelessness," factors that may lead to homelessness, related statistics, and important ideas and responses to keep in mind when serving families..</p>
<p>Georgia</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has contracted with experts in the area of homelessness to help develop training materials for early learning and development providers and Lead Agency staff. The training covers the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, the causes and effects of family homelessness, strategies to use in identifying and working with families experiencing homelessness, resources for families experiencing homelessness, factors related to homelessness impacting development and learning, and strategies early care and learning providers can use to support children and families who are experiencing homelessness. This content has been shared with Lead Agency-approved trainers through a "train the trainer" model and offered to trainers from all areas of the state. Trainers in turn deliver the two-hour training to early learning and development providers in their catchment area. The training is Lead Agency-approved and qualifies as training to meet licensure requirements. CAPS family support consultants received the training and delivered to early learning and development providers across the state. The statewide Homelessness Committee will review the training for updates.</p>	<p>The state currently coordinates services among many programs serving homeless and low-income populations. First, Local Education Authorities that receive Georgia's 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 experiencing homelessness and coordinates the two funding sources to ensure that families experiencing homelessness have access to full-day, full-year care. Third, children who are experiencing homelessness are categorially eligible for the Lead Agency's Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant. Children experiencing homelessness are also a priority group for the Lead Agency's CAPS program. Additionally, an internal Homelessness Committee meets regularly to coordinate efforts among the divisions in the Lead Agency to connect with and serve Georgia's homeless populations.</p>
<p>Guam</p>	<p>The Lead Agency meets with all the registered licensed child care providers and provides training on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) programmatic requirements via orientations annually. The need and/or requirements governing the servicing of homeless children and their families is only completed at the Lead Agency's location with the Bureau of Management Support (BMS) CCDF Program Coordinator IV or the BMS Administrator to ensure confidentiality of the family's status and to protect the privacy of the population being served. If there's a need to discuss the fact that the child (ren) at a particular center is homeless there must be justification as most homeless applicants do not want to be identified and the Department of Public Health &amp; Social Service (DPHSS) Lead Agency's representative does not want to overtly make it known unless expressly requested by the homeless family seeking the services.</p> <p>The Lead Agency has plans to offer contracts for training and technical assistance for providers related to the identifying and serving of children and families experiencing homelessness to organizations whose mission is to protect, serve, and support such populations. CCDF Program staff will also attain this training and technical assistance to enhance our services and support the child care providers with identifying and supporting these families. This training and technical assistance will also be supported with resources through the child care resource and referral network.</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has plans to offer contracts for training and technical assistance for providers related to the identifying and serving of children and families experiencing homelessness to organizations whose mission is to protect, serve, and support such populations. CCDF Program staff will also attain this training and technical assistance to enhance our services and support the child care providers with identifying and supporting these families. This training and technical assistance will also be supported with resources through the child care resource and referral network.</p>

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<p>Hawaii</p>	<p>The Hawaii Department of Human Services will continue discussions with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the Department's Homeless Programs Office to focus on increasing outreach to the numerous community organizations who are serving homeless families across the State through the Continuum of Care. The public health pandemic halted discussions during the past year. The Department will focus on strategies to improve training and technical assistance for outreach to partner agencies in obtaining information about the availability of Department's child care services, including the child care subsidy program and the child care resource and referral services, so that the community providers are helping the families access these services that are essential to supporting homeless families with young children find and maintain stable employment or secure vocational training or educational opportunities in order for the families to maintain and increase their economic self-sufficiency and to be able to secure and maintain permanent housing for themselves.</p> <p>The Department's contractor is part of Hawaii's Childhood Homelessness Action Team and works alongside the Department of Education Community Liaison focusing on outreach efforts providing resources with organizations serving homeless families. The contractor provides curriculum on the Education Leads Home Series, Understanding the Impact of Unstable Housing, Family Engagement and Supportive Program Policies. By going through the curriculum, providers are expected to: develop empathy towards families that may be experiencing homelessness; develop an understanding of policies and procedures; and discuss supportive strategies that may lead to best practices when working with families.</p>	<p>The Hawaii Department of Human Services will continue the existing partnership with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the Department's Homeless Programs Office to focus on increasing outreach to the numerous community organizations who are serving homeless families across the State through the Continuum of Care. The Department will focus on strategies to improve training and technical assistance for outreach to partner agencies in obtaining information about the availability of Department's child care services, including the child care subsidy program and the child care resource and referral services, so that the community providers are helping the families access these services that are essential to supporting homeless families with young children find and maintain stable employment or secure vocational training or educational opportunities in order for the families to maintain and increase their economic self-sufficiency and to be able to secure and maintain permanent housing for themselves.</p>
<p>Idaho</p>	<p>IdahoSTARS offers approved training that is evidence-based and designed to provide information that assists child care providers with developing an understanding and increasing their knowledge and awareness of best practices, strategies, practical tools, and skills across the domains and clearly linked to the Idaho Early Learning eGuidelines. Some of these trainings include trainings on strengthening families, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), and Trauma-Informed Care and the Pyramid modules. Teaching Pyramid Observation tool (TPOT) assessments connected with Pyramid training modules are being piloted in child care facilities across the state. All staff who work directly with providers participate in culturally, linguistically, and trauma informed trainings and encourage providers to as well. All trainers receive information and guidance on adult learning and are required to include modifications of training content and training materials to include all children and families with a special focus on child development, poverty, disabilities, family structure, languages, and cultures.</p>	<p>"Strengthening Families Who are Homeless", a current training only available through a live training experience, is in transition to become available as an online training opportunity. This online training will be available to IdahoSTARS staff and child care providers. Once available online, staff are encouraged to access this training to increase individual awareness and develop an understanding and empathy for families and child care programs who experience homelessness.</p>
<p>Illinois</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has made available to all child care providers in the State: 1) A one-hour online training about reaching out to and serving children and families who are experiencing homelessness. This training includes the reasons why families experiencing homelessness might need child care, information about the McKinney-Vento Act, and resources for finding services for these families; 2) Packets of resources available to be distributed to providers by CCR&amp;R; 3) A policy update training webinar to CCR&amp;R and Sites; 4) A general inquiry email account where providers posts questions or seek guidance.</p> <p>In addition, the CCR&amp;R staff is able to assist providers with any policies that make it easier to serve families who are experiencing homelessness. INCCRRA offers a "Homelessness training" that covers legal and social justifications and requirements for caring for homeless children, basic best practices for caring for families experiencing homelessness, requirements for caring for homeless children. CCR&amp;R staff may refer families experiencing or in danger of becoming homeless to the Lead Agency for more information about program/services to help or prevent homelessness.</p>	<p>The state partners with multiple entities serving families experiencing homeless, including the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO). The HSSCO continues to support access to services for children and families experiencing homelessness. This is done by communicating to the Head Start grantees that the Head Start Performance Standards allow for grantees to reserve slots for children and families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency has established policies within the Child Care Assistance Program, 01.03.10, that addresses and providers supports for families that are experiencing homelessness, as explained in section 3.3.6. The Illinois Early Learning Council's Access Committee has identified children experiencing homelessness as a priority population. Finally, the state of Illinois' State Coordinator for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education is a member the Child Care Advisory Council and works closely with the Lead Agency staff, located in Lead Agency central offices, across the state by providing guidance on CCDF policy implementation as it relates to support for children experiencing homelessness as well as providing technical assistance when requested.</p>

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<p>Indiana</p>	<p>The Lead Agency, along with a cross sector group of early childhood professionals, has worked together to develop a statewide training module to assist providers in developing a plan for working with families and children who are homeless. The training module educates and assists providers in identifying families who are homeless and includes information on available state and community resources. Training includes directing families to local shelters as well as other programs and agencies in regards to housing, financial assistance, counseling and the child care assistance program. The training equips providers with the skills and techniques needed to adequately respond to the needs of homeless children. This training is a scripted train-the-trainer model to allow for a consistent message across the state. Participants will know how to identify families who are homeless. This training will discuss new state policy regarding CCDF eligibility. Providers will be able to support the social-emotional needs of children experiencing homelessness and resources will be shared. Training is provided to SPARK Learning Lab staff who train local providers on an ongoing basis. SPARK Learning Lab provides technical assistance to providers as needed. This training was updated in the Fall of 2019; however, we intend to reevaluate this training with our partners and the Education Leads Home initiative during this plan period.</p>	<p>The training is available on demand via Indiana Learning Paths. Additionally, there is training included in the annual conference on homelessness sponsored by Building Brighter Futures and is available to all McKinney-Vento liaisons to share with shelters and local stakeholders. Building Brighter Futures was developed in 2007 to address the increased emphasis placed on serving homeless families in Head Start. Through the years, representation on Building Brighter Futures has grown and now includes cross agency representation working on supporting the needs of homeless families and children across multiple sectors. This group provides a forum to share a variety of resources, information and opportunities available to meet the needs of families and children who are experiencing homelessness. Building Brighter Futures sponsors an annual conference to provide training for persons providing education and/or support to children and families experiencing homelessness. This conference also provides a forum for these agencies and individuals to meet and learn about each other and begin to plan together for their communities. Lead Agency staff are able to attend these opportunities and access training when needed. OECOSL staff also meet with McKinney-Vento Liaisons and are able to gather up to date information when needed.</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p>When the Lead Agency contracted to develop the Essentials Child Care Preservice Training we included a module on homelessness within that training series. All child care staff working directly with children must take this training.</p>	<p>Lead Agency staff that conduct compliance visits with providers are all required to take the Essentials Child Care Preservice Training which includes the module on homelessness.</p>

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<p>Kansas</p>	<p>Lead Agency's identifies this topic as a CCDF priority course in the workforce professional development contract. At a minimum, the course must cover identifying, serving and providing resources for families experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento definition. The course, Recognizing and Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness, is available through our workforce professional development. Another course, Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences, incorporates homelessness into this course to assist providers in finding strategies to develop resiliency in young children. ITSN specialists are available who have knowledge and skills to provide TA on serving special populations that includes homelessness.</p>	<p>The state level interagency early childhood MOU has been updated and completed with agency signatures. It was developed to include the KSDE, McKinney Vento program. Lead Agency staff throughout the state are involved in varying ways with targeted work with families experiencing homelessness and have been involved in a variety of training and TA efforts to complete this work. In the East region, staff participate in the Topeka Impact Project, where EES staff members are present at the community center to work with individuals on their applications and updates to their cases every Thursday. Employment Service staff help clients navigate to partners or talk about next steps in their employment preparations. The Wichita region also has out-stationed staff at various homeless shelters, homes for victims of domestic violence and women's recovery centers one day a week. Staff members attend monthly homeless initiatives and board meetings, and report back what they are doing to help inform other case managers and provide updated information. They have provided TA in daily meetings with eligibility staff about services provided. The Wichita region also has staff on the Child Start Policy Council to provide monthly updates regarding DCF business and programs. Staff connects Child Start staff without-stationed workers to fulfill training and resource needs, and to answer policy questions. The KC region participate in the Impact KCK event where staff attend and participate. They also participate in Project Home with Shawnee Mission Schools and Impact Olathe with Olathe Schools. These events are outreach-connection events that provide holistic services and supports to those families identified by the McKinney-Vento school liaison. Families identified are then directed to specific staff for interview and overview of available services. KC Community Affairs staff also attend many community agency meetings and provide contact for any needed services that is identified for any household or agency staff. EES staff also provide direct training for programs, including Childcare, to community agency staff as requested. The training for the KC staff is hands-on. Bridges Out of Poverty Training is a common training for new staff within EES.</p>
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<p>Kentucky</p>	<p>The Division of Child Care, through contractual services provided by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network, provides regional coaching, technical assistance, and training to support the needs of providers serving children experiencing homelessness and their families. These resources and relevant trainings are based on consultation with the state McVinney-Vento Coordinator for Homeless Education.</p> <p>ChildCare Aware of Kentucky developed resource sheets with supports for homelessness specific to each region.</p>	<p>Priority status is applied to identify homeless children and families to ensure compliance with this provision of the law. Homeless policies and procedures for prioritizing access to child care for homeless children and families through coordination of services ensuring families have information on all available programs and services, such as HANDS, Head Start, and child mental health and other appropriate services.</p> <p>Homeless households during an initial application are unique from other eligibility types as the household is entitled to up to three calendar months from the date of application to return veification. Ths allows the household to return all required documentation gradually, if needed. Homeless cases are approved and enrollment starts when the head of household provides ID. (If a driver's license is provided, it does not matter if it is expired.) Households that return all required information and are technically and financially eligible at the end of the three (3) calendar months period, will not see a change in the certification period at approval of application. Homeless households must meet all other tehcnical and financial eligibility criteria in order to continue with the program. All of this is outlined in Policy Manuals and eligibility staff are trained on all of the components listed above.</p>
<p>Louisiana</p>	<p><b>Providers receive training on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness during technical assistance training for providers, regional forums, and provider conference sessions. The CCAP homeless liaison also provides direct assistance to providers and families</b></p>	<p><b>The Lead Agency attends regional and Departmental training on identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency is the Louisiana Department of Education which includes the State Homeless Coordinator who works with the homeless liaisons within local education agencies to coordinate these services. Homeless liaisons have received in depth training on how to identify homeless children and their families and on the community resources available for them. The CCAP homeless liaison is trained and provides direct assistance to providers and families in accessing resources. In addition, through coordinated enrollment, Community Networks reach out to families experiencing homelessness and assist them in accessing community resources.</b></p>
<p>Maine</p>	<p><u>MRTQ PDN works closely with the Head Start (HS) programs in Maine. HS has been training and working with homeless families for many years. MRTQ PDN has created a training appropriate for child care practitioners on the topic of homelessness. This training is available to all for free and on demand. MRTQ PDN technical assistance staff are trained on the components of homelessness as it pertains to ECE settings. They are available upon request to offer TA to practitioners who request it.</u></p>	<p><u>MRTQ PDN provides a free OnDemand online training Caring for Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness. All CCSP Unit staff are required to complete the training as part of their onboarding process.</u></p>

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<p>Maryland</p>	<p>Maryland State Department of Education provides specific training and technical assistance to all providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. Training is provided through the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Maryland State Department of Education 's approved training organizations. Information is provided to the approved trainers at quarterly trainer's meetings on topics that trainers are required to develop and make available to providers. Technical assistance is provided by the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Division of Early Childhood staff to providers including providers serving children and their families experiencing homelessness on strategies for working with homeless families.</p> <p>Family Support Centers (FSC)- FSCs serve all children and families to support their individual needs and goals. When a family who is experiencing homelessness is referred to a FSC, an intake meeting is completed as well as a partnership agreement, where strengths and weaknesses are identified and goals are determined. The FSC will continue to work with that family to become stable.</p> <p>There are two FSC that are co-located with a homeless shelter and provide support to those children and families. Two FSC sites have partnerships with the local homeless shelters to provide services to families experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Maryland State Department of Education provides specific training and technical assistance to all providers on identifying and serving homeless children and families. Training is provided through the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Maryland State Department of Education 's approved training organizations. Information is provided to the approved trainers at quarterly trainer's meetings on topics trainers should develop and make available to providers. Technical assistance is provided by the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network and Division of Early Childhood staff to providers on strategies for working with homeless families. Through a contract with Maryland Family Network (LOCATE: Child Care) support families experiencing homelessness by connecting them to Child Care Scholarship programs and child care options.</p> <p>Based on the Scholarship program's policy &amp; procedures, families with children experiencing homelessness are categorized as Priority 1 cases and are handled and immediately expedited to support the child(ren) in transition.</p>
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<p>Massachusetts</p>	<p><u>The Homeless Education State Coordinator (ESE) is a member of the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Advisory based at EEC and its recently formed subcommittee on Homeless children and families. The Homeless Education State Coordinator is working closely with the HSSCO Director and the Homeless Liaisons will have an expanded role this coming year with an emphasis on training and collaboration in order to identify children. The school of origin has been expanded to designate receiving schools, as well this gives more educational continuity for children and the school of origin now includes preschool. In trying to respond to the growing needs of families with young children that may be experiencing housing instability or are already homeless during this pandemic, the HSSCO Director, and the MHSA Executive Director, worked closely with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, to help address the needs of MA homeless families with young children.</u></p> <p><u>The HSSCO Director, the MHSA Executive Director and the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, developed and distributed a survey to better understand the immediate needs of Head Start and Early Head Start families and helping Head Start and Early Head Start programs strengthen their relationships with their local LEA Homeless Liaisons to serve the growing number of families that are experiencing housing instability. In August 2020, the HSSCO Director, the MHSA Executive Director, the DESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and the ESE Regional Homeless Liaisons hosted a meeting with the Head Start and Early Head Start Family Service Supervisors, Family Advocates and Program Directors to help build and strengthen relationships with local LEA homeless liaisons, learn more about accessing resources and what schools can offer and offer support to Head Start and Early Head Start programs to serve our most vulnerable families and young children. Mapping out Homeless Liaisons to Head Start &amp; Early Head Start Programs In response to the Family Service survey and to create resources for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs and the ESE Homeless Liaisons, the HSSCO Director and the new HSSCO intern, worked with the DESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator to update and map out all of the local ESE Homeless Liaisons with Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This resource was created to connect and strengthen the relationships with the Homeless liaisons and early childhood programs to assist in serving families/children that are experiencing housing instability or homelessness.</u></p> <p><u>The ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator invited the HSSCO Director to present the work that the HSSCO was doing in partnership with the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator at the McKinney-Vento Grantee December 2020 statewide meeting. The HSSCO Director and the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator will continue to work together to address homelessness in MA as the HSSCO Director serves on the ESE Educational Stability Advisory, and the ESE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator serves on the HSSCO Advisory committee.</u></p> <p><u>EEC also supports local community collaborations between EEC-licensed programs and public school districts to address local issues of preschool access through Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grants. Within these districts local teams share information on family needs, including homeless families and support family access to preschool programs meeting families particular needs. The McKinney-Vento coordinator from each district is engaged to ensure the needs of homeless families are met.</u></p>	<p>The Homeless Education State Coordinator (ESE) is a member of the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Advisory based at EEC and its recently formed subcommittee on Homeless children and families. The Homeless Education State Coordinator is working closely with the HSSCO Director and the Homeless Liaisons will have an expanded role this coming year with an emphasis on training and collaboration in order to identify children. The school of origin has been expanded to designate receiving schools, as well this gives more educational continuity for children and the school of origin now includes preschool. Over the past year, there has been a concerted effort with the Homeless Education State Coordinator and the HSSCO Director with Homeless Liaisons collaborating with community providers, including Head Start and Early Head Start program directors. There will be an emphasis on providing training and opening up Homeless Liaisons' trainings to Head Start and Early Head Start program staff. The Homeless Education State Coordinator has presented trainings to the Massachusetts Housing &amp; Shelter Alliance (MHSA), the HSSCO Advisory Committee, and the HSSCO Homeless children and families subcommittee on the McKinney-Vento definition, homeless education, and identification of homeless children and families. In October 2018, the Homeless Education State Coordinator hired 3 Regional Homeless Liaison Coordinators and the HSSCO Director will be meeting with the Homeless Education State Coordinator and the new Regional Homeless Liaison Coordinators to plan joint trainings throughout the year with Homeless Liaisons and Head Start and Early Head Start staff. Further, EEC is exploring how it may utilize the newly released Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness Interactive Learning Series webinars to train EEC staff on family homelessness and the McKinney-Vento definition of "homeless" as it refers to children and youths. Attention is being paid to opening trainings to child care providers across the state.</p>
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<p>Michigan</p>	<p>A three-hour training- "Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness: How Child Care Providers Can Help"- was developed with the support of a stakeholder group and our state's McKinney-Vento Coordinator. The three- hour training covers: Homelessness definition, Strategies for identifying families experiencing homelessness, impacts of homelessness on children and families, Resources for children and families experiencing homelessness, Strategies for providers to support children and families in their care that are experiencing homelessness. This training is delivered across the state multiple times by each of the ten GSQ Resource Centers. In December 2020, we updated the data in the training and have a survey planned in April 2021 to allow current trainers to reflect on the content and the feedback received from attendees. In the fall of 2021, we will reconvene a stakeholder group with trainers, our McKinney Vento Coordinator, and several McKinney Vento liaisons to determine updates and next steps for a second training. Current trainers have connected and invited their local liaison to support delivery of the training.</p> <p>The state's Social Emotional Consultants (SEC) are qualified to complement and support the state's three-hour training, designed to identify and service children and their families experiencing homelessness. The SECs can build on this training's foundational knowledge and offer ongoing training and coaching to the child care provider around the often intense emotional, behavioral, and traumatic effects that children may experience during times of homelessness. Additionally, the SEC may help support the provider, child, and family to connect with other community resources such as mental and behavioral health services that are needed to facilitate the child's ability to be maintained in the child care setting.</p>	<p>Our Resource Center staff that deliver the training were trained by the McKinney Vento (MV) Coordinator and several regional liaisons. They have built relationships with the regional/local homeless liaisons and coordinators and use those relationships to support their knowledge and competency around identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. Having the MV Coordinator located at MDE also allows for continued communication and support to ensure the trainers feel comfortable providing training and some technical assistance to the field.</p>
<p>Minnesota</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services supports the availability of three courses for child care providers on serving children and their families who have experienced homelessness. The three courses teach child care providers how to identify children experiencing homelessness by describing the impacts of homelessness on children, how adverse childhood experiences effect childhood development and what behaviors can develop due to early childhood trauma. Child care providers, families and stakeholders can access resources on <a href="https://parentaware.org">ParentAware.org</a>, Minnesota's consumer education website. Resources include but not limited to food, housing, health care and financial supports.</p>	<p>The training developed for child care providers serving homeless families is open to county and tribal agency staff who work with families. County and tribal agency staff could also participate in a series of trainings on homelessness also available through the Metro-wide Engagement for Shelter &amp; Housing (MESH). The CCAP Policy Manual has guidance for county and tribal agency staff on how to identify families experiencing homelessness for purposes of determining eligibility for the expedited child care policy.</p>
<p>Mississippi</p>	<p>The resource and referral sites offer topics to support providers caring for families experiencing homelessness. These resources include provider workshops/webinars addressing the special needs and challenges of working with homeless children and their families. The workshops/webinars will be used to train both providers and staff as needed. In October 2021, the Lead Agency will begin to use the course titled, Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness offered by the Office of Head Start Early Childhood Learning &amp; Knowledge Center to train child care providers. This course is designed for a variety of roles including child care providers. This course offers 9 modules that include how to identify families experiencing homelessness, conduct community outreach, etc. This course can be accessed at: <a href="https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness">https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness</a></p>	<p>In October 2021, the Lead Agency will begin to use the course titled, Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness offered by the Office of Head Start Early Childhood Learning &amp; Knowledge Center to train eligibility and call center staff. This course is designed for a variety of roles including Lead Agency staff. This course offers 9 modules that include how to identify families experiencing homelessness, conduct community outreach, etc. This course can be accessed at: <a href="https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness">https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness</a></p>

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<p>Missouri</p>	<p>The Lead Agency’s contractors in the Educare program provide support group opportunities to network with other programs, in an educationally-enriched environment. Support group networking opportunities occur at least once per month and Identifying and Serving Homeless Children and Families is a required topic for at least one support group per year. In addition, the Missouri Workshop Calendar offers training opportunities that can be taken as part of a child care provider’s annual training requirement. The Lead Agency also provides training to community partners who support families who are homeless. These trainings provide an overview of the Child Care Subsidy program and how to help the family apply for subsidies. These community partners are able to communicate quickly with a family advocate and send applications to the Lead Agency for expedited processing for these situations.</p>	<p>The Lead Agency’s contractors in the Educare program provide outreach, technical support, and training to help with the identification and provision of services to families who are experiencing homelessness. 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-age children and their families. Additionally, the Lead Agency’s 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 serving children and families experiencing homelessness. Staff in the Lead Agency complete a required diversity and sensitivity training regularly to increase awareness and educate staff to the various needs of those with whom they will interact.</p>
<p>Montana</p>	<p>The Lead Agency provides an online training for providers on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. Previously Montana utilized the course developed by the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development through the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Child Care Services has been tailored to the needs of providers in Montana but recently switched to a new course through the office of Head Start. The course is called, “Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness” and is designed to help child care providers understand, define and identify children and families experiencing homelessness, as it is defined according to McKinney-Vento. The course also explains how being homeless affects the child’s health and development and provided guidance strategies to support young children experiencing homelessness. Information and resources for homelessness are available on the Early Childhood Services Bureau website.</p>	<p>The Early Childhood Services Bureau partners with the Office of Public Instruction McKinney-Vento Liaison State Coordinator to disseminate information and collect data to support access of services among children and families experiencing homelessness. Early Childhood Coalitions across Montana coordinate with community-level organizations to address homelessness and provide connections to child care services. Head Start and Early Head Start programs collect data on children and families experiencing homelessness and coordinate with child care providers, especially through the Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership program to provide access to high-quality care and community resources.</p>
<p>Nebraska</p>	<p>The ECTC has created a training entitled Working with Children and Families experiencing Homelessness. It is planned to be converted to a virtual learning format and available for early education and care providers to access in either face-to-face or virtual format.</p> <p>Additionally, the ECTC and the Head Start Collaboration Office are both parts of the NDE Office of Early Childhood Education. The Office of Early Childhood staff work with both the NDE ESEA team which houses McKinney Vento services to assist early childhood education and care providers, including child care, Head Start grantees, and school districts locate and serve children birth through age 12 who do not live in stable housing.</p>	<p>Lead Agency staff who may work with homeless children and their families receive extensive training on all Economic Assistance Programs offered by ACCESSNebraska. This allows staff to provide all resources for all programs to homeless families. The Lead Agency also offers an array of trainings to staff to help them understand diversity in the population they are working with. Questions specific to homelessness are asked by Lead Agency staff when interviewing and working with families applying for services</p>

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<p>Nevada</p>	<p>The CCDP subgrants CCDF funds to the Nevada Department of Education, who developed a survey to evaluate providers' understanding of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's definition of homeless, the effects of homelessness on children and families, the effects of homelessness on child behavior and learning, identifying the barriers of providing service to homeless children, as well as ascertain information on what additional resources would be helpful for them to better serve this population. The Las Vegas Urban League partners with Homeless Youth Alliance and participates in their Project Homeless Connect and other events in order to find and assist homeless families. Information, training and webinars are shared with staff. CCR&amp;R staff attended Child Care for Families Experiencing Homelessness: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead on May 2, 2018 and Serving Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for McKinney-Vento Liaisons and School-based Staff on May 8, 2018. Both webinars are from School House Connection.</p>	<p>Information, training and webinars are shared with staff. R&amp;R staff attended Child Care for Families Experiencing Homelessness: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead on May 2, 2018 and Serving Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for McKinney-Vento Liaisons and School-based Staff on May 8, 2018. Both webinars are from School House Connection. A survey was distributed at the 2018 Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Conference to understand the topics of training and support is needed by child care providers. In addition, meetings have been held with the Nevada Department of Education McKinney-Vento liaison to discuss possible shared resources and training opportunities. We are in the process to determine if Initial online trainings offered by the Office of Head Start and Child Care can be approved by The Nevada Registry for child care training hours.</p>
<p>New Hampshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There continues to be a requirement in the Child Care Aware of NH contract regarding training and technical assistance to help providers identify and serve children and families experiencing homelessness. Sessions of the trainings titled, "Working with Homeless Youth," "Understanding Homelessness and its Impact on Children and Families," and "Strengthening Families Experiencing Homelessness" are offered. During Leadership Collaboratives presented by Child Care Aware of NH, the topic of homelessness has been discussed and resources have been provided to child care program directors. <a href="https://www.nh-connections.org/providers/experiencing-homelessness/">https://www.nh-connections.org/providers/experiencing-homelessness/</a> At several of these sessions, a homeless outreach specialist or a school district homelessness liaison talked about their work and the services for families experiencing homelessness that are offered through their agencies or communities. Additional examples of training and TA efforts in the area of homelessness include the following:</li> <li>• Child Care Aware of NH has created a TA initiative titled <i>Homelessness Identification and Assistance</i>, through which staff provides intensive TA on homelessness to child care providers.</li> <li>• The ACROSS NH contract also includes a requirement to provide training on homelessness. The contractor has provided trainings entitled "Afterschool -Summer Concerns: Homelessness and Hunger" and "Afterschool - Working with Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness."</li> <li>• BCDHSC continue to have a presence at NH's Annual Statewide Homeless Education Liaison Meeting and a role on the Homelessness Task Force. Efforts continue to be made to provide training for child care providers within their region regarding families experiencing homelessness. The Homelessness Task Force formal meetings were paused during the pandemic response, but are expected to resume in the fall of 2021.</li> </ul>	<p>Child Care Aware of NH provides a resource page on the consumer education website (NH Connections) offering trainings, articles, videos and other resources to support both providers and the Lead Agency's staff ability to serve children and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, when the Child Care Aware of NH staff members provide child care referrals to families with children from birth through age 12, they are better able to identify families as homeless and provide resources to families, such as family resource centers, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, state and federal financial assistance, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NH DHHS Bureau of Family Assistance District Office (DO) staff members who work with families to determine eligibility for the NH Child Care Scholarship have received training on identifying and serving children experiencing homelessness and their families. Child Care Scholarship training is included in the New Hire curriculum, which newly hired staff view independently during Structured Field Time (SFT) on Moodle (Division of Client Service's learning management system) prior to classroom training. The training unit also provides one full day of Child Care Scholarship training during classroom time, which is offered every month in the new hire training curriculum. This training is not limited to new hires, as we sometimes get field requests for a seasoned worker to attend training on a specific topic offered in the curriculum. A Child Care Scholarship refresher training has been developed and posted in Moodle for all staff to view.</li> <li>• The training unit provides many NH Child Care Scholarship handouts for this training, including, but not limited to Income Eligibility Levels for Child Care, McKinney Vento definition of Homelessness, Maximum Weekly Standard Rates and Child Care Aware of NH (CCR&amp;R) information.</li> </ul>

<p>New Jersey</p>	<p>Coordination and partnerships with local service providers that work with children experiencing homelessness, is a required standard through DHS/DFD's contract with service providers. McKinney-Vento liaisons, provide awareness and sensitivity training to CCR&amp;Rs in the effort to support providers working with families experience homelessness.</p> <p>Additionally, DHS/DFD is in the process of building a repository of targeted training resources for providers which will include interactive modules and technical assistance from the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement: "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness in Early Childhood Programs", the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness: "Caring for the Health and Wellness of Children Experiencing Homelessness", as well as School House Connection's Early Care and Education Advocacy Training.</p> <p>Once trained, DHS/DFD contracted service agencies, will also be responsible for delivering targeted technical assistance to support child care providers identify homeless families they work with and refer them to child care services.</p>	<p>DHS/DFD will provide technical assistance and training to CCR&amp;Rs on how to develop an outreach plan to establish partnerships that will help identify and refer families experiencing homelessness to the CCDF program. DHS/DFD required elements of the CCR&amp;Rs outreach plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Utilizing a residency questionnaire that prompts families to answer key questions about their living situation and training staff to be able to ask sensitive questions;</li> <li>- Establishing partnerships with their counties' designated McKinney-Vento liaison(s). County- based McKinney-Vento liaison would provide technical assistance in:</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness; and</li> <li>2. Ensuring that children experiencing homelessness can enroll immediately and participate fully in school and child care</li> </ol> <p><u>DHS/DFD partners with CCR&amp;Rs to identify and prioritize homeless children and families. CCR&amp;Rs work closely with homeless shelters to ensure families in need of child care are identified and receive support services. Technical assistance is provided by the CCR&amp;Rs to homeless shelters servicing families access child care services, and understand the federal definition of homelessness. Some CCR&amp;Rs are members of their County Continuum of Care (CoC) to end homelessness and have MOUs with the local McKinney Vento liaisons and participate in annual training.</u></p> <p><u>Technical assistance and training is provided through DHS/DFD various quality service provider contracts to ensure child care providers receive the support needed to best meet the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness, as well as the array of supports that families may need (e.g., early childhood mental health consultation or other services related to supporting children).</u></p>
<p>New Mexico</p>	<p>New Mexico currently does not have specific training focused on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. When needs for support are identified, the child care provider may contact ECECD to be connected to a consultant, if not already connected. ECECD staff also coordinate with the McKinney Vento liaisons within the public schools for additional support. ECECD is partnering with the Public Education Department's State Coordinator for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth to develop a training program. The partnership will also include a focus on planning more intentional supports and technical assistance for child care providers who serve children and families experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Many families experiencing homelessness qualify for child care assistance through at-risk child care. ECECD partners with the state McKinney-Vento liaisons within the Public Education Department to improve access to child care services for homeless children. These collaborative efforts entail working jointly to improve access to services and addressing the unique needs that arise for homeless children and their families. Referral processes are in place for staff liaisons to coordinate services. ECECD has designated staff to process such referrals and provide outreach as needed. Recently, the McKinney Vento State Liaison Coordinator and the Head Start State Collaboration Director met to develop a plan to support these efforts. In addition, the partnership will focus on identifying training opportunities for staff from ECECD to enhance supports provided to children and families experiencing homelessness.</p>

New York	<p>New technical assistance offerings were developed and implemented in 2017 related to homelessness. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Technical assistance related to homelessness was offered to providers through the broadcast of a video titled "Identifying and Helping Children Who Have Experienced Trauma," shown live on May 19, 2016. The new regulations and stipulations were discussed in order for providers to better serve the homeless child population and understand Public Health law related to grace periods for immunizations (see next bullet). This broadcast was recorded and portions can be seen as a part of the video library on the Professional Development Program website (<a href="http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu">www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu</a>). In addition, TA customized to a provider and families specific situation is available to providers by contacting their licensor/registrar as well as through inspection visits.</li> <li>•New York State Public Health Law (PHL) allows children, including children who are homeless and children in foster care, to be temporarily enrolled in a child care program while a family obtains documentation of immunizations. A child care provider must not unduly delay temporary enrollment of a child experiencing homelessness or a child in foster care due to a lack of immunization records. According to PHL, once attending the child care program, the parent or caretaker has a grace period of no more than 14 calendar days from the date the program began to provide care for the child to submit the required documentation of immunizations. The grace period can be extended by the child care program to 30 calendar days from the date the child care provider began to provide care to the child in cases where the child is from out-of-state or from another country and the parent or caretaker has shown a good faith effort to get the necessary documentation of the immunizations. This grace period applies to licensed, registered and enrolled legally-exempt child care programs.</li> <li>•A family experiencing homelessness may not have access to all documentation needed to determine eligibility for child care services and, may have an immediate need for child care services. LDSSs must establish procedures to permit an interim eligibility period for child care services while a family experiencing homelessness obtains all required documentation.</li> </ul> <p>LDSSs have the discretion to establish the circumstances under which a family experiencing homelessness can qualify for an interim eligibility and the durations of the interim eligibility period, consistent with applicable regulations and statutes. However, the interim eligibility period may not exceed three months. If upon the full determination of eligibility, it is determined that the family is ineligible, the child care provider must receive payment for child care services rendered during the interim eligibility period. Claims for such LDSS expenditures are reimbursable up to the LDSS's allocation through the New York State Child Care Block Grant or its Title XX allocation. Payments made during the interim period of eligibility for families experiencing homelessness will not be considered errors or improper payments for the purpose of federal or state audits. Further, the LDSS must not seek recoupment from the family for payments made during the interim period of eligibility, unless fraud is involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•18 NYCRR §415.9(h) provides for a differential payment rate for families experiencing homelessness and sets requirements for the differential payment rates for nontraditional hours and accredited programs. Differential payment rates apply to the actual cost of care or the applicable market rate, whichever is less. For more information on market rates, consult the most recent market rate Local Commissioner's Memorandum, 19-OCFS-LCM-23, <a href="https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2019">https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2019</a>/<a href="https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/ocfs_2019/LCM/19-OCFS-LCM-23.pdf">https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/ocfs_2019/LCM/19-OCFS-LCM-23.pdf</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to the circulation of the Local Commissioners Memorandum (17-OCFS-LCM-05) (<a href="https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2017/#LCM">https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/OCFS_2017/#LCM</a>) to all LDSS commissioners, director of services, child care unit supervisors and Temporary Assistance Unit Supervisors, the required Child Care Subsidy Program training incorporated the new statutes, regulations and policies to the curriculum in order to inform local district participants of the requirements, procedures and processes to follow in support of homeless families receiving child care subsidy and child care for their children. All associated documents are posted to the OCFS/PDP website and available for stakeholders with authorized access to the site. OCFS also collaborated with other partners as part of an ECAC workgroup to develop a guide for Early Care and Education Services in New York State for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness. This can be found on the OCFS web site at: <a href="https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/assets/NYS-Services-for-Young-Children-Experiencing-Homelessness.pdf">https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/assets/NYS-Services-for-Young-Children-Experiencing-Homelessness.pdf</a>.</p>
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<p>North Carolina</p>	<p>NC DCDEE has available an introductory training video on understanding and serving children experiencing homelessness for early childhood teachers and staff. In addition, NC DCDEE developed and disseminated a toolkit to go with this training. Both of these are available online at no charge and can be accessed at any time. DCDEE has also uploaded the Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness training modules developed by the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement onto Moodle, DCDEE’s training platform. These trainings are made available to Lead agency staff, child care providers, local CCR&amp;R staff and local DSS eligibility workers. The trainings and toolkit will be promoted through a DCDEE newsletter, News You Can Use, which reaches approximately 90% of all child care providers, and it will be promoted through technical assistance staff. DCDEE recently contracted with a Salvation Army for a Statewide Homelessness Technical Assistance Specialist dedicated to increasing access to child care for children experiencing homelessness. This specialist will use the “Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness” and the eight modules to provide technical assistance to child care programs. Trainings will potentially be developed for coordinated entry staff, DSS eligibility staff who work with families experiencing homelessness access subsidy and child care programs.</p> <p>One activity of the Preschool Development Grant is the provision of technical assistance for emergency homeless shelters. Part of the technical assistance will involve the use of the ACF, <a href="#">Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters</a> and outreach to early childhood programs.</p>	<p>NC DCDEE has an introductory training video for the early childhood field on understanding and serving children experiencing homelessness. In addition, DCDEE developed and disseminated a toolkit to go with this training. Both of these are available online at no charge and can be accessed at any time. DCDEE has also uploaded the Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness training modules developed by the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement onto Moodle, DCDEE’s training platform. These trainings are made available to NC DCDEE staff, child care providers, local CCR&amp;R staff and local DSS eligibility workers. The trainings and toolkit will be promoted through a DCDEE newsletter, News You Can Use, which reaches approximately 90% of all child care providers, and it will be promoted through technical assistance staff. DCDEE recently contracted with the Salvation Army to provide a Statewide Homelessness Technical Assistance Specialist dedicated to increasing access to child care for children experiencing homelessness. This specialist will use the “Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness” and the eight modules to provide technical assistance to programs. She can serve as a resource for lead agency staff. Trainings will potentially be developed for coordinated entry staff, DSS eligibility staff who work with families experiencing homelessness access subsidy and child care programs. Lead agency staff can also participate in these trainings.</p>
<p>North Dakota</p>	<p>The Lead Agency contracts with Child Care Aware of North Dakota to offer an online, self-paced course to help providers learn about reasons behind homelessness, how being homeless affects children’s development and what they can do to support children experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>North Dakota's Homelessness e-Learning course serves to dispel myths about homelessness in early learning programs, raise providers awareness of the definition of homelessness according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, understand the reasons behind child homelessness, how being homeless affects children's development, and what they can do to help. Child Care Aware of North Dakota staff have been trained on homelessness and helping providers identify families that may be experiencing homelessness and getting them connected to community resources where possible. The organization profiles in the Growing Futures Registry serve as one place providers can indicate that they are working with children experiencing high needs. Efforts are ongoing to help providers understand needs indicators, homelessness being one indicator of high need.</p>

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<p>Northern Mariana Islands</p>	<p>Trainings are offered or in partnership with other agencies, such as the Division of Youth Services (DYS) in identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Lead agency staff are trained or will participate in training offered by partner agencies, such as the Division of Youth Services (DYS) in identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness. CCDF will work with DHS to ensure that trainings and TA efforts address the needs of homeless families. CCDF also has launched one of its new initiatives focused on Family Engagement and Strengthening. This initiative will focus supporting the essential Life Skills of children that include: Focus and Self Control, Perspective Taking, Communicating, Making Connections, Critical Thinking, Taking on Challenges, and Self Directed and Engaged learning. These trainings and succeeding TA efforts will focus on the executive function-process that involve managing thoughts, actions, and emotions to achieve goals.</p>
<p>Ohio</p>	<p>All child care staff are required to complete the pre-licensing or staff orientation which includes information on identifying and serving homeless children and their families.</p>	<p>The child care resource and referral (CCR&amp;R) agencies have implemented a variety of methods to be proactive to identify and serve homeless families including participating in community events, offering parent education programs, participating in local task force and non-profit organizational efforts. Additionally, connections have been established with local shelters, libraries, food/clothing pantry, schools, food banks, Catholic Charities, YWCA, Head Start, Habitat for Humanity and housing coalitions to assist families in securing needed resources. Many CCR&amp;Rs have created and distributed brochures or other forms of communication informing of their services and have hired staff who focus specifically on outreach to families including assisting homeless families and children. Additionally, county agencies, who work directly with families to assist at the time of application provide needed services, are required by rule to complete training that includes all CCDBG requirements, including training on identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Oklahoma</p>	<p>Homelessness and Young Children: Education and Services, Homelessness and Young Children: Dealing with Trauma, Homelessness and Young Children: The Role of the Early Childhood Educator, and Understanding Homelessness, are training opportunities provided by the Center for Early Childhood and Professional Development (CECPD) and are available for all caregivers and educators within the state through professional development registry site. <a href="https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search">https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search</a> The Lead Agency offers training based on the book Bridges out of Poverty which includes information on families that experience homelessness and is made available to child care providers. Technical assistance through the Child Care Resource and Referral is available to providers dealing with children and homelessness.</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has staff that work in community outreach programs to assist families seeking services including needs for food and shelter due to being homeless. The Lead Agency was instrumental in leading the effort to begin a new licensed program type Hope Centers that has agency staff housed within the program assisting families with critical needs including food and shelter and offering professional resources for these families as well. Information through publications is available for licensing staff to use during consultation and technical assistance. The Child Care Resource and Referral technical assistance specialists are available to consult with programs who may have families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency offers Bridges out of Poverty training to all staff as well.</p>

<p>Oregon</p>	<p>Oregon has a self-study training opportunity "Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness." The goal of the training is to help early learning professionals identify and serve families experiencing homelessness or other difficult times. The self-study training is available to all early educators in Oregon and provided on the Lead Agency website. It includes a list of McKinney-Vento liaisons and contact information for each school district in Oregon.</p>	<p>The McKinney-Vento program coordinator at the Oregon Department of Education and the liaisons in each school district assist families that are experiencing homelessness. Staff members of the Lead Agency, the Oregon Department of Human Services and school district liaisons are made aware of the self-study "Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness." The McKinney-Vento program coordinator participates in engagement efforts and presents to early learning audiences on request.</p>
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<p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Pennsylvania released policy guidance setting new standards for interagency collaboration at state and local levels to identify young children experiencing homelessness and ensure access to quality early learning programs. A webinar focusing on this announcement and offering information about available resources is posted on the PA Key and EITA websites. Additional resources were added to the resource section of the recorded webinar. A two-page informational document titled "Caring for Young Children Who Are Experiencing Homelessness" is posted on the PA Key website at <a href="http://www.pakeys.org">www.pakeys.org</a>. State Early Intervention office added children who are experiencing homelessness to the statewide at-risk tracking system. This tracking system regularly provides the parent with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. If developmental delays are indicated by the ASQ the local Early Intervention Program will perform an evaluation to determine if the child is eligible for EI services. Since 2015, data is was collected in the on-line system PELICAN and evaluated for patterns.</p> <p>The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) interactive learning series Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness has been embedded into the Pennsylvania PD Registry and is available to all early learning providers across the Commonwealth in both English and Spanish. This interactive learning series is intended for professionals in Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care, including early childhood and school-age child care providers, CCDF Lead Agency staff, and other key stakeholders. Participants learn how to identify families experiencing homelessness, conduct community outreach, and much more All early learning providers have been made aware of the training modules and encouraged to complete them.</p> <p>In partnership with the PA HSSCO, regional training opportunities will be provided for all licensed child care staff by the PA Education for Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) staff. These trainings will be provided annually at no cost to providers and will occur annually. Additional individual supports will also be made available by the ECYEH staff should they be requested.</p>	<p>OCDEL, in partnership with the PA Key and EITA, developed PD on identifying children and families experiencing homelessness, connecting EI to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are experiencing homelessness. The topics include resources for administrators, staff, and families, accessing programs through OCDEL, overview/discussion on child developmental milestones, basics of Early Intervention, the impact of homelessness on child development, and an overview of the ASQ.</p> <p>Early Learning Resource Center staff working in resource and referral will be provided a series of interactive trainings by Dr. Grace Whitney in September, 2021. These trainings will provide clarification on the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness, the impact of homelessness on young children and families and the importance of forming local partnerships with housing and homeless providers.</p> <p>All Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants will be provided a series of interactive trainings by Dr. Grace Whitney on services to children and families experiencing homelessness in the fall of 2021. These trainings will focus on the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness, impacts of homelessness on young children and families as well as those children and staff often “left behind” in the classroom when children suddenly leave. Dr. Whitney will also share strategies for identifying children and families experiencing homelessness, building local partnerships with housing and homeless providers, and making timely referrals.</p> <p>Early Intervention staff will be provided a series of trainings by Dr. Grace Whitney on services to children and families experiencing homelessness, specific to children with diagnosed disabilities and their families.</p> <p>The PA Department of Education, ECYEH program and all of the school district McKinney Vento Liaisons will be provided a series of trainings with Dr. Grace Whitney in the fall of 2022 to encourage increased connections of children experiencing homelessness with quality early learning programs.</p> <p>For ELRC staff, OCDEL has developed and distributed policy and associated training on presumptive eligibility, immunization grace period, and waiver for certain verification and forms requirements. Resources and training are available on demand for ELRC administrators to access for new staff hires.</p>
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<p>Puerto Rico</p>	<p>Providers receive training and technical assistance from auxiliary coordinators and the Central Office for the proper management of homeless applicants. They are trained on the exceptions applicable in the eligibility process to provide child care.</p>	<p>The Lead Agency has an administrative agreement with the Office of the Multi-Sectoral Council in Support of the Homeless Population, which identifies homeless families in the community and coordinates a variety of service, including child care. Upon receipt of their referral of homeless families, ACUDEN assesses their eligibility and offers them the necessary services. The Office also provides training to Lead Agency staff on the case management of homeless families and engages in discussions about family needs during meetings with the regional auxiliary coordinators and staff, as needed.</p>
<p>Rhode Island</p>	<p>The lead agency funds several initiatives to support professional development and technical assistance to providers who work with homeless families and children including: The Center for Early Learning Professionals offers a three-session professional development series for educators on the topic of trauma and young children. Included in the series is a focus on the relationship between homelessness and toxic stress and the adverse effects of homelessness on young children's development. The community has access to several online resources on the topic of serving children and families experiencing homelessness through the Center-ELP website. These resources, produced by reputable national organizations such as the federal Administration for Children and Families, provide relevant information to the ECE community on the following topics: the McKinney-Vento Act, the federal definition of homelessness, understanding the impact of homelessness on children and families and strategies for supporting these children and families.</p>	<p>The lead agency funds several initiatives to support professional development and technical assistance to providers who work with homeless families and children including: The Center for Early Learning Professionals offers a three-session professional development series for educators on the topic of trauma and young children. Included in the series is a focus on the relationship between homelessness and toxic stress and the adverse effects of homelessness on young children's development. The community has access to several online resources on the topic of serving children and families experiencing homelessness through the Center-ELP website. These resources, produced by reputable national organizations such as the federal Administration for Children and Families, provide relevant information to the ECE community on the following topics: the McKinney-Vento Act, the federal definition of homelessness, understanding the impact of homelessness on children and families and strategies for supporting these children and families. Additionally, field staff at the lead agency are trained on identifying and supporting children and families experiencing homelessness through the eligibility intake process. These staff members connect children and families experiencing homelessness with appropriate community resources and referrals, and are trained on the myriad of programs the lead agency administers which enables them to effectively identify and support children and families during initial eligibility or at recertification.</p>

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<p>South Carolina</p>	<p>The SC CCR&amp;R Homeless Support Initiative provides targeted technical assistance to programs and organizations on supporting families that may be experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Support Liaison provides individualized consultation with programs regarding working with families and children experiencing homelessness which may include providing training on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), strategies to empower communities to prevent ACEs, providing information and assistance on the SC Voucher process for homeless families, and community resources to support the needs of these “at-risk” families.</p>	<p>The SC CCR&amp;R through its Homeless Support Initiative collaborates with the SCDSS- DECE, SC Voucher Program that oversees the distribution of the homelessness vouchers to discuss eligibility enrollment, assist with completion and collection of appropriate paperwork, and collaborate with voucher staff to enroll families. The SC CCR&amp;R Homeless Support Initiative provides support to families trying to locate a program by providing referrals to child care programs that may meet the families need for care and enrolled in ABC Quality to accept the homeless voucher. The SC CCR&amp;R provides targeted outreach and information to child care programs across the state about the availability of voucher support to families that may be experiencing homelessness. The SC CCR&amp;R also coordinates its outreach efforts with the DECE staff to support other initiatives in the state, including the lead coordinator of McKinney-Vento Act at the SDE and the four SC homeless coalitions.</p>
<p>South Dakota</p>	<p>Information on identifying and serving homeless children and families is embedded into a variety of state and regional training opportunities through the ECE agencies. The decision to embed the information in this way rather than develop a stand-alone course was made based on how the system could impact the greatest number of providers with this information. In each class, the information presented is relevant to the class topic, for example, in a class regarding child development, information is included on the effects that experiencing homelessness can have on a child's development and how children may respond to their experiences. Resources such as the availability of local DSS Resource Guides, the State Coordinated Entry System (CES) which connects the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless with available resources, and other state and national resources are shared as a way for providers to support families. State curriculums such as the Infant and Toddler Care Entry Level Series, Family Child Care Entry Level Series, and the SD CDA Training Program have all formally integrated this information. To facilitate the ongoing integration of this information, CCS developed and annually reviews a list of key resources and talking points for the ECE agencies to use in embedding information into existing training. Technical assistance is also provided to child care providers to share resources for families experiencing homelessness upon request. Child Care Assistance caseworkers also provide resources to families who apply for assistance that identify themselves as homeless. Additional resource information on serving children and families experiencing homelessness is listed in Section 4 of the Child Care Licensing Policy Handbook and Section 3 of the Family Child Care Policy Handbook. This information provides resources and connections to help support the family.</p>	<p>CCL specialists, subsidy caseworkers, and administrative staff along with the regional ECE trainers receive ongoing training in the area of identifying and serving children and their families experiencing homelessness. All new employees of CCS and CCL participate in a poverty simulation as part of the DSS new employee orientation. CCS staff have received training on eligibility for and services provided through McKinney-Vento Act by the South Dakota Department of Education Homeless Coordinator. A CCS representative participates in the statewide Housing for the Homeless Consortium and the Continuum of Care Youth Subcommittee.</p>
<p>Tennessee</p>	<p>The Lead Agency provides training for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&amp;R) on serving children and families experiencing homelessness. CCR&amp;R provides statewide training to child care agencies on identifying and providing resources for children experiencing homelessness statewide. The Lead Agency and CCR&amp;R Family Engagement Quality Coaches provide outreach services to families experiencing homelessness by implementing strategies to increase networks to families experiencing homelessness and support effective cross-sector collaboration.</p>	<p>The Lead Agency provides ongoing training to its Child Care Services staff on identifying and serving homeless children and families. CCR&amp;R provides training to child care agencies on identifying and serving homeless children and their families to child care agencies.</p>
<p>Texas</p>	<p>TWC developed guidance in 2018 that helps Boards identify and serve families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Boards use the information to inform assistance and training offered to providers.</p>	<p>TWC developed guidance in 2018 that helps Boards identify and serve families and individuals experiencing homelessness. TWC continues to offer guidance as needed.</p>

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<p>Utah</p>	<p>The Lead Agency contracts with the Child Care Licensing program to verify that all required training is completed each year by every provider. Training regarding identifying and serving children and families experiencing homelessness is one of the required topics Child Care Licensing verifies.</p> <p>The Lead Agency has approved a 4-hour, online training offered through the Head Start Early Learning and Knowledge Center entitled Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness that covers learning how to identify families experiencing homelessness, conducting community outreach and other relevant topic areas.</p> <p>As technical assistance, and at the request of providers, the Lead Agency has created an informational one-sheet document programs and providers can use to meet this requirement. The document defines homelessness and identifies special needs, issues and behaviors that may be exhibited by children without a stable place to live and how to work with them effectively in a responsive and supportive manner. Additionally, the document includes information on how providers can recognize signs of homelessness and how to identify children and families that may be experiencing homelessness or may lose their homes.</p> <p>Lastly, the document provides a list of community resources that provides services to homeless families to which providers may be able to refer families.</p>	<p>Within the Lead Agency, the Eligibility Services Division and Workforce Development Division include training on identifying and serving homeless children and their families in their new employee training for staff who will be working with these families. This training includes details regarding how to connect families with child care services. If the policy or process for working with these families changes, all incumbent staff working with these families are provided with training on the changes through the established monthly training process.</p> <p>Where the population and need is high enough in more urban locations throughout the state, the Lead Agency has employment counselors stationed onsite at various homeless shelters to increase the access to programs and better connect families to resources. Staff at these onsite locations receive the above mentioned new employee training as well as Family Focus training, which includes information on motivational interviewing and trauma informed care. In addition to regular core training, the homeless support team in Salt Lake County that has ten staff at eight shelter and housing sites receives quarterly training specific to homeless topics. These topics include health and safety, de-escalation, program and resource training of other homeless service providers and how to refer families to these services.</p>
<p>Vermont</p>	<p>Professional development related to homelessness has been identified and access is publicized on the Child Care Training Requirements (<a href="https://northernlightscv.org/training/childcare-training-requirements/">https://northernlightscv.org/training/childcare-training-requirements/</a>) page of the NL@CCV website. Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness (<a href="https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness">https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/supporting-children-families-experiencing-homelessness</a>) and Addressing Homelessness (<a href="https://www.cceionline.com/course/addressing-homelessness-the-role-of-the-early-childhood-educator/">https://www.cceionline.com/course/addressing-homelessness-the-role-of-the-early-childhood-educator/</a>). The Role of the Early Childhood Educator Strengthening Families trainings that address family stress including homelessness continue to be offered as a required topic for Northern Lights @ CCV to include in their annual trainings (<a href="https://northernlightscv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Northern-Lights-Training-Guide-2020-2021.pdf">https://northernlightscv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Northern-Lights-Training-Guide-2020-2021.pdf</a>) to regulated child care providers. Training on trauma-informed practice (including for families experiencing homelessness) has been identified as a required topic for Northern Lights @ CCV to include in their annual trainings (<a href="https://northernlightscv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Northern-Lights-Training-Guide-2020-2021.pdf">https://northernlightscv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Northern-Lights-Training-Guide-2020-2021.pdf</a>) to regulated child care providers.</p> <p>Basic Specialized Care training (<a href="https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/professional-development/scc_requirements">https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/professional-development/scc_requirements</a>) is required for all child care providers wishing to care for a child in state protective custody or otherwise considered at risk and addresses homelessness broadly. One of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program enrollment categories is Family Support Child Care (<a href="http://dcf.vermont.gov/child-development/cis">http://dcf.vermont.gov/child-development/cis</a>) which means that the family is experiencing significant stress in areas such as shelter, safety, emotional stability, substance abuse, children's behaviors, and parenting issues. When homelessness is identified as a service need, Specialized Child Care services (<a href="http://dcf.vermont.gov/child-development/scc">http://dcf.vermont.gov/child-development/scc</a>) through CDD Children's Integrated Services begins, which can provide additional supports to the child care provider. For the child care program, this includes the connection with a regional Child Care Coordinator who is able to assist with technical assistance and connecting providers to additional training resources.</p>	<p>Staff are provided a variety of professional development opportunities that meet the needs of their job which includes opportunities focused on supporting families experiencing a variety of challenges including homelessness. The Lead Agency embeds the Strengthening Families approach across the agency and staff are encouraged to participate in these trainings, as well as trainings on trauma informed care. The Agency of Human Services employs a Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development who works across the agency to provide resources that support Lead Agency staff. Our Children's Integrated Services staff in particular prioritize trainings on trauma and continually seek opportunities to further their own knowledge and remain current in this important area and use this knowledge in training Specialized Child Care Coordinators who work directly with children and families who are homeless through their child care program. Knowledge and expertise in Trauma Informed Practice, Motivational Interviewing, resiliency, and the Strengthening Families framework is incorporated in the recruitment process at the Lead Agency. Our statewide professional development system, the Center for Achievement in Public Service, offers several professional development opportunities on trauma including Implementing Trauma-Informed Care, Child Trauma Academy, and An Introduction to Trauma and Resilience.</p>

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<p>Virgin Islands</p>	<p><u>The Lead Agency provides training to childcare providers on the definition of homelessness in the territory in accordance with the guidelines of the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987. Childcare providers are taught to identify children who may be homeless so that they can be referred to the Lead Agency's Subsidy Resource and Referral Program. The Best Beginnings Early Childhood Conference is also a venue where workshops promoting sensitivity training to assist in identifying and serving homeless children and their families are offered. The Lead Agency Website also has a new addition of a Homelessness Services Policy Memorandum which is posted at <a href="http://www.dhs.gov.vi/OCCRS/index.html">www.dhs.gov.vi/OCCRS/index.html</a>. The Lead Agency also heightens territorial awareness of available services to include Child Care Subsidies for homeless children. Homeless persons and families and the public are invited to participate on an annual basis in Project Homeless Connect. Project Homeless Connect is a community fair designed to offer community resources and to inform the community on homelessness issues in the territory. It is held in both districts of the Virgin Islands. Providers are encouraged to participate in this fair to learn more on Homelessness issues. Additionally, through on-going professional development, the Lead Agency's staff will deliver targeted technical assistance to child care providers in understanding the definition of homelessness, programs eligibility policy to support families experiencing homelessness, establishing connections with local service providers that work with children experiencing homelessness, and how to engage families experiencing homelessness. Community Partners and Resources include United Way of the Virgin Islands; Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands (LSSVI); Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands (operates the two Bethlehem House Shelters; The Women's Coalition (operates a domestic violence shelter); Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council (DVSAC); Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (C.F.V.I); and other Profit and Non-profit Organizations</u></p>	<p>a. <u>The Lead Agency has provided training to staff by adopting the definition of homelessness in the territory in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act of 1987. The Lead Agency requires staff to participate in Project Homeless Connect, which is a community fair designed to inform the community on homelessness issues in the territory and to provide resources to individuals who may be at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Additionally, targeted technical assistance and in-service trainings will be provided to Lead Agency's staff on how to develop an outreach plan to establish partnerships that will help identify and refer families experiencing homelessness to the CCDF programs, and mechanisms to ensure homeless children and families are identified and prioritized.</u></p>
<p>Virginia</p>	<p>Virginia offers an online training for providers to help them identify and support families experiencing homelessness and housing instability.</p>	<p>VDSS maintains an online file of homelessness resources that local department staff members are encouraged to consult in the pursuit of their planning and day-to-day work with families, including:          "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: CCDF State Guide,"          "Supporting Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness: CCDF State Self-Assessment," and          "Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness."</p>
<p>Washington</p>	<p>Through DCYF's coaching framework, providers serving children receiving subsidy have access to an Early Achievers coach. The state's pre-service requirement Child Care Basics incorporates an intro to serving homeless children and their families and the content is also available in an online stand-alone module for all to access. This allows for providers and coaches to both be trained on serving children experiencing homelessness and for that learning and implementation of practice to happen within the coaching framework of the state's QRIS system.</p>	<p>The training opportunities for providers are also open to staff. We have an established Learning Management System that hosts trainings for agency staff to learn about the same practices and content that providers learn about for serving children and families experiencing homelessness. DCYF eligibility workers also have access to this training module.</p>
<p>West Virginia</p>	<p>Early Care and Education has developed partnerships with Child Abuse Prevention programs, such as in-home family education, family resource centers and starting points to develop a system of support for child care providers. Providers have the opportunity to receive technical assistance and training through the collaboration with these programs. In addition, child care resource and referral agencies are charged with providing training and technical assistance to the provider community on identifying and serving homeless children and their families. Behavioral consultants provide information, training and technical support in supporting the social-emotional health of children experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>The Division of Early Care and Education has developed partnerships with Child Abuse Prevention programs, such as in-home family education, family resource centers and starting points to develop a system of support for child care case managers. Case managers have the opportunity to receive technical assistance and training through the collaboration with these programs. The child care resource and referral (CCR&amp;R) agencies have also implemented a variety of methods to be proactive to identify and serve homeless families including participating in community events. Additionally, connections have been established with local shelters, libraries, food/clothing pantry, schools, food banks, and housing authorities to assist families in securing needed resources.</p>

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<p>Wisconsin</p>	<p>The Lead Agency collaborated with what was at the time the State Cross Sector Homelessness Task Force to develop a Homelessness Tool Kit to help serve families and children experiencing homelessness. The tool kit contains resources and information for how child care programs can assist families and children experiencing homelessness. A set of modules was created to complement the information found in the tool kit. The tool kit and modules, as well as other homelessness resources, can be found on the Collaborating Partners website (<a href="http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/diverse-populations/homelessness/">http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/diverse-populations/homelessness/</a>) or on the YoungStar Homelessness webpage (<a href="https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/homelessness">https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/homelessness</a>). Through braided funding, a Regional Early Childhood Outreach Specialist was contracted to support children and families experiencing homelessness. This specialist disseminates materials and provides or facilitates professional learning opportunities around the topic of homelessness. The YoungStar Homelessness webpage also contains links to other state agencies, specific information for Milwaukee County residents, and resources that technical assistance providers can use to support the child care providers who care for children of families experiencing homelessness. The Lead Agency works to disseminate the tool kit and modules to Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, as well as other state agencies, that are in direct contact with families that may be experiencing homelessness. These agencies also inform families about how to access Wisconsin Shares child care funding so their children can attend, or continue to attend, a high-quality child care program.</p>	<p>Lead Agency staff have received training on homelessness and poverty in early care and education. Lead Agency staff work in collaboration with the DPI McKinney-Vento Homeless Program Team to share and disseminate information. The Lead Agency also works and meets with the Regional Early Childhood Outreach Specialists that are part of Collaborating Partners. These specialists help to connect and support the different regions of the state through training opportunities and resources. Continuing the work started with the State Cross Sector Homelessness Task Force, the Lead Agency works to strengthen its collaboration and coordination with Head Start Directors, WCCAA, ECAC, statewide CCR&amp;R agencies and, through DPI, with Wisconsin Homeless Education Coordinators, to help ensure that young children experiencing homelessness are accessing quality early childhood programs. The Lead Agency continues to encourage collaboration and individual partnerships at the local level to expand capacity to meet the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness. This includes, but is not limited to, local educational agencies/school districts/local homeless liaisons, local early intervention or early learning councils, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, local child care providers, HUD Continuums of Care, domestic violence shelters, homeless coalitions, CCR&amp;R agencies, and the Salvation Army.</p>
<p>Wyoming</p>	<p>The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Education, McKinney-Vento Coordinator, provides statewide training and technical assistance to providers. The training is delivered at statewide conferences, provider meetings, provider and parent newsletters. The McKinney-Vento Coordinator provides technical assistance to individual providers and the Department on an as-needed basis.</p>	<p>The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Education, McKinney-Vento Coordinator, provides statewide training and technical assistance to Department staff. The training is delivered at statewide conferences, staff meetings. The McKinney-Vento Coordinator provides technical assistance to the Department on an as-needed basis regarding the identification of and services for children and their family experiencing homelessness. The training is delivered at statewide conferences and staff meetings. The McKinney-Vento Coordinator provides technical assistance to the Department on an as-needed basis.</p>