



Supporting Young Children Under Age Six Experiencing Homelessness Reference Sheet

This reference sheet is designed to provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons with various resources related to supporting young children under age six experiencing homelessness. Links and descriptions within this document are organized by resources provided by the Arizona Department of Education, SchoolHouse Connection, and the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE).

Reach us at homeless@azed.gov for any questions or technical assistance.

From the Office of Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Education Programs, Updated May 2024

Resources from the Arizona Department of Education

These resources from the Arizona Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE) are designed to assist families and local education agencies with connecting to quality early childhood education programs, organizations, and resources in Arizona.

Link & Description of Resource

Within [ADE's Office of Early Childhood Education](#) (ECE) website, the following resources can be found:

ECE Program Locator Tools

- [Head Start Locator](#) – While the Arizona Department of Education does not oversee enrollment at any Head Start programs, families can locate a Head Start / Early Head Start program in their area at this link.
- [Read on Arizona's Explore AZ Schools Locator Tool](#) - Read On Arizona has created an interactive tool to help families learn more about the education options in their community. The Explore AZ Schools tool allows individuals to search for schools offering pre-k utilizing criteria important to them on a variety of criteria.
- [First Things First: Quality Childcare in Arizona Locator Tool](#) - First Things First funds Quality First to help early care and education providers in our state improve the quality of their programs through professional development and coaching, specialized assistance and funding to improve their facilities and learning materials. Locate a quality program with this locator tool.
- [Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral](#) – This tool is designed to help families in locating quality child care.

Other Resources

- [Early Childhood Special Education](#) - Early Childhood Special Education is a state and federally mandated program for children aged 3–5 who meet eligibility requirements because they are experiencing developmental delays.
- [Quality First Scholarships](#) - Quality First Scholarships help low-income families afford quality early care and education for their young children. Funded by First Things First, a limited number of these scholarships are available for children birth through age 5 through child care and preschool programs that are enrolled in Quality First.
- [Birth to Five Helpline](#) - The Birth to Five Helpline is a free service open to all Arizona families with young children looking for the latest child development information from experts in the field. Professionals may also take advantage of this service.

Contact Information

- For any questions related to Early Childhood Education, please contact the ADE ECE team by:
 - Email - ECEInbox@azed.gov
 - Phone - (602) 364-1530
- Please include the ADE Homeless Education Program (homeless@azed.gov) on all emails pertaining to students and families experiencing homelessness.

Resources for Young Children Under Age Six Experiencing Homelessness

These resources from various organizations help Liaisons and others supporting students and families experiencing homelessness understand the challenges facing communities and support families with locating quality early childhood education programs.

Link & Description of Resource

[SchoolHouse Connection – Early Childhood Education](#)

The following resources created by SchoolHouse Connection are helpful in understanding the need for and requirement to support families with young children under age six experiencing homelessness:

- [Infant & Toddler Homelessness Across 50 States](#) – This report is the most comprehensive look to date at homelessness among infants and toddlers, and is the first state-by-state collection of data on infant and toddler homelessness.
- [Supporting Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness with American Rescue Plan Act Funds](#) – This resource is designed to support subgrantees of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), Congress’ most recent package for COVID-19 relief, which includes billions of dollars dedicated to infants, toddlers, and children under the age of six.
- [Referring Young Children to Early Childhood Development Programs: Checklist for Homeless Liaisons](#) - Homeless liaisons have a responsibility under the McKinney-Vento Act to identify and refer younger children to early learning programs and are uniquely positioned to make those connections, but it can be difficult to know where to start. Use this checklist as a guide for ensuring young children experiencing homelessness are enrolled.
- [Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: An Overview](#) - This two-page fact sheet summarizes existing data on young children who are homeless and their families, including the impact of homelessness on health, development, early learning, and well-being.

Connect our Youngest Children to Early Childhood Partners

Find your local providers:

- [Home Visiting](#)
- [Child Care](#)
- [Head Start and Early Head Start](#)
- [Early Intervention](#)

Get Connected! Social Media and Technical Assistance

To connect with SchoolHouse Connection's experts in early childhood education, please connect with SchoolHouse Connection on:

- Facebook: SchoolHouse Connection
- Facebook Group: Homelessness & Education - A SchoolHouse Connection Group
- Instagram: @SchoolHouseConnection
- Twitter: @SchoolHouseConn
- LinkedIn: SchoolHouse Connection

For technical assistance related to early childhood education for young children experiencing homelessness, reach out to:

- Sarah Vrabic - Early Childhood Senior Program Manager
- sarah@schoolhouseconnection.org

Or, complete SchoolHouse Connection's technical assistance form at <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/contact/> for support!

[National Center for Homeless Education Brief: Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness](#) - This resource outlines information regarding the McKinney-Vento Act's requirement for school districts to identify and support families with young children below age six experiencing homelessness.