



Homeless Education Newsletter

March, 2025
Issue 3

Upcoming Events

Required End of Year Procedures for Local Homeless Education Programs Professional Learning Session

Tuesday, April 29th, 10am-12pm
Thursday, May 1st, 10am-12pm

Arizona Housing Coalition 30th Annual Conference, The Road to Home

Wednesday, May 7th &
Thursday May 8th

Arizona HEP and Housing Partners Convening

Tuesday, May 20th, 9am-12pm

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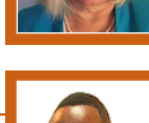
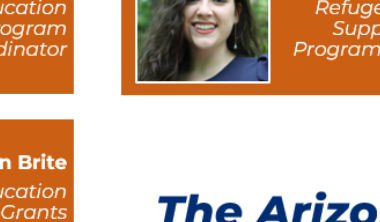
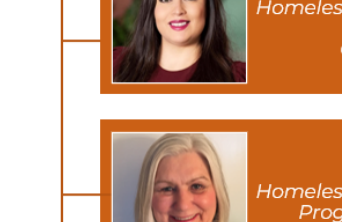
Technical Assistance

The Arizona Homeless Education Program

The mission of the Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) is to ensure positive comparable academic outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness through implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The HEP is housed within the Office of Homeless, Foster Care, and Refugee Education Programs. Our team is comprised of passionate and knowledgeable individuals eager to serve students experiencing homelessness and stakeholders who support them.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December 2015, serves as the primary federal legislation detailing the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. The [Arizona Homeless Education Program Overview Video](#) provides more information on the Arizona Homeless Education Program and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



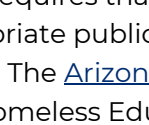
Rita Rodriguez
Homeless Education Program Coordinator



Marisa Peña
Refugee Student Support - Lead Program Specialist



Jan Britte
Homeless Education Program Grants Specialist



Gary Walyaki
Homeless Education Program Data & Monitoring Specialist

The Arizona Homeless Education Program

FY26 EHCY Continuation Grant

FY26 EHCY Continuation - Year II Grant Application Information

- **Application Open Date:** March 1, 2025
- **Application Close Date:** May 1, 2025
- **Project Start Date:** July 1, 2025
- **Project End Date:** September 30, 2026

All recipients of the FY25 EHCY Continuation - Year I Grant must submit the FY26 Continuation - Year II Grant application as "LEA Authorized Representative Approved" by the application close date to continue into the final year of the three-year funding cycle.

- Only current subgrantees of the FY25 EHCY Continuation - Year I Grant are eligible to complete will complete the same FY26 EHCY Continuation - Year II Grant application
- All eligible subgrantees will complete the same FY25 EHCY Continuation Grant application

As you prepare to submit your application within the grant application submission window, please reference the [EHCY Grant Information and Resources webpage](#) for pertinent information and resources, including each subgrantee's preliminary FY26 EHCY Continuation - Year III Grant allocation.

Local Education Agency Spotlight

Collective Responsibility to Students Includes All of Us!

The Arizona HEP is focused on upholding our commitment to ensuring comparable academic outcomes for the students we serve and we proudly share this responsibility to students with local educational agencies, community-based organizations, and housing service providers across the state.

To better understand the diverse needs of students and families in Arizona, we often ask McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons to keep us updated on the homeless education programs they have developed in their communities. In this newsletter, we would like to highlight the inspiring efforts of Eloy Elementary School District's (ESD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison, Angela James!

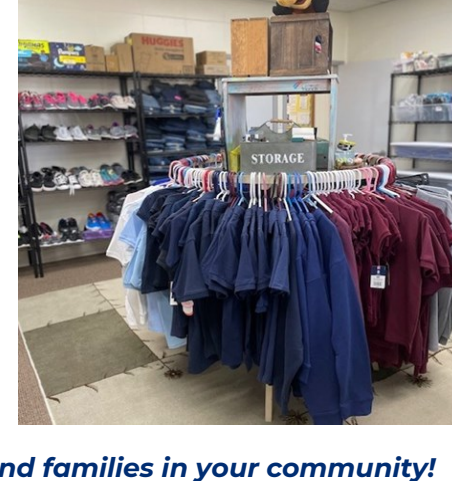
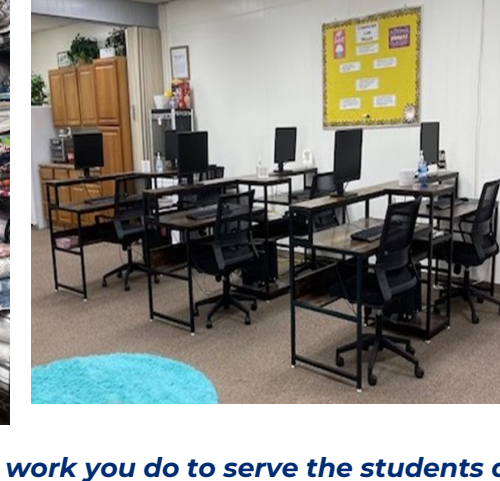


Eloy ESD's Parent Support Center provides families in need with clothing, home goods, hygiene products, and a computer lab. The space serves as a hub of resources and a meeting place for the many events that Eloy ESD provides their families. See more photos below!

Angela has served the Eloy ESD since 2000, and began her role as the Parent Liaison and Outreach Coordinator in 2016. She shared the following about this time: "I was nervous and not quite sure if I could reach the community and increase parent engagement. I had one classroom with nothing but a desk to start. I sofa, a recliner, clothing, and shoes from Goodwill. I went through my closet at home and purged items that I no longer needed. Next, I painted the walls and decorated to make my space warm and inviting." She invited parents and students for events and classes to get to know them on a personal level and partnered with companies and organizations in her community to donate food, clothing, home goods, furniture, and other items she then provided to students and families in need.

Angela's impact on her district's community is clear in the words shared by her superintendent, Ruby James: "Angela's unwavering commitment to tackling the complex challenges of homelessness is evident in her innovative and bold solutions. She has built strong partnerships with local shelters, food banks, and mental health organizations, ensuring that students and their families receive holistic support. Angela has organized resource fairs, parent engagement workshops, and student mentorship programs, bridging gaps between schools and the greater community. She consistently seeks creative ways to advocate for systematic improvements, ensuring that schools remain not just places of learning, but also safe havens for students in need. ... Angela James is a class act!"

As the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison, Angela shared the following with us about her outlook on her role in serving her community: "I wanted to share my success and I want you all to know that I absolutely LOVE and APPRECIATE my job! For me...it's not about being better than others, it's about being the best that I can be for my families in need. I always thank my donors by saying "thank you for helping ME to help others, because truly, I couldn't do it without them."



Thank you Angela for all of the work you do to serve the students and families in your community!

Professional Learning

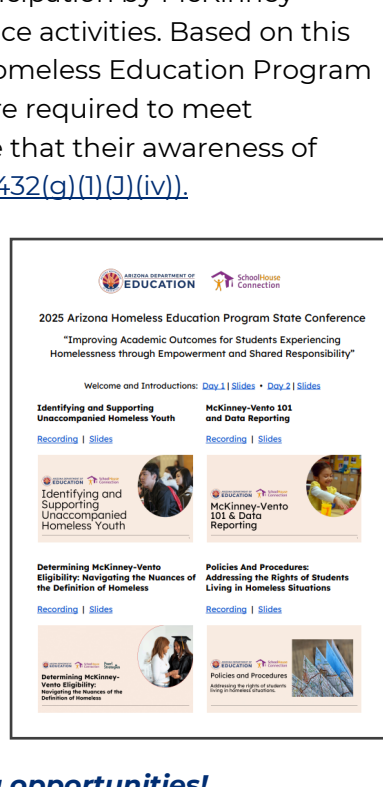
The McKinney-Vento Act requires that the Office of the State Coordinator provide professional learning opportunities for LEA personnel and McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons to assist them in identifying and meeting the needs of homeless children and youth and to provide training on the definitions of terms related to homelessness ([42 U.S.C. § 11432\(f\)\(6\)](#)).

Additionally, States are required to adopt policies and practices to ensure participation by McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons in professional learning and other technical assistance activities. Based on this requirement, it has been determined appropriate by the Office of the State Homeless Education Program Coordinator that McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons in the State of Arizona are required to meet a minimum of eight (8) professional learning hours each school year to ensure that their awareness of McKinney-Vento Act requirements and best practices is current. ([42 U.S.C. § 11432\(g\)\(1\)\(J\)\(iv\)](#)).

We hope you were able to join us at the 2025 Arizona HEP State Conference "Improving Academic Outcomes for Students Experiencing Homelessness through Empowerment and Shared Responsibility" offered on January 29th and 30th, 2025!

You can now view recordings and presentation slides for each of the **ten** information-filled sessions by accessing the [2025 Arizona HEP State Conference Recordings and Materials One Pager](#).

Recordings from all Arizona HEP professional learning sessions such as slides, recordings, and any materials discussed or shared are available on the [Arizona Homeless Education Program website](#). Here you can also find information and links to register for upcoming professional learning sessions hosted by the Arizona Homeless Education Program.



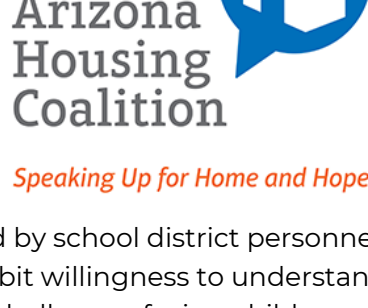
We hope you will join us at the following professional learning opportunities!

Month	Course Title	Session Date & Time	Course Description
April	Required End of Year Procedures for Local Homeless Education Programs (For this topic, we are offering two session options which will contain the same content.)	Session 1 Tuesday, April 29th from 10am-12pm Click here to register! Session 2 Thursday, May 1st from 10am-12pm Click here to register!	This 1.5 hour long professional learning session will provide McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons and support personnel with the information and tools necessary to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effectively prepare for and carry out "end-of-year" procedures to ensure access to services, school stability, and school of origin rights are maintained for students experiencing homelessness throughout the summer months into the upcoming school year• Ensure reporting requirements are met for the end of the school year, summer programming, and upcoming school year The Arizona HEP team will dedicate 30-minutes of time following the session for "Office Hours" to answer participant questions related to the content covered.
May	Arizona Housing Coalition 30th Annual Conference, The Road to Home	May 7th and 8th Click here to learn more and register by April 18th!	As the premier education and networking event for the affordable housing and homeless service industries in Arizona, this event is expected to attract 800+ participants from the public and private sectors. The conference showcases dynamic speakers and prominent leaders, features sessions focused on innovative best practices and solutions, includes an awards ceremony to honor excellence in our communities, and is an unparalleled opportunity for peer support and networking among Arizona's leaders in affordable housing and homeless services. The Arizona HEP is excited to present on the educational rights of students experiencing homelessness and housing stakeholders that attend this event. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of the Year will also be announced by State Coordinator, Rita Rodriguez. If you will be attending, be sure to stop by and say hello!
	NEW EVENT! Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP) and Housing Partners Convening	May 20th from 9am-12pm If you are affiliated with or work as a housing provider and are interested in attending, click here to register! Please note that this event is not intended for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons.	The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Homeless Education Program (HEP) is excited to opportunity exclusively for members of the community that serve children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness as providers of emergency, transitional and permanent housing. At this event, attendees will learn about the educational rights of homeless children and youth in order to collaborate with school districts and advocate for families that qualify under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other housing providers to enhance practices to support the identification of students experiencing homelessness.

2025 Liaison of the Year

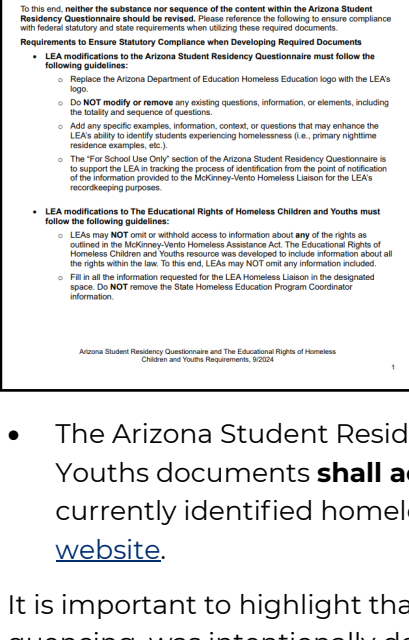
The Arizona Housing Coalition (AZHC), in collaboration with Arizona Homeless Education Program (HEP), is currently selecting the **2025 McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of the Year!** The recipient of this award will be announced at the AZHC 30th Annual Conference taking place on May 7th & 8th in Phoenix.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison of the Year award is designed to highlight and honor the exceptional efforts of those who strive to address barriers to educational access, participation, and achievement which impact students experiencing homelessness. Nominees exhibit willingness to understand, support, and implement bold solutions to tackle the complex and dynamic challenges facing children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. These efforts ensure provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act are actualized for students experiencing homelessness. Stay tuned to learn who is selected!



Speaking Up for Home and Hope

Guidance Documents



As the current school year comes to a close, McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons are preparing for the upcoming school year. Remember, as outlined in the Arizona ESEA Consolidated State Plan, all local education agencies (LEAs), including charters, are required to utilize the **Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire** and the **Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths** in the State of Arizona, accessible on our [website](#).

In preparation for end of year processes we are providing clarification regarding two critical steps for LEAs:

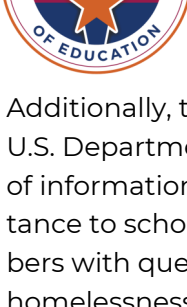
- The Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire and the Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Youths **must be included in re-enrollment materials** for next school year. This includes **online and paper versions of registration packets**.

It is important to highlight that the Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire content, including its sequence, was intentionally developed in conference with the U.S. Department of Education, the National Center for Homeless Children and Youth (NCHC), and SchoolHouse Connection (SHC) to support LEAs in removing barriers and streamlining the process to identify and immediately enroll children and youth experiencing homelessness ([42 U.S.C. § 11432 \(g\)\(1\); \(g\)\(3\); \(g\)\(6\)](#)). To this end, neither the substance nor sequence of the content within the Arizona Student Residency Questionnaire should be revised.

Read the Arizona HEP's full guidance for the use of these documents and access the editable Microsoft Word versions of these documents by [clicking here](#).

Technical Assistance

It is common for McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons, other school district staff, and community partners to have questions about a variety of topics related to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and Homeless Education Programs. If you are in need of support, we encourage you to utilize the following:



The [Arizona HEP website](#) provides a collection of [recorded professional learning sessions](#) as well as a variety of [guidance and sample documents](#) which can help individuals interested in learning more about specific topics. We encourage you to check out these resources when questions arise. If you still need support, reach our office by emailing Homeless@azed.gov or calling (602) 542-4963.

Additionally, the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHC), which operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance and information center is a source of information and support. The NCHC Helpline is available to provide technical assistance to school districts, youth, parents, guardians, caregivers, and community members with questions related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The helpline is staffed Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM ET/6:00 AM to 2:30 PM PT and can be reached at (305)306-8495 or NCHC.helpline@safalpartners.com.

