

Collaboration, Communication, and Connectivity – Enhancing Support for Local Homeless Education Programs and McKinney-Vento Students

**Georgia Compensatory Educational Leaders
Conference**

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**Georgia Department of Education
Federal Programs Division
Grants Unit**

Presenters:

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Objectives for Learning

- Increase knowledge of collaborative community partnerships that can benefit the needs of McKinney-Vento students, families, and Homeless Education Liaisons
- Develop effective strategies for identifying the most critical areas of assistance that can be provided to McKinney-Vento students through collaboration and communication with community partners
- Design action plan templates to enhance community relationship building for Homeless Education Liaisons and LEA administrators

The Impact of Youth Homelessness



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- 2.5 million children are homeless in the United States
- 1.3 million homeless youth were enrolled in LEAs as McKinney-Vento eligible during School Year 2012-2013 which was an 8% increase from 2011-2012
- Families with children account for 30% of the total homeless population in the United States
- The number of people in poor households living doubled up with family and friends increased in 24 states from 2012 to 2013
- In Georgia the number of individuals doubled up with family and friends increased 8.3% from 2012 to 2013

"Americas Youngest Outcasts: A Report Card on Child Homelessness"
American Institutes for Research, The National Center on Family Homelessness (November 2014)



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Defining Collaboration

Col·lab·o·ra·tion

- The act of working jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor
- To cooperate with an agency or instrumentality with which one is not immediately connected

"collaboration." *Merriam-Webster.com*. Merriam-Webster, 2015. Web. 15 Jan. 2015



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Effective Collaboration...

- Provides a more systematic, comprehensive approach to addressing student needs
- Accomplishes what individual staff members cannot tackle alone
- Prevents duplication of individual or organizational efforts
- Enhances the power of advocacy and resource development for Homeless Education programs
- Creates enhanced public recognition and visibility for LEAs, student achievement, and community partners

Examining Federal, State, and Local Homeless Education Collaborative Partnerships

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Federal Responses to Youth Homelessness

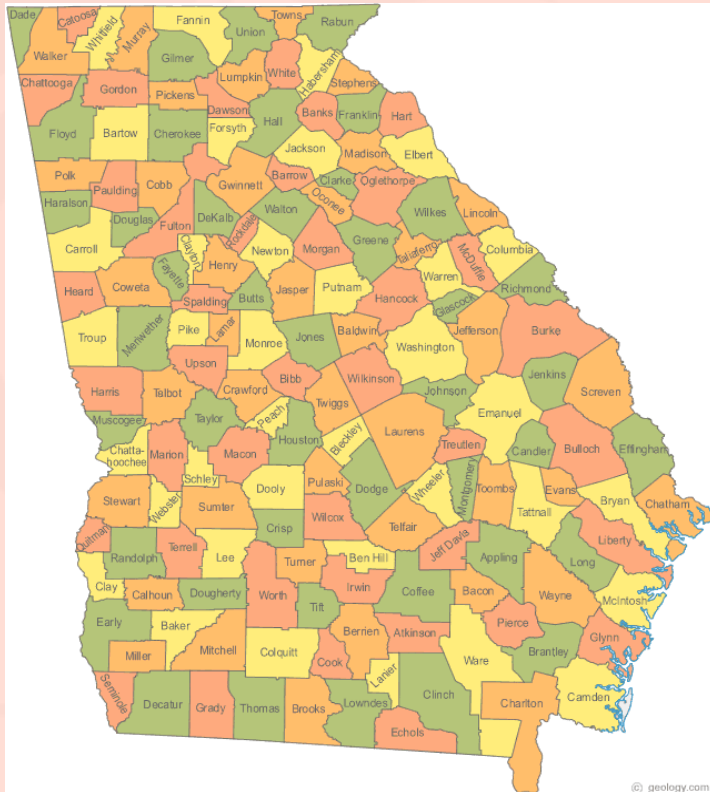


- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is an independent Federal agency, represented by the heads of 19 Federal departments and agencies.
- In 2010 USICH issued *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan on Preventing and Ending Homelessness*
- *Opening Doors* has established the goal of ending youth homelessness by 2020
- In 2012 USICH adopted a Framework to End Youth Homelessness

Georgia Homeless Education Collaborations



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- Embark Georgia Statewide Network
- Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Board of Directors
- Georgia Interagency Council to End Homelessness
- State Advisory Panel for Special Education

Local Education Agency Partnerships



- What strategic partnerships have been most beneficial to your LEA's Homeless Education Program?
- How do you identify potential collaborative partners in your community?

Why are Collaborative Partnerships Beneficial?



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- Parents need multiple sources of support to help their children succeed in school and in their communities
- Research demonstrates that effective schools and education-focused programs have higher levels of parental and community involvement
- Collaboration with community partners builds awareness of homeless education and the needs of McKinney-Vento students
- Creation of LEA consortiums for Homeless Education enhances the quality of services provided to students and families

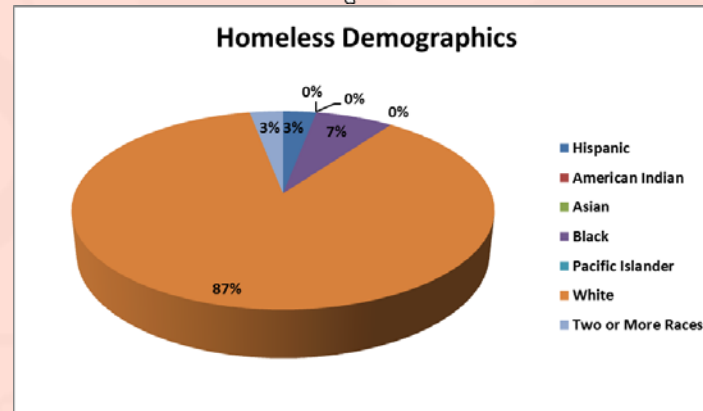
Examples of Success: A Closer Look at Local Collaborative Partnerships

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Stories From the Field

Catoosa County

FY13 PROFILE		
McKinney-Vento Grant Award	\$33,000	
General Student Population	10,852	
Homeless Students Enrolled	283	
Homeless Students Rank Among 55 Grantees	25	
CRCT Meets/Exceeds:	Homeless	Non-Homeless
ELA	84%	93%
Reading	92%	97%
Math	72%	88%
EOCT Meets/Exceeds:	Homeless	Non-Homeless
ELA	67%	89%
Math	41%	67%
Science	57%	84%



Stories From the Field

Catoosa County

- **Tutoring Program**

- Partnership with the Retired Teachers Association
- Student population served: 15-20 elementary school students annually
- Funding source: Title I, Homeless Set-aside, Homeless Grant

- **Just Jeans Program**

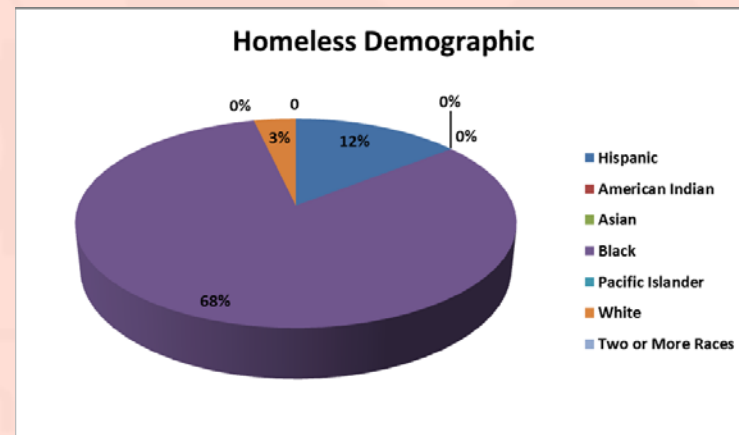
- Partnership with local churches, Lion's Club, school counselors and teachers
- Program provides adult size jeans to high school students
- Funding source: Community Partners

Stories From the Field

City Schools of Decatur



FY13 PROFILE		
McKinney-Vento Grant Award	\$27,721	
General Student Population	4,167	
Homeless Students Enrolled	41	
Homeless Students Rank Among 55 Grantees	52	
CRCT Meets/Exceeds:	Homeless	Non-Homeless
ELA	83%	98%
Reading	91%	99%
Math	76%	94%
EOCT Meets/Exceeds:	Homeless	Non-Homeless
ELA	70%	95%
Math	42%	73%
Science	100%	89%





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Stories From the Field

City Schools of Decatur

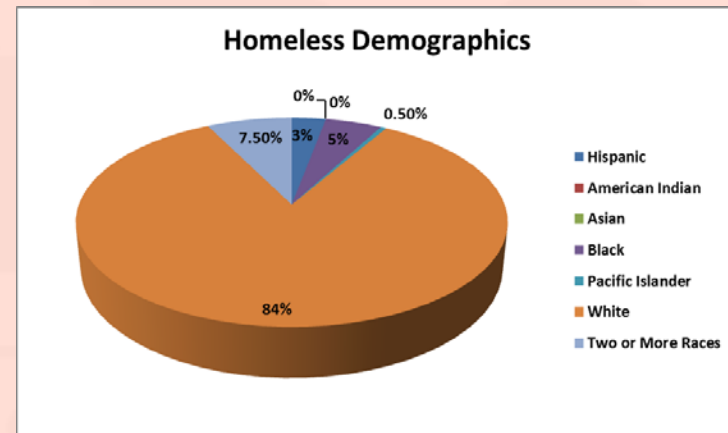
- **City Schools of Decatur Community Collaborative**
 - More than 20 community partners including: The United Methodist Home, Pathways Transitions Program, Parent to Parent of GA, and Decatur Active Living
 - Community Collaborative meets 3-4 times per year
 - Electronic Community Collaboration Directory
 - Collaborative works to identify the needs of McKinney-Vento students, and partners participate in annual EHCY Needs Assessment

Stories From the Field

Haralson County



FY13 PROFILE		
McKinney-Vento Grant Award	\$42,000	
General Student Population	3,591	
Homeless Students Enrolled	280	
Homeless Students Rank Among 55 Grantees	27	
CRCT Meets/Exceeds:	Homeless	Non-Homeless
ELA	85%	89%
Reading	90%	94%
Math	70%	80%
EOCT Meets/Exceeds:	Homeless	Non-Homeless
ELA	81%	76%
Math	26%	38%
Science	50%	68%



Stories From the Field

Haralson County

- “Prom-A-Paloosa”
 - Partnership with Community Christian Counsel, West Georgia Technical College, local radio station, Waco Baptist Church, community volunteers, teachers and counselors
 - Organizations donated hair styling, shoes, flowers, jewelry, dresses, tuxedos, items for a silent auction, alterations, fees, dues and tickets for 50 students going to prom, military ball or 8th grade dance
 - Funding source: community partners, teachers, staff and volunteers



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Stories From the Field

Contact Information

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Strategies for Developing Meaningful Collaborative Partnerships

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Engaging Community Partners



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- Learn and consider the impact of the varying definitions of homelessness
- Develop MOUs for cooperation and information sharing
- Create opportunities for open discussion about shared values and gaps in service
- Identify community stakeholders to serve as partners in activities that advance common values and goals

Engaging Community Partners



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- Collaborate in the development of a Homeless Education Advisory Committee with community partners
- Engage LEA administrators and stakeholders in a 30-60-90 day plan to improve Homeless Education collaborative partnerships
- Conduct an annual stakeholder survey to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and partnerships



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Collaborative Partnership Examples

- **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAECHY)** – Professional Development
- **Teachers and McKinney-Vento Tutors** – Instructional support insight
- **Administration** – Instructional/ school supports; increasing program awareness and technical assistance
- **Community Based Nonprofits** – Student and family-centered support through varied missions
Early Childhood Education Centers, United Way, Sisters, Boy/Girl Scouts, Junior Achievement, Junior Leagues, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs



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Collaborative Partnership Examples

- Business Associations, Foundations Civic Organizations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Corporate Foundations
- Small Businesses
- Government Agencies – constituent services.
- Police Departments, Health Clinics, Social Services and Libraries
- Colleges and Universities

Setting the Stage for Action



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- What strategies would be most beneficial for enhancing Homeless Education collaboration within your LEA?
- What would you like to accomplish within the next 30-60-90 days to improve Homeless Education collaborative partnerships?

Questions and Discussion



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