

## *Definition of Homeless*

The term "homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

- (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

\*Per Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, "awaiting foster care placement" was removed from the definition of homeless on December 10, 2016\*

Homeless children and youth have the right to:

- Attend school— you do not need a permanent address to enroll in school.
- Not be denied enrollment just because school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- Continue in the school they attended before they became homeless, if that is the parents' choice and if feasible.
- Receive transportation to and from the school the child last attended prior to becoming homeless, if the parent/guardian requests it.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.



*Jodi Lemon*

Coordinator of Homeless Programs

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### *Homeless Coordinator*

A school district's Homeless Coordinator and/or Liaison plays a vital role in ensuring that children and youth experiencing homelessness enroll and succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act requires that all school districts appoint a Homeless Coordinator or Liaison who serves as the link between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and social-service providers.

### *Important Numbers:*

Homeless Hotline (844) 533-4187  
Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (225) 201-0696

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