

# HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

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# CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- Lack of affordable housing
  - Foreclosures
- Poverty
  - Economic recession
  - Unemployment
- Health problems
  - Lack of health insurance
  - Addiction disorders, Mental health
- Domestic violence
- Natural and other disasters
- Abuse/neglect/family dysfunction (unaccompanied youth)



# HOW MANY CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

## National Statistics

### SY 2013-2014

#### SY 2013-2014

- 1,301,239 homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools, preK-12
- 7% increase over the previous year
- 100% increase since 2006-2007 recession
- 13% of all poor school aged children and youth
- 30% of all extremely poor school aged children and youth
- Over 90,000 unaccompanied homeless youth

# MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT ELIGIBILITY

- Children or youth who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**, including:
  - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
  - Awaiting foster care placement **(until December 10, 2016)**

## ELIGIBILITY CONTINUED

- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or a similar setting
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above circumstances

For more info, see NCHE's *Determining Eligibility* brief at [www.serve.org/nche/briefs.php](http://www.serve.org/nche/briefs.php)

- [http://center.serve.org/nche/states/state\\_resources.php#map](http://center.serve.org/nche/states/state_resources.php#map)

# PATHS TO BEING ON THEIR OWN

- Family conflict: blended family issues, pregnancy, sexual activity or orientation, school problems, substance abuse
- Abuse and/or neglect within the home
- Parental incarceration, illness, hospitalization, or death
- Lack of space in temporary situations or shelter policies that prohibit adolescent boys
- Child welfare issues
  - Running away from a placement
  - Aging out of the system
  - Significant correlation between involvement with the child welfare system and experiencing homelessness as an adult



# BARRIERS TO EDUCATION ACCESS

- lack of access to parental financial information and support
- Lack of financial means to live independently and safely
- Inability to be financially self-sufficient once enrolled in college
- Limited housing options, especially in small towns or rural areas
- Failure to meet state residency requirements
- Struggling to balance school and other responsibilities
- Lack of adult guidance and support
- Lack of information about available support systems

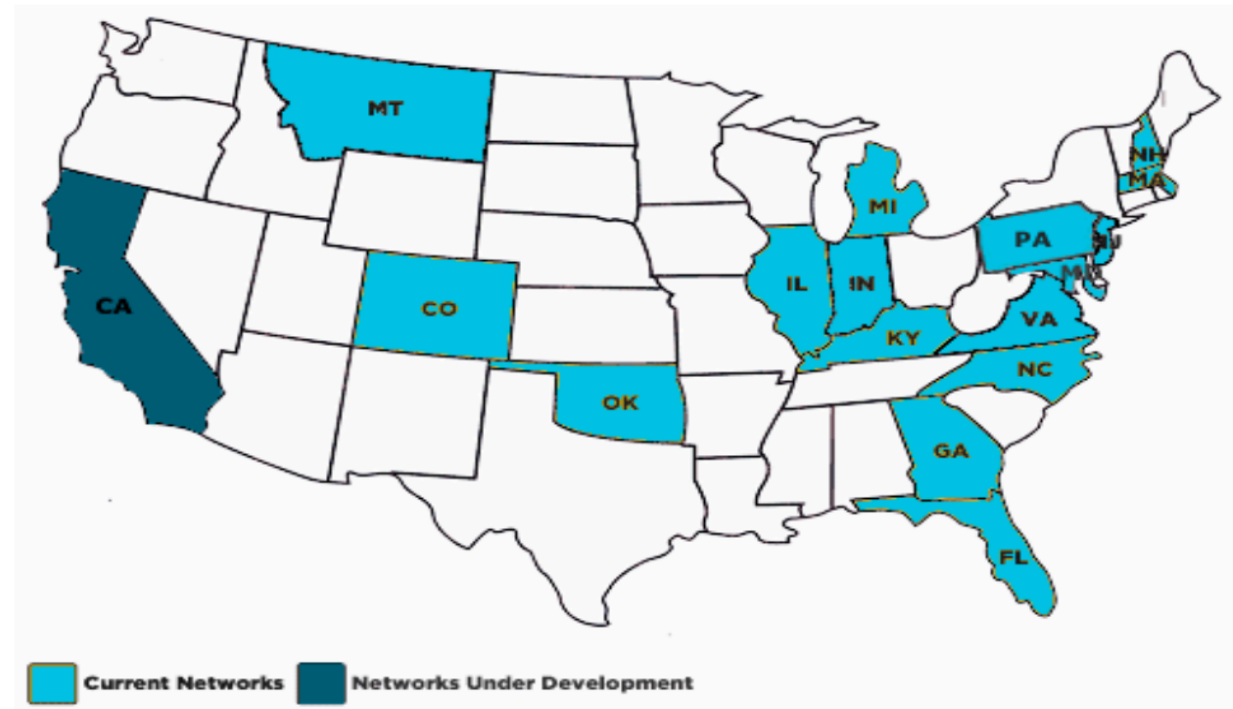
# CREATING STATEWIDE NETWORKS TO ASSIST HOMELESS YOUTH

- Convene a meeting with local stakeholders from the McKinney-Vento K-12, Foster Care, Higher Education, and RHYA/HUD shelter communities as well as other local service providers and advocates
- Allow each to share knowledge about their area of expertise
  - UHY and independent student definitions
  - Financial aid
  - Campus and community resources
- Build an action plan for serving UHY that makes sense for your community



# NAEHCY STATEWIDE HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORKS

## NETWORK LOCATIONS



<http://naehcy.org/legislation-and-policy/state-he-networks>

# WHAT IS A CAMPUS SPOC?

- **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)**- is a supportive college administrator on each campus who is committed to helping homeless youth (and often foster youth) successfully navigate the college-going process on campuses.
- SPOCs can be found in the Financial Aid, Counseling, Dean of Students, and Student Support Services offices.
- Assist students with the following
  - Housing, Counseling Center, Health Center, TRIO Programs (Talent Search, Upward Bound, EOC, GEAR-UP), Learning Disabilities Services, Life Skills, Financial Literacy, Mentoring Programs
  - <http://naehcy.org/sites/default/files/dl/spoc-tips.docx>

# NAEHCY RESOURCES

## **NAEHCY Higher Education Helpline:**

**855-446-2673 or**

**Text “NAEHCY” to 335577**

<http://www.naehcy.org>

- NAEHCY Statewide Higher Education Networks <http://naehcy.org/legislation-and-policy/state-he-networks>
- NAEHCY Podcast Series
  - <http://naehcy.org/educational-resources/podcasts>
- NAEHCY Scholarship <http://naehcy.org/letendre-scholarship-fund/about-the-fund>
- College Access and Success Toolkit for Students Experiencing Homelessness
  - <http://naehcy.org/educational-resources/he-toolkit>