

# COVID-19 Response

May 1, 2020



# Moment of Silence

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# Agenda

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- Welcome, Introductions & Announcements
- Updates
  - DOH
  - DMHAS
  - HUD
  - DSS
  - CCEH
  - CT BOS
- On-the-ground Strategies: Supporting the Educational Needs of Homeless Students
- Next Steps





# Announcements

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# Reminders

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- Updated responses to provider questions posted—  
<http://www.ctbos.org/covid-19-resources/>
- Let us know what you need, how we can help & questions you have – submit to:  
[ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)
- What other COC/ESG waivers would be helpful?  
Put suggestions in chat box or submit to  
[ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)





# DOH Updates

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# CDC Stresses Need for Coronavirus Testing at Shelters

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4 Cities – Tested All Residents & Staff:

- When testing followed identification of 2 or more cases: 17-66% of residents & 16-30% of staff found positive
- Where no cases had been reported: 4% of residents & 2% of staff found positive
- Recommended: Comprehensive testing (not just symptomatic); frequency TBD (CDC rep suggested: ASAP based on capacity, if cases found, test again quickly -within 2 weeks- longer intervals OK if no cases)

[National Health Care for the Homeless Council: Guidance on Testing in Shelters](#)

[Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Prevalence in Homeless Shelters — Four U.S. Cities, March 27–April 15, 2020](#)



# TODAY Webinar: Testing for COVID-19 in Homeless Shelters

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**Sponsored by National Healthcare for the Homeless Council**

**Friday, May 1, 2020 01:00 PM EDT - 02:00 PM EDT**

As the COVID-19 pandemic response continues to evolve, new information is emerging as communities conduct broader testing in congregate homeless shelters. Of particular interest is the recent CDC data illustrating high proportions of positive test results upon universal testing in some shelters. Discussion will feature CDC experts and clinical researchers. Hear about these initiatives and bring your questions about furthering testing in your community.

[Register Now](#)

# Updates

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- CT DMHAS
- CT DSS
- CCEH





# Questions

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# Updates from CT BOS

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# SSI and VA Benefit Recipients with Dependents Register By 5/5!

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To Receive \$500/child Economic Impact Payment:

- SSI or VA benefit recipient with qualifying children under 17, who didn't file a tax return in 2018 or 2019, use this portal:
  - [Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here](#)
- Deadline for SSDI recipients was 4/22. Recipients who miss the deadline: \$500 per eligible child to be paid with a return filing for tax year 2020.



# CDC: New Guidance on COVID-19 Symptoms

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Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing

*Or at least two of these symptoms:*

- Fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell

List is not all inclusive. Consult a medical provider regarding any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

# Use of CoC funds for Hazard Pay

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- Eligible CoC Program expense (2CFR200.430) – must cover with existing budget
- Must be authorized in agency's Emergency Policies
- Bill to same Budget Line Item (BLI) as usual salary/wage expenses (e.g., hazard pay for case management on Supportive Services BLI)
- Must be reasonable (i.e., comparable to that paid for similar work in the relevant labor market)
- Apply across the board or document justification for any targeting





# Emergency Policies

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- Required by HUD to enable use of CoC funds for hazard pay and to use CoC and ESG COVID-19 waivers
- Sample available on [CT BOS Website](#)

# Expedited CoC COVID-19 Grant Amendment Process

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- Process outlined here:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/covid-19-grant-agreement-amendments/>
- Document justification in project files.
- May extend operating year to fully utilize awarded funds; latest end date allowed for 2018 grants is 12/31/20. Permanently changes the grant's operating start date.
- Budget amendments in the first year of a CoC award allowed.

# Using CoC Funds to pay for participant phones

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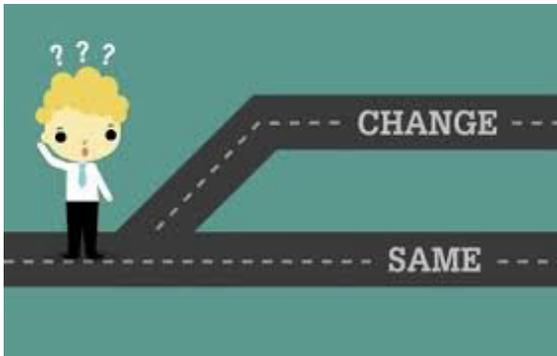


- Allowable if needed to enable supportive services necessary to obtain or retain housing
- Phone must be owned by the recipient/subrecipient
- Wireless service plan must be in recipient/subrecipient agency's name
- Phone/phone service may be loaned to the participant during stay-at-home or social distancing orders
- Must be returned to the recipient/subrecipient when orders are lifted

[HUD FAQ](#)

# Tool: Changing Norms in a Congregate Setting

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- Use to address unwanted behavior (e.g., lack of adherence to social distancing and mask wearing protocols).
- Scripts and standardizes an intervention that will be implemented by all staff to address the behavior and change the norm.
- Gives all tenants a chance shape their community.
- [Norms Planning Worksheet](#)

# Any Questions?



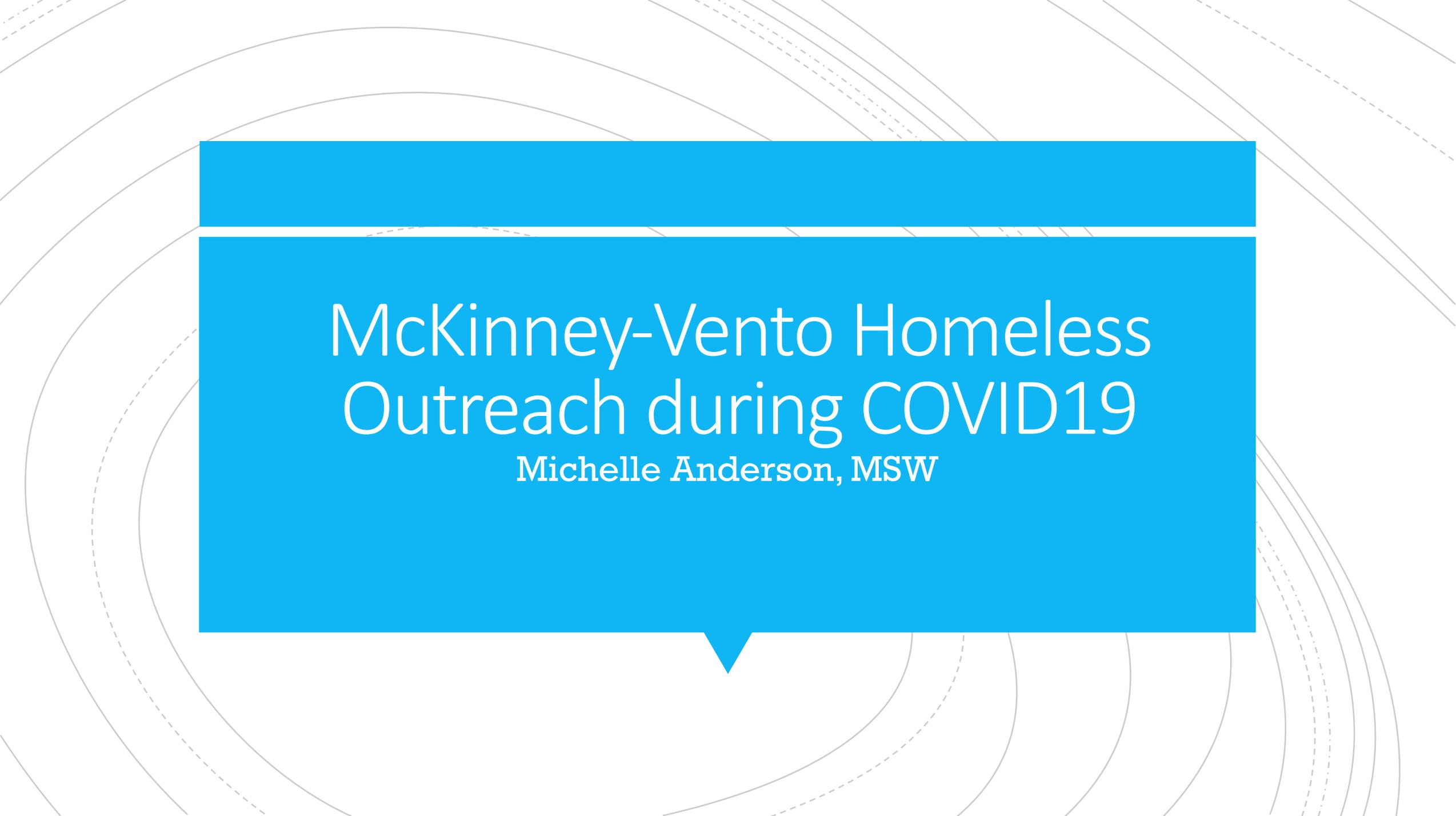


# On-the-Ground Strategies

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MICHELLE ALEXANDER,  
EDADVANCE

SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL  
NEEDS OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

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# McKinney-Vento Homeless Outreach during COVID19

Michelle Anderson, MSW

## McKinney-Vento Law Definitions

- The term "homeless children and youth" is defined as: □ children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth 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 lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement; □ children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; □ children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and □ migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

## What the data is saying?

- Over 1.5 million children and youth experienced homelessness in the 2017-2018 school year. For most of these students, school is their only safety net, offering food, education, health and mental health services, caring adults, and a safe place to be during the day. Additionally, an estimated 1.4 million children under age six experience homelessness.
- **Schools and early childhood programs offer stability and safety. When schools and early learning programs close, or move to online learning, the health, safety, and well-being of homeless children and youth are jeopardized.**
- *FROM SCHOOL HOUSE CONNECTION*

## McKinney- Vento Liaison Role

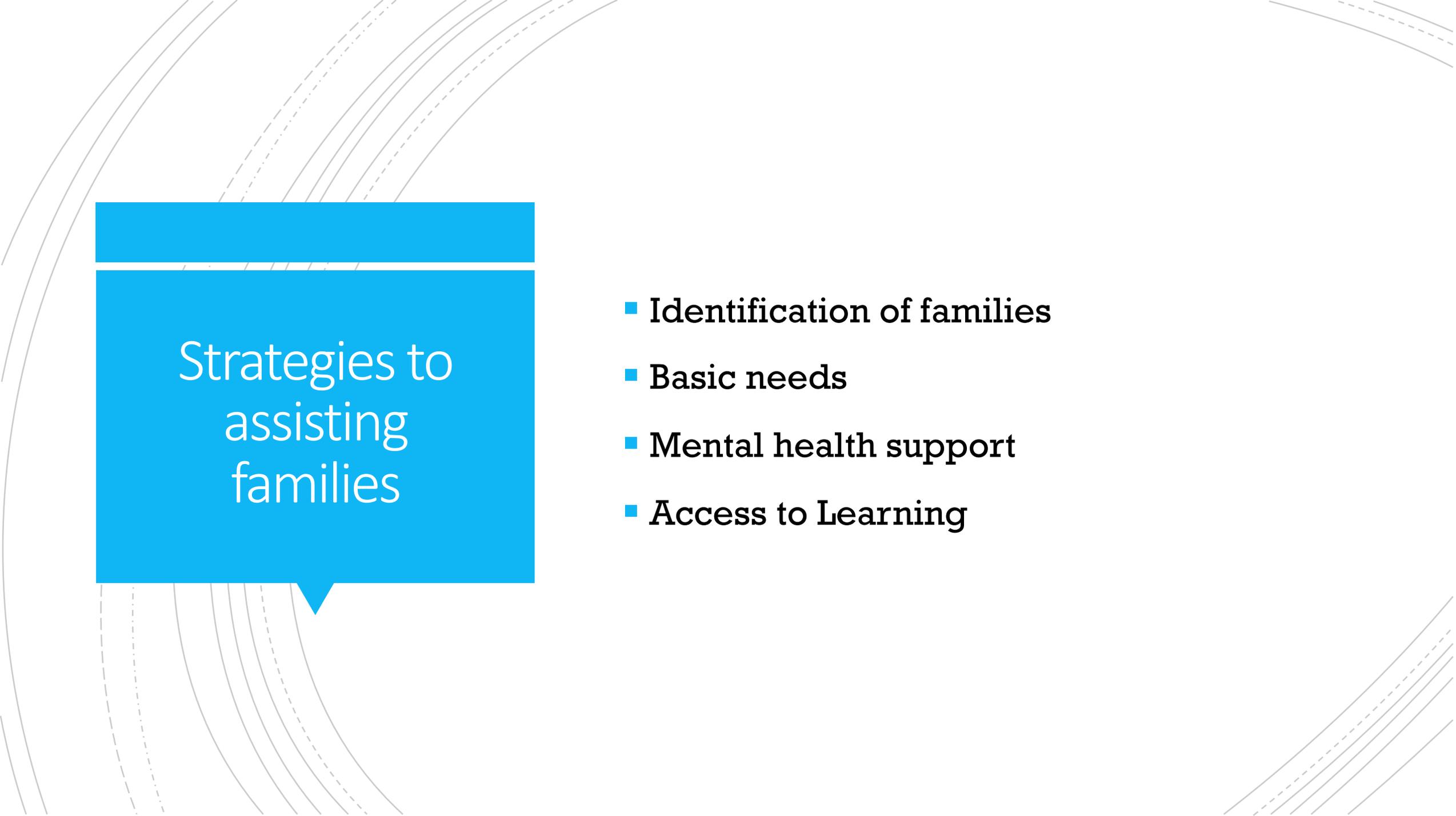
- McKinney-Vento Liaisons are still working and the law is still in effect.
- Identification, outreach, enrollment, and coordinated support for children experiencing homelessness are still underway. Young children to school age children!
- [List of Connecticut LEA Homeless Liaisons](#)
- When possible, work with local CANs to access available housing
- Outreach to families and help identify families experiencing homelessness.
- Assist with student who are placed out of town under the law.

## What are the Liaisons doing?

- **Calling families**
- **Connecting families to resources**
- **Partnering with school personnel to gather information on distance learning**
- **Helping families access distance learning and internet, technology, etc.**
- **Deliver items, food cards, food, etc.**
- **Connect families to school lunch program**
- **Connect with school social workers**
- **Food resource list**
- **Resource list sharing**
- **Check-in with homeless youth – assess risk factors,**
- **Start planning for when schools re-open- transportation issues, etc.**
- **Prepaid cells phones**
- **Disseminate information**
- **Assisting with attendance/participation issues, etc.**

# Challenges

- **Loosing track of families**
- **Families who are out of district**
- **Not returning calls due to cell phones, etc.**
- **Families in shelters, lack of social distancing, etc.**
- **Maintaining contact, will need more outreach efforts than in the school setting.**
- **Children loose their safety net at school.**
- **Children become more vulnerable**
- **Families unable to assist child with school work**

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## Strategies to assisting families

- **Identification of families**
- **Basic needs**
- **Mental health support**
- **Access to Learning**

# Distance Learning Needs

- Access to Learning
- Provide mobile hotspots and laptops/tablets to shelters, motels, and directly to families and youth who are staying with other people that do not have access.
- Be flexible with participation requirements. Track student engagement not attendance.
- Connect families to school social workers.
- Access needs of special education students. Make sure special education teachers are offering follow-up.
- Parents need to be supported as their child's first and best teacher.
- Be encouraging, this is NOT a perfect situation. Monitor parent stress.

## Special Education Support

- Districts trying their best with competing factors
- Families being empowered to assist and have the right to talk with school about learning needs.
- Districts can offer individualized instruction
- Districts can hold Planning and Placement Team Meetings (PPT)
- They can conduct Annual Reviews and Reevaluations
- They can do Initial Evaluations
- Teachers are checking in and are aware of student needs
- Families are coaches and mentors for children with special needs. This can be stressful for many.

# State Dept. of Education Resources

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Homeless/Homeless-Education>

- **Resources: Social Emotional Support**
- [Download the presentation](#)
- [Social Emotional Family Resources](#)
- Families are first line of support for children during this time.
- <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators>

(Links to special education videos)

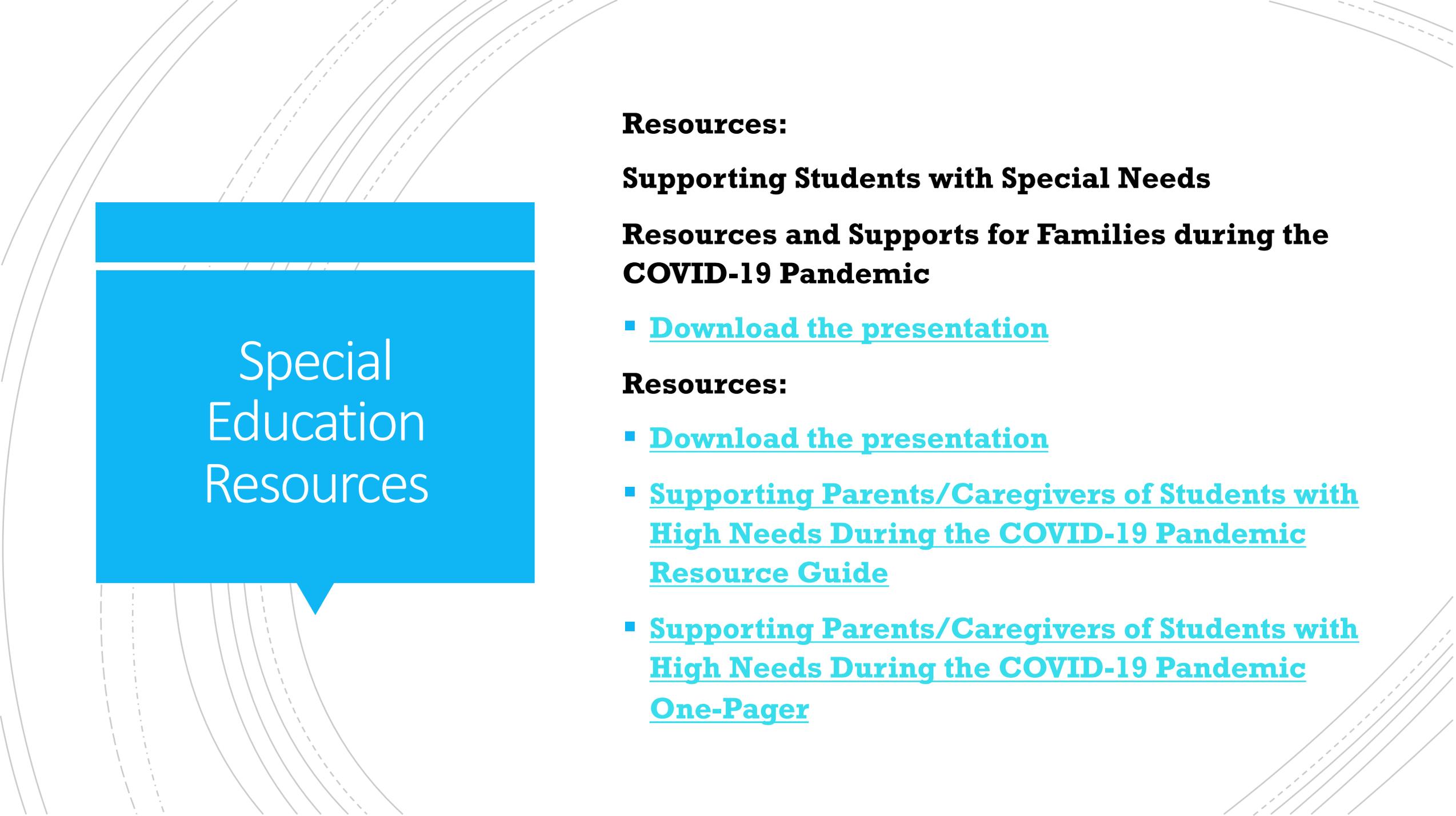
## State Resource

- **When it Builds Up, Talk it Out**
- To further efforts in supporting and empowering families, DMHAS has collaborated with the United Way and community providers to establish a "*When it Builds Up, Talk it Out*" campaign.
- All communities need help right now and we must recognize the additional stress and impact these times present, especially to communities of color, families with young children and parents of children with specialized needs.
- **Any parent who wishes to access supports are invited to call 833-258-5011** and engage with trained professionals who will listen and speak with them about their concerns. If additional help is needed, they will be referred to community-based services.
- The support line can also be accessed via cell phone by visiting [www.talkitoutct.com](http://www.talkitoutct.com) and clicking on the link to be connected to the same caring professionals.
- **The "*Talk It Out Line*" is available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 8 pm and on weekends from 1 pm to 8 pm and has both English and Spanish capacity.**

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# National Resources

- <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>
- <https://naehcy.org/>



# Special Education Resources

## **Resources:**

### **Supporting Students with Special Needs**

#### **Resources and Supports for Families during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

- [Download the presentation](#)

## **Resources:**

- [Download the presentation](#)
- [Supporting Parents/Caregivers of Students with High Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic Resource Guide](#)
- [Supporting Parents/Caregivers of Students with High Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic One-Pager](#)

## Contact Information

**Michelle Anderson, MSW**

**Director of Early Childhood and Family Programs**

P.O. Box 909 | 355 Goshen Road, Litchfield, CT 06759

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Thank You!





Wrap-  
up

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# NEXT STEPS

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Next weekly CTBOS COVID-19 Webinar:

- Friday, 5/8/2020
- 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
- On the Ground Strategies Topic: Assessing and Responding to Domestic Violence During the Crisis

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/128416596?pwd=d2ZqNFZlYXlsT1lYRzA5YkpaTndYdz09>

Meeting ID: 128 416 596

**Password: 720835**

646-876-9923

# COVID-19 Resources

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**CT BOS** - <http://www.ctbos.org/covid-19-resources/>

**State of CT** - [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ct.gov/coronavirus)

**CCEH/DOH** - <https://cceh.org/2020/03/13/11330/>

**DMHAS** - <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Newsworthy/News-Items/DMHAS-Response-to-COVID-19>

**HUD** - <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-community-planning-and-preparedness>

**CDC** – [homelessness landing page](#)

**National Healthcare for the Homeless** – <https://nhhc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/>

**USICH** - <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>

**CSH COVID-19 Supportive Housing Community Platform** - <https://csh.csod.com/>

# CoC Support - Contact Info

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