

CT Balance of State
(CT BOS)
Continuum of Care
(CoC)
Steering Committee
Meeting

July 17, 2026





Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Guidelines for BOS Meetings
- Adopt June Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- EdAdvance Presentation
 - McKinney Vento Education Requirements
- Break-Out Discussions
- HUD Updates & CoC NOFO
- 2027 Renewal Eval Criteria
- Data Strategy Board Updates
- Partner Announcements
- Other Business
- Meeting Schedule



BOS Co-Chairs

Alice Minervino
Steve DiLella
John Merz
Stephanie Lazarus

CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

- Be present and listen actively
- Choose courage over comfort
- Participate to the fullest of your ability
- Take space, make space
- Assume good intent, but also acknowledge impact
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Use "I" statements
- Recognize emotional tax, extra labor, and burden that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Latino/a/x, LGBTQ+, persons with Behavioral Health issues, DV survivors, Veterans and people with lived expertise/experience of homelessness face in some conversations
- Honor the Conflicts of Interest Policy



Approve June Meeting Minutes



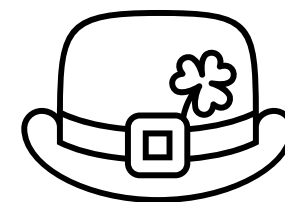
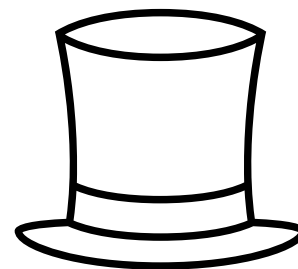
Draft June 2026 BOS Steering Committee Minutes



Reminder: Post Steering Committee Debrief

- Anyone who has questions or comments about Steering Committee business can stay on at the end of the monthly zoom meeting.
- As always, questions/comments can also be sent CTBOSCoC@gmail.com or call a team member any time!





Happy Retirement John Merz! Staying on as BOS Co-Chair 😊



Happy Retirement David Rich, Housing Collective!



Housing and Homelessness Training Academy

Join the fun! Sign up for the Learning Management System (LMS)!

To begin using the platform click [HERE](#) and follow these steps:

- On the welcome screen, click "Need Access?"
- On the next page, complete the form and click "Request CT LMS Access"
- You will receive a welcome email, click the link provided to set your password

Access your training by logging in at cthousingacademy.myabsorb.com



**Advancing
Connecticut
Together**

Welcome New Steering Committee Members

KOLISHA KEDRON, CHFA & ERIKA MOTT, ACT



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Basic Requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act



Federal McKinney-Vento Act

Subtitle VII-B of *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*, reauthorized in 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act

42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.

Guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness, and seeks to remove any barriers these students may face in succeeding in school.



McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

Those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including students:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to a lack of alternative, adequate accommodation
- Living in emergency & transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations or similar situations
- Migratory children living in the above situations



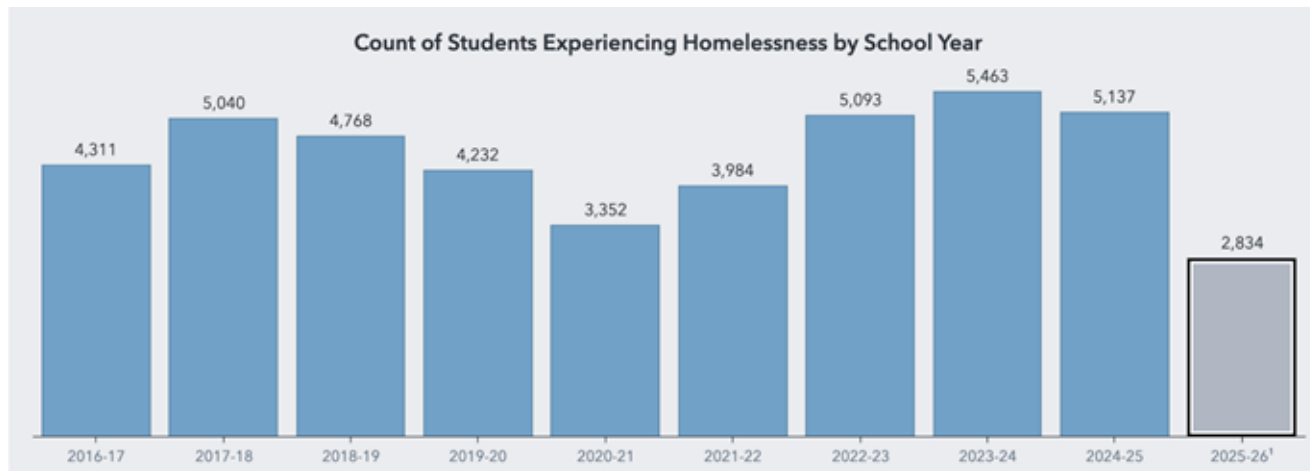


McKinney-Vento Homelessness: Students Experiencing Homelessness

The federal McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. (42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)).

2,834 students in CT experienced homelessness in **2025-26¹**

This represents **0.6%** of all students



A gray bar above indicates preliminary data¹ are shown for the given school year. ¹ Counts of students experiencing homelessness are updated twice yearly, following the October and June PSIS collections. Therefore, all values for the most recent year are preliminary until after the June PSIS collection. ² Unaccompanied youth could have any of the four primary nighttime residences. ³ These data are based on unique student characteristics across both the October and June PSIS snapshot collections. These may not match the official enrollment count that is based on only the October PSIS collection.* Data suppression was applied to this variable to protect student privacy. Table illustration from [Students Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard](#).

McKinney-Vento Homeless: Primary Nighttime Residence

Nighttime residence reflects the type of residence the student was using at the time the student was identified as meeting the definition of homeless.

Of students experiencing homelessness in the 2025-26¹ school year,

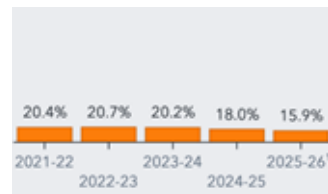
1,944 were
doubled up

Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.



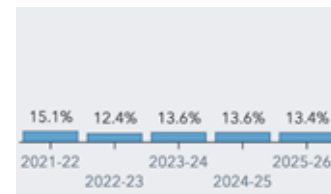
450 lived in a
hotel/motel

Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.



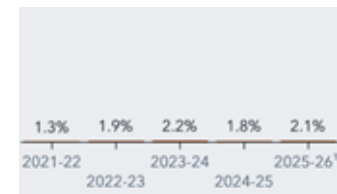
380 were sheltered

Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.



60 were unsheltered

Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.



¹ Counts of students experiencing homelessness are updated twice yearly, following the October and June PSIS collections. Therefore, all values for the most recent year are preliminary until after the June PSIS collection. ² Unaccompanied youth could have any of the four primary nighttime residences. ³ These data are based on unique student characteristics across both the October and June PSIS snapshot collections. These may not match the official enrollment count that is based on only the October PSIS collection.* Data suppression was applied to this variable to protect student privacy. Table illustration from [Students Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard](#).

McKinney-Vento Homeless: Student Characteristics³

Of students experiencing homelessness in the 2025-26¹ school year, there were

2,440 students of color

Students who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Two or More Races.

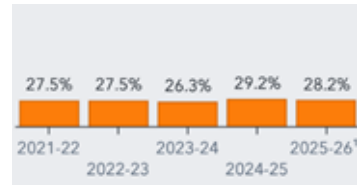
In 2025-26¹, **86.1%** of students experiencing homelessness were students of color, as compared to 55.3% of all students.



800 students with disabilities

Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) receiving special education instruction. This does not include students with a Section 504 Plan.

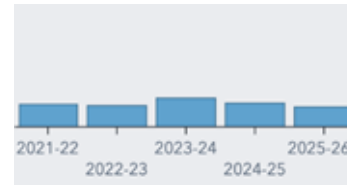
In 2025-26¹, **28.2%** of students experiencing homelessness had disabilities, as compared to 19.1% of all students.



604 English Learners

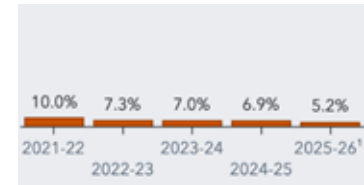
Students who lack sufficient mastery of English to "assure equal educational opportunity in the regular school program" (C.G.S. 10-17e).

In 2025-26¹, **21.3%** of students experiencing homelessness were English Learners, as compared to 11.1% of all students.



148 unaccompanied youth

An "unaccompanied youth" is defined as a homeless child or youth "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian" (42 U.S.C. § 11434a).



¹ Counts of students experiencing homelessness are updated twice yearly, following the October and June PSIS collections. Therefore, all values for the most recent year are preliminary until after the June PSIS collection. ² Unaccompanied youth could have any of the four primary nighttime residences. ³ These data are based on unique student characteristics across both the October and June PSIS snapshot collections. These may not match the official enrollment count that is based on only the October PSIS collection.* Data suppression was applied to this variable to protect student privacy. Table illustration from [Students Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard](#).

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

- The term unaccompanied youth includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)

- Liaisons must assist UHY with enrollment, school selection, & dispute resolution
- Have the same right to immediate enrollment & educational services as other students





Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

- There are no age limits in the McKinney-Vento Act
- Eligibility is based on the student's housing
- Pathways to homelessness for unaccompanied youth:
 - 35% of youth experienced the death of at least one parent or caregiver
 - 44% of youth had been in foster care
 - 24% were homeless with their families before becoming unaccompanied



Local Education Agency Liaison

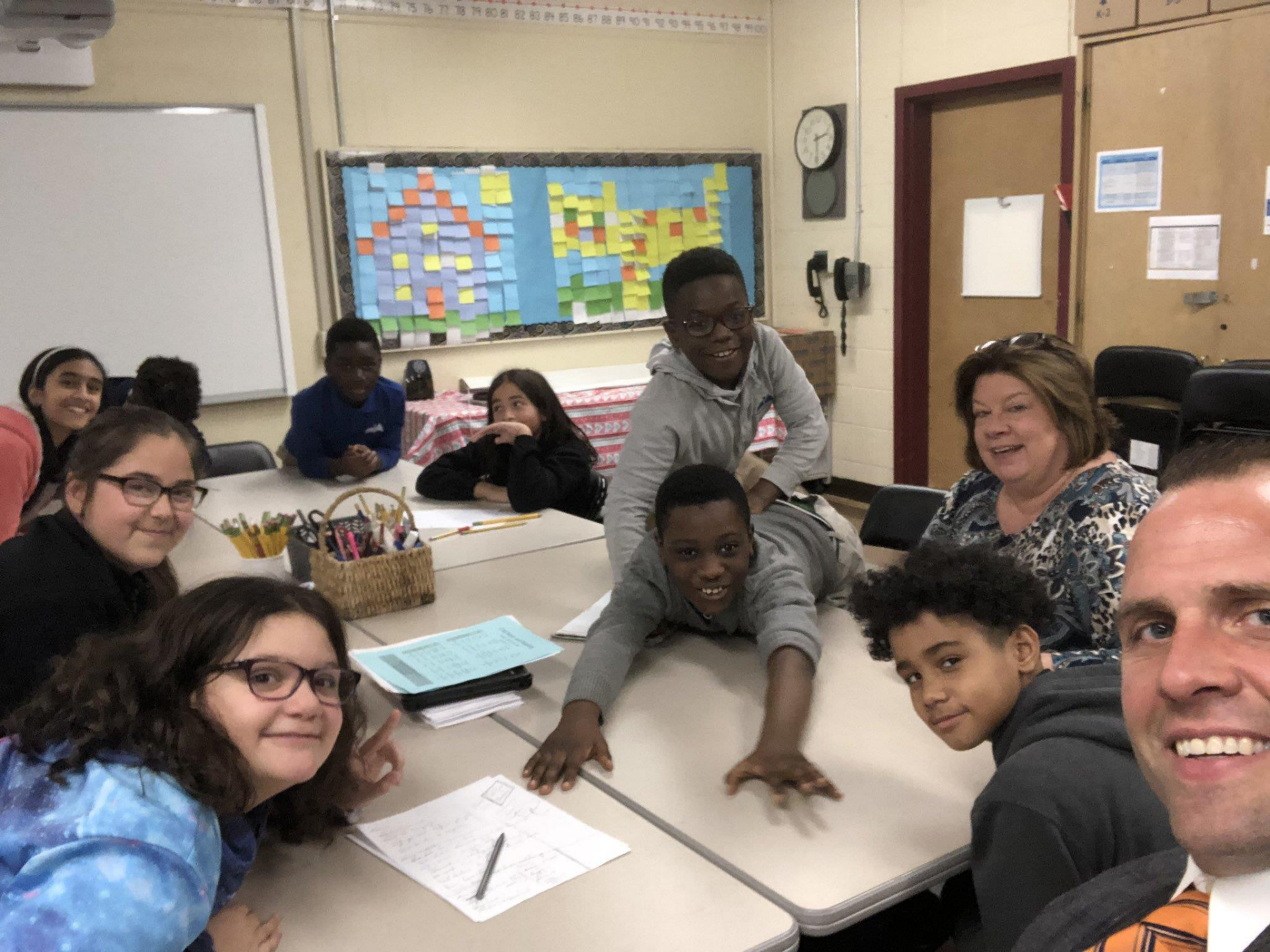
McKinney-Vento Act requires every local educational agency (LEA or school district) to designate a local homeless education liaison

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)

Local liaison serves as the district's lead homeless education contact, and is required to fulfill the duties established in the Act

- [Connecticut LEA Homeless Liaison Catalog](#)





Local Liaison Duties

- Ensure HCY are identified in coordination with others
- Ensure immediate enrollment & access to services
- Provide information about rights & opportunities
 - Includes meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in their children's education
 - Includes transportation, school meals, & other programs
- Ensure disputes are mediated
- May affirm for Housing and Urban Development programs that HCY meet MV eligibility criteria



Local Liaison Duties

- Support UHY in school selection & dispute resolution
- Ensure UHY are provided verification of their status for FAFSA purposes
- Provide training & other support for school personnel
- Provide referrals to services in the community
- Collaborate & coordinate services with State Coordinators, community and school personnel
 - Includes collecting & reporting data



Requirement to Remove Barriers

States and school districts must **develop, review, and revise policies**

- To remove barriers to the school identification, enrollment and retention of McKinney-Vento students
- Includes barriers due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(I)





Immediate Enrollment

Enroll and *enrollment* includes “attending classes & participating fully in all school activities”

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)

Enrollment must be immediate

- Even if students lack school, medical, or other records normally required
- Even if enrollment or application deadlines were missed while homeless
- Even if the student has history of absences or outstanding fines/fees

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)



School Selection

Option 1: School of origin: the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school the student last attended

- Includes public preschools
- Includes receiving schools

Option 2: Local attendance area school: any public school that nonhomeless students living in the same location have the right to attend



School Selection

Can remain in the school of origin

- For the duration of the homelessness
- Until the end of the school year in which the student obtains housing
- If the student becomes homeless over the summer & is still homeless at start of school year

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II)

Decisions are based on the individual student's best interest

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)





Best Interest

- School of origin is presumed to be in student's best interest
 - Unless this is contrary to parent or UHY's wishes
- Consider student-centered factors
 - Impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, & safety

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(B)



Transportation

HCY eligible for transportation to/from school of origin

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)

- Right to transportation extends
 - For the duration of the homelessness **and**
 - Until the end of the school year in which they obtain housing

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(A)(2)

- Transportation comparable to what others receive

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(4)(A)



Dispute Resolution

- Disputes may be over: eligibility, school selection, or enrollment
- If enrollment is denied, a written statement must be given explaining the reason and appeal process
 - Provided in a format and language the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth can understand
- The parent/youth must be immediately referred to the liaison
- Students must be enrolled and receive services while a dispute is mediated



Categorical Eligibility

- Free school meals [42 U.S.C. § 1758(b)(5)(A)(b)]
- Services under Title I, Part A [20 U.S.C. § 6315(c)(2)(E)]
- All educational and support services comparable to what other students receive, including extra-curricular activities





Coordinated Entry Partnership

5 Strategies for Schools and COCs

1. Get to know each other	• Establishing contact to familiarize partners and programs. • Conduct shared needs assessments. • Produce & distribute information, EX: education issues along with available housing options.
2. Connect early and regularly.	• Recruit and involve schools in program planning/implementation process. • Include each other in professional development and staff training. • Host shared events, EX: parent workshops at shelter or library.



Coordinated Entry Partnership

5 Strategies for Schools and COCs

3. Develop protocols to guide ongoing engagement.	• Making referrals. • Sharing information and data. • Maintaining confidentiality.
4. Reassess engagement periodically.	• Communicate with each other on what's working and what needs improvement. • Ensure awareness and students' needs are being met.
5. Explore shared funding opportunities	• Consider working together on grants, contracts, donations, sponsorships, memberships and event fees that build/support partner relationship.





Mc Kinney Vento: Provisions for Very Young Children

- McV Liaisons (state & local) must have plans defined that ensure family/child access to Early Head Start & Head Start, Even Start and other public preschool programs *that are administered by the LEA (local education agency/district)*
- Homeless children are categorically eligible for Early Head Start & Head Start programs
- Early care programs funded by a local education agency are required to identify and prioritize homeless children for enrollment; allow homeless to enroll while required paperwork is obtained; and coordinate with local McV liaisons

OHS information: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>



The Face of Family Homelessness

- Over 42% of homeless young women between the ages of 18-25 are pregnant or parenting
- Over 27% of families in HUD shelters are headed by someone under the age of 25
- Homeless teens are at particularly high risk for pregnancy, with as many as 20 % becoming pregnant
- (SchoolHouse Connection, 2024)



National Child Data- 2022-2023 (

SchoolHouse Connection)



- Nearly 700,000 children under the age of six
- Including 450,000 infants & toddlers



- Infancy is the age at which a person is most likely to become homeless
- Approximately half of the children staying in HUD shelters are under the age of six
- According to the US Department of Education, in 2023-24 there were 1,5 million children who experienced homelessness
- 70,000 babies were born to mothers who experienced homelessness during their pregnancy

(SchoolHouse Connection)



CT Office of Early Childhood's Commitment to Insecure Housing

Supporting Staff Through Training & Resources

- Understanding Housing Insecurity and Its Impact on Young Children
- McKinney-Vento 101 Training
- Drop-In Support Calls
- Resource Email Line

Head Start on Housing

Our Beginning

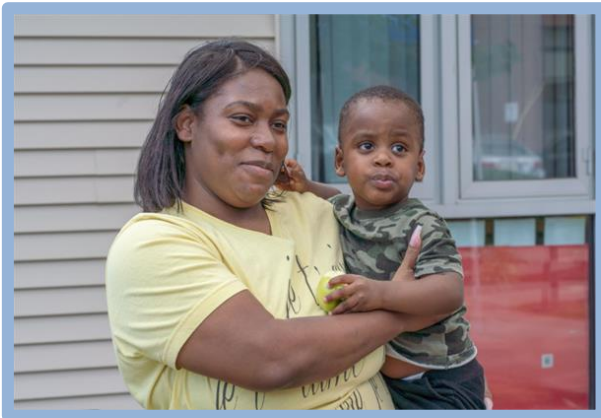
Since January 2022, the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) has allocated housing vouchers for families whose children are participating in CT's Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs.

- In January 2022, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) received **25** housing vouchers from DOH for EHS/HS families.
- In June 2022, Governor Lamont, DOH and OEC announced an additional **35** Housing Choice vouchers for the program.
- In September 2022, CT DOH changed its administrative plan to allocate approximately fifty (50) Housing Choice vouchers **annually** for Head Start and Early Head Start families.

Head Start on Housing

Where We Stand

- HSOH has housed **150** families with **329** children
 - Specifically, **92** school-aged children and **237** Head Start/Early Head Start aged children



Head Start on Housing

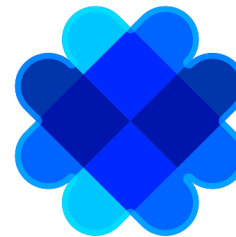
The Next Chapter

State Investment in Head Start on Housing

- **State Support Expanding:** Governor Lamont's FY2026–FY2027 biennium budget includes funding for approximately **200 State Rental Assistance Program (RAP) vouchers** dedicated to HSOH
- **Implementation Timeline:** These vouchers are slated to begin in **FY2027**, starting **July 1, 2026**.
- **Impact:** This investment will help more families secure stable, affordable housing, reinforcing the program's focus on long-term family stability and child development.
- **Momentum:** The inclusion of RAP vouchers in the biennium budget underscores state recognition that housing stability is a critical part of early childhood success.

Thrive From the Start Grant

- CT received a \$100,000 Thrive from the Start State Capacity Building Grant to address homelessness and housing instability for pregnant people and children prenatal to 3 in Connecticut.
- The initiative aligns early childhood, housing, health, and homeless response systems to improve service coordination and outcomes for young families.
- EdAdvance serves as the lead agency and was selected through a competitive national process, recognizing its leadership and partnerships in supporting families experiencing homelessness.



Thrive
From the Start

Thrive From the Start Grant CT Partners



Connecticut
Early Childhood
Alliance





CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- [CSDE Homeless Education Webpage](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#)

Discussions



- Introduce yourself, your role and how long you have been coming to BOS Steering Committee Meetings
- What is your experience working with McKinney Vento homeless liaisons to help homeless children and youth access school and services?
- Do you have any tips to share?
- Is there anything BOS can do to support this work?
- Please record and share suggestions in the chat or by email: ctboscoc@gmail.com



HUD Updates & CoC Competition Discussion

Lawsuits - CoC NOFO



- Court found FY25 NOFO violated the law
- **2 new lawsuits Challenge FY26 CoC NOFO provisions, including:**
 - Set-aside for new Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects (limits funding for permanent housing)
 - New scoring criteria on required participation in services and SUD treatment
 - Policy changes through the NOFO not required federal rulemaking process
 - Self-sufficiency criteria
 - Expanded risk review authority
 - Drug-related scoring and certification provisions

Lawsuit Challenging FY2026 CoC NOFO (2)



- **Challenged provisions (continued):**
 - Law enforcement and encampment related criteria
 - Prioritization of older adults and people with physical/developmental disabilities over people with behavioral health disability
 - Compliance with Executive Orders unrelated to CoC purpose and requirements (e.g., Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; gender identity; immigration enforcement)
- Lawsuits seek to invalidate challenged provisions
- FY26 NOFO remains in effect - competition deadline remains 8/26/26
- Continue preparing applications unless court intervenes or HUD pulls NOFO



Add Steering Committee Seat for Specialty Court Rep - Discuss Today, Vote by e-mail

Proposal: Add a Steering Committee Rep from the Probate, Mental Health or Drug Court Systems

2 points if Steering Committee has rep from local court system:

- Managing Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and/or other civil commitment processes or
- From specialty courts (e.g., Mental Health Court, Drug Court, Care Court.)

Renewal and New Project Deadlines

- Renewal & New Applications due 7 days from eSnaps opening
- Complete in eSnaps, PDF and submit draft application in Zengine
- Make revisions as necessary and re-submit within 3 days of receiving feedback
- Have more than one person available to complete application



HI Office Hours

- Renewal Projects: TBD
- New Projects: TBD
 - Zoom Link;
 - Meeting ID: 859 9674 2000
 - Passcode: 359571; 646-876-9923



Resources for Project Applicants!



- [Renewal Application Webinar](#)
- [New Project Webinar](#)
- [New Project Template](#)
- [Preferred Language](#)
- [CT BOS HUD CoC Competition Page](#)
- Need something else? Let us know!



CT BOS Substance Use Policies Discussion, Vote by e-mail

Substance Use Policy:

Up to 10 points on CoC Application:

Policy already adopted: Ensures that housing projects will not operate safe consumption sites, distribute drug paraphernalia, permit the use of illegal drugs on property under their control, or permit or encourage these activities.

Policy must (NEW):

- Describe remedies to be taken for violations, Encourage SUD treatment and recovery housing,
- Not restrict/prohibit CoC funded housing projects from requiring sobriety or participation in treatment.



Guidance on HUD CoC Service Participation Requirements

Guidance on Service Participation Requirements:

HUD introduced strong incentives for service participation requirements

This guidance for implementing service participation requirements promotes:

- accountability
- participant choice
- housing stability
- recovery-oriented practice

Street Outreach 2027 Renewal Evaluation Criteria Benchmarks - Discuss today, vote by e-mail

- Outreach Criteria were previously adopted
- Some benchmarks not set pending performance data

Criteria	2026 Average Performance	Proposed 2027 Benchmark
Adult participants who increase any cash income from entry to exit/follow-up	16%	20%
Participants who exited to Permanent Housing	38%	40%
Participants who exited to Shelter or other positive destination	70%	70%



2027 Renewal Evaluation Criteria

CT BOS 2027 Renewal Evaluation Criteria

- No changes to criteria adopted by Steering Committee in 2026
- Lowered points for earned income and returns
 - No longer required by HUD @25%
- Youth Navigators scored in 2027
- Lower benchmarks previously recommended by Work Group and adopted by Steering Committee being implemented



2027 Renewal Evaluation Criteria Changes

Criteria	2026	2027
All participants with NON-CASH benefits excluding health insurance	95%	80%
RRH and TH: Percentage of leavers who exited to PH (adults)	95%	90%
PSH Only: Percentage of participants who remain in PSH or exited to PH	95%	90%
Returned to Homelessness: Percentage of leavers returned to homelessness w/in 12 months or less	Worth up to 50-55 points	Worth up to 2 points
Percentage of participants who increased EARNED INCOME from entry to exit/follow-up	Worth up to 50-55 points	Worth up to 2 points



Data Strategy Board Updates



Partner Announcements

Other Business?



Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings



Meetings are from 11:00-12:30 unless otherwise noted

- Aug 21, 2026
- Sept 18, 2026
- Oct 16, 2026
- Nov 20, 2026*
- Dec 18, 2026
- January 15, 2027
- February 19, 2027
- March 19, 2027
- April 16, 2027
- May 21, 2027*
- June 11, 2027

*Semi-annual Meeting tentatively scheduled

Zoom Info for all SC meetings:

- [Meeting link](#)
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number: 646-876-9923

CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)



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