



National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families

WEBINAR

Preparing for Back to School in Unusual Times

July 23, 2020

About NCHE

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) serves as the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. NCHE partners with a variety of stakeholders supporting children, families, and youth experiencing homelessness.

- Website: <http://nche.ed.gov>
- Resources: <https://nche.ed.gov/resources/>
(listserv, helpline, webinars, and more)
- Twitter: @NCHEducation
Facebook: [facebook.com/NCHEducation](https://www.facebook.com/NCHEducation)



Christina Dukes
Deputy Director,
Partnerships and Policy

Youth at Higher Risk for Homelessness

Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



346%

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

120%

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

162%

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

33%

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

83%

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

200%

Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk



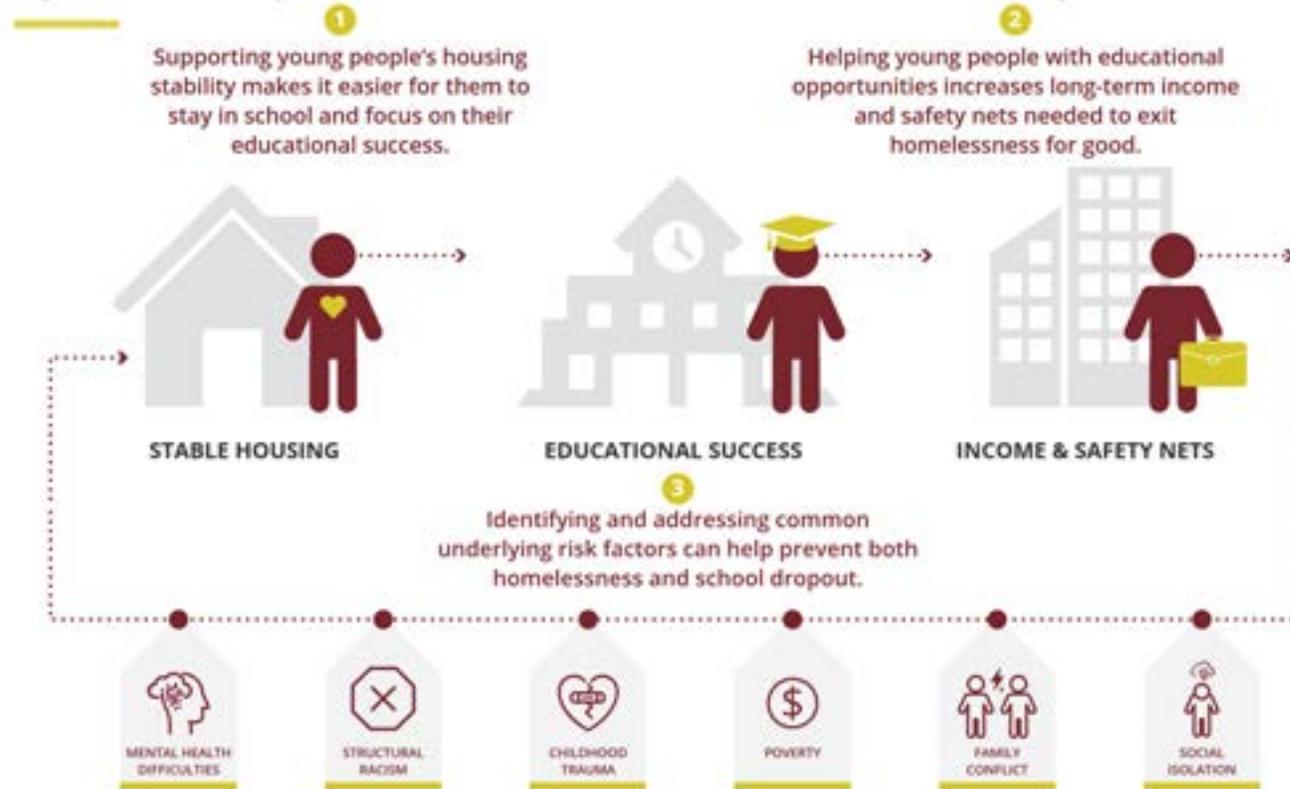
Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org

VOICES OF
YOUTH COUNT

Source: http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ChapinHall_VoYC_1-Pager_Final_111517.pdf

“The Education Premium”

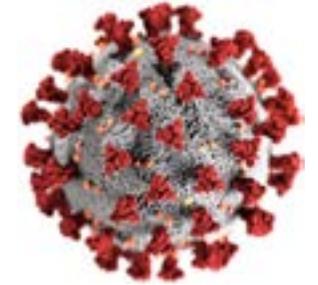
Figure 1. We need systemic solutions that address education and homelessness together



VOICES OF
YOUTH COUNT

Source: <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/missed-opportunities-education-among-youth-experiencing-homelessness-in-america/>

The Effects of the Pandemic



- Mass and abrupt shift to remote learning model
- Concerns about
 - Student access to school-based supports, food, and needed technology for many student groups
 - The ability for both schools and students to adapt successfully to a remote learning environment and remain meaningfully connected
 - Increased numbers of families and youth experiencing homelessness due to coronavirus-related economic upheaval
 - How to reopen schools balancing varying considerations

RHY/School Partnership Areas



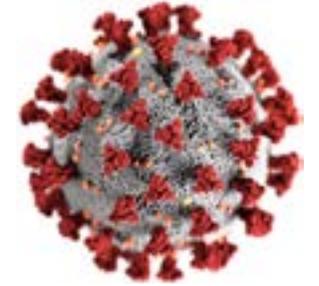
- Frame partnership around statutory requirements for collaboration, and desired outcomes for young people
- Areas of focus
 - Identification and cross-systems referrals
 - Supporting high school graduation
 - Supporting higher education access and success
 - Supporting pregnant and parenting youth with early care and education

“Partnership Starter Pack”



- Reach out and connect
 - [State Coordinator and local liaison contact information](#) (*click on your state in the map*)
 - Higher education landscapes vary by state and institution; contact the [NCHE helpline](#) for assistance understanding your context and possible contacts
- Focus on concrete and mutually-beneficial efforts
- Start somewhere and build
- Continue to invest over time

Applying a Pandemic Lens



- How can we partner to identify and connect with young people experiencing homelessness in the current environment? How can we connect young people to needed supports across our two systems?
- How can we partner to support school engagement in the current environment? How can we help young people “play the long game” with education in times of uncertainty and stress?
- How can we ensure that young people experiencing homelessness are connected with needed food security, school-based supports, remote learning support, and technology?

More Information



- NCHE issue brief: [*Partnering to Support Educational Success for Runaway and Homeless Youth*](#)
- NCHE helpline: 800.308.2145, homeless@serve.org
- NCHE webpage: [COVID-19 Information](#)
- CDC: [*Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool*](#)
- U.S. Department of Education webpage: [COVID-19 \("Coronavirus"\) Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)
- U.S. Department of Education webpage: [Education for Homeless Children and Youths program webpage](#)

Thank You!



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Questions?

About Children's Aid Society West Inc.

CAS a nonprofit agency, has been in operation since 1912. We operate two programs the **Children's Home** and The **Teen Emergency Shelter**. Both are licensed as emergency shelters and assessment centers through TDFPS.

The **Children's Home**, which has been at its current location since 1976, is a 26-bed facility licensed to serve children ages 2 through 17. The Children's Home accepts primarily court ordered placements through Child Protective Services (CPS).

The **Teen Emergency Shelter**, which has been at its current location since 1992, is a 8-bed facility licensed to serve children ages 10 through 17. TES accepts primarily Runaway and Homeless Youth and also works with the National Safe Place to offer Safe Place locations throughout the North Texas area.

- Website: www.caswt.org



How We Addressed Educational Success for Homeless Youth

- Communication with Youth, Families, and Schools
- Basic Needs and Resources for Learning
- Surviving to Thriving - Reaching our Academic Goals

Communicating with Youth, Families, and Schools

Effective communication strategies to support our RHY program.

- Agency contacts schools before each semester begins-Presentation for all school staff on RHY services locally. Additional Outreach for Guidance Counselors.

Successful student school engagement strategies we fostered on behalf of our RHY.

- Reaching at-risk youth identified by the Homeless Liaison, Homeless Coordinator, or Guidance Counselors. Meet with youth, parents, and school liaison to determine a plan of service
- Promoting RHY services in schools with contact cards, posters, and also gateway items kits or supplies, *School Lunch Program and Social Programs Online.

Communicating with Youth, Families, and Schools (cont.)

Strategies we implemented to strengthen linkages with the McKinney-Vento liaisons.

- Identify your School Districts - Homeless Liaison and Homeless Coordinators (Annual Meeting, Monthly Reports, and Meeting Needs of Youth)

Supporting RHY completion of school assignments to sustain academic success during this crisis.

- Case Managers verify academic issues or needs with counselors and teachers. Staff assist with homework and assignment completion. Tutoring is provided to ensure academic success

Basic Needs and Resources for Learning

- **Basic Needs** (Food, Shelter, Clothing, Hygiene, Medical)
 - How our organization assisted with these needs
 - Make a Referral List of agencies that can assist with providing these items. Verify that they still operate during the COVID crisis
 - Food Delivery/Food Pantry
 - Mental Health and Counseling
 - PPE- If Required
- **Educational Resources for Online Learning**
 - Internet (Finding the Faster Source)
 - Devices (Tablet, Phone, Computers)
 - School Supplies

Surviving- Locating School Supplies and Technology

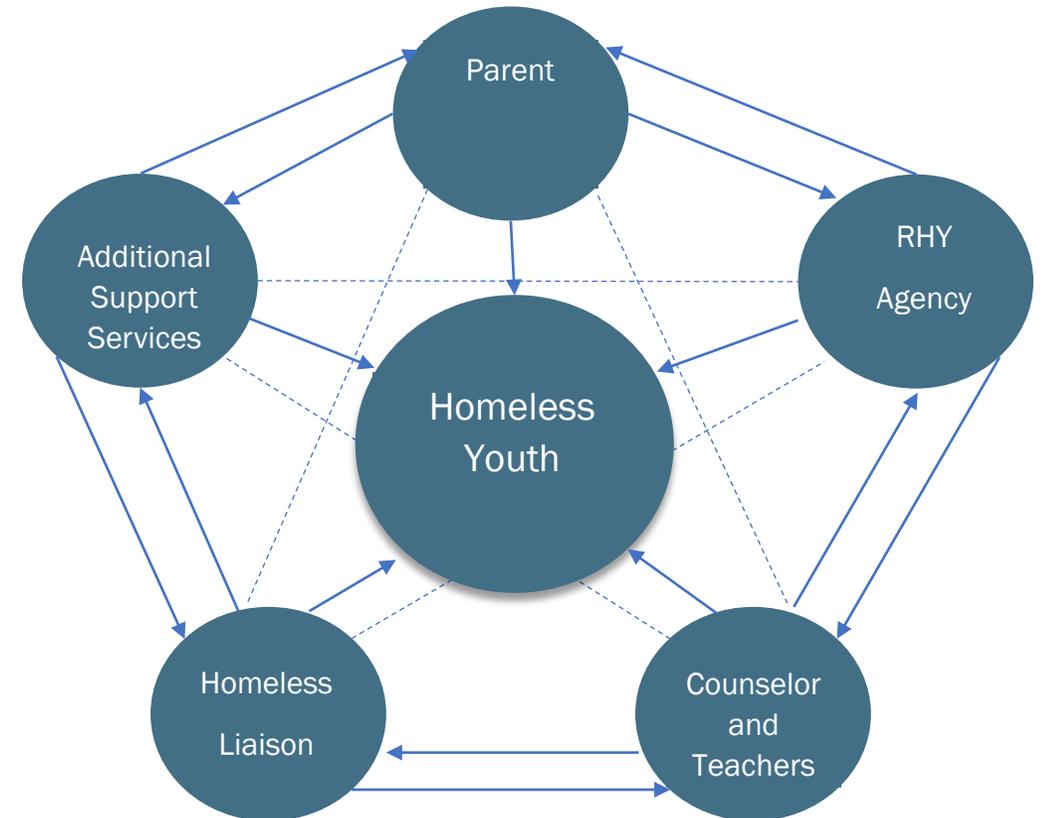
- Having Access to Supplies
- Internet Providers
- Wi-Fi, Data Plan, Speed of Connection
- Homeless Liaison In Schools
- Local Tech Companies and Chains
(Grants and Donations)
 - BestBuy, Walmart, Target
 - Small Businesses
 - Cell Phone Companies
 - Ask for Donations on Social Media



Thriving- Building a Personal Education Plan

Personal Education Plans are key to identifying needs and wrap around services for a youths educational success.

- Youth
- Parent
- Teacher/Counselor
- Homeless Liaison or Homeless Coordinator
- RHY Agency
- Additional Resources-Tutoring, Counseling, Employment, Financial Assistance, Transportation, and Housing





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Thank you!

Questions?

Link to the Clearinghouse Website

<https://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov/>



Thank you!

MSG

MANHATTAN STRATEGY GROUP