

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Policy:

All CoC- and ESG-funded projects shall ensure all children and unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school, or in early childhood programs, and are connected to appropriate education related services in the community.

Procedure:

- 1.) At least one staff person in each CoC-and ESG funded program shall be familiar with the rights of parents and unaccompanied youth, and the responsibilities of local school districts contained in both the Iowa Code 281-33 and 42 USC CHAPTER 119, SUBCHAPTER VI, Part B pertaining to the education of homeless children and youth.
- 2.) Within 24 hours of entering a program, or by the next school day, parents should be assisted in enrolling their children in school or early childhood programs, and unaccompanied youth should be assisted in enrolling in school.
 - 2.1) Assistance should include discussing with parents and unaccompanied youth about their education rights, including the right to:
 - Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
 - Continue to attend the school they had been attending prior to moving into the shelter, with transportation provided by the school district; or to enroll in the school in the local attendance area where the shelter is located.
 - Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.
 - 2.2) Inform unaccompanied youth of their rights to enroll in school without a parent or legal guardian.
 - 2.3) Provide parents and unaccompanied youth with brochures or other information that summarizes their educational rights, as well as contact information for the school liaison and/or state homeless education coordinator.
 - 2.4) Place posters about educational rights in places where parents and unaccompanied youth can see them
- 3.) If resistance is met at the neighborhood school level to enrolling children and youth, or obtaining transportation to/from school, the local liaison for the school district should be contacted immediately so that as little time as possible lapses in school attendance.
- 4.) When a family or unaccompanied youth exits a HUD homeless program, ensure that the family or youth knows that they continue to have educational rights for at least the remainder of the school year.
- 5.) At least one time per year, Homeward shall convene a meeting of CoC- and ESG-funded programs, and the liaisons from school districts most attended by children and youth served by these programs, where education and early childhood issues may be discussed in more depth.

