



CT 503 CoC Educational Responsibilities

Updated : April 7, 2021

Background

Federal law ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth 18-24 experiencing homelessness. Every school district in CT is required to designate a homeless liaison that is responsible for ensuring the identification, school enrollment, attendance and opportunities for academic success of students in homeless situations. In addition, HUD establishes requirements for CoCs and project applicants through the annual CoC competition and the CT 503 CoC has established related requirements. This document summarizes basic information about the CoC responsibilities and recipients/sub-recipients of CoC and ESG funds. For more information or to find contact information for your local homeless liaison please visit: <http://youth-help.org>

Information is also available at the National Center for Homeless Education: <http://center.serve.org/nche/briefs.php>

Responsibilities of CoC

CT 503 CoC is responsible for coordinating with your local school district and the FC Coordinated Access Network (CAN) in the following ways:

- Helping to identify children and youth who are eligible for educational services. If a child or youth does not have a fixed, regular, adequate place to sleep at night, he or she is eligible. This includes those living in places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, transitional housing, motels/hotels, campgrounds, or in doubled-up situations.
- Helping to ensure that all families with children and youth who qualify in your area are informed about their educational rights and their eligibility for educational services and they receive those services.
- Attending relevant meetings and planning events held by your local school district.
- Ensuring that the local school districts homeless liaisons are aware of 211 and CAN processes for connecting homeless families and youth to ESG & CoC resources and helping to resolve any issues that might arise in linking eligible households to those resources.
- Helping to ensure that when placing families in emergency or transitional housing, consideration is given to the educational needs of children, including placing children as close as possible to schools of origin and early childhood care and education programs.

Responsibilities of Recipients/Sub-recipients – Sample Policy

Recipients and sub-recipients of CoC and ESG funds serving families with children and/or youth 18-24 are responsible for the things outlined in the sample policy below, which is intended to providers to comply with requirements established under federal law, by HUD through the annual CoC project application, and by CT 503 All projects receiving CoC funds that are serving families with children



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and/or youth 18-24 are required to have similar policies. Projects may opt to adapt this sample policy or to adopt a different policy that fulfills the requirements.

Purpose:

To ensure that participants in (INSERT CoC PROJECT NAME) are helped to understand their educational rights established under Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized by Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act. To ensure that children and youth are immediately enrolled in school, as required by federal and State law, & to ensure that they are connected to educational services to help them succeed in school.

Policy:

1. All housing, whether temporary or permanent, provided by the CoC project shall be located in neighborhoods that are accessible to community resources and services, including schools, libraries, and other educational services.
2. The Program Director and/or his/her designee is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring that all families with children and youth participating in this project are informed about their educational rights and their eligibility for educational services at intake and as necessary thereafter.
 - b. Ensuring that no matter where they live, how long they have lived there, or how long they plan to stay, all children and youth participating in the project are enrolled in school immediately, even if they lack the paperwork normally required. Enrollment shall occur as quickly as possible and within no more than 48 hours of project entry. Children and youth who are not required by State law to enroll in school, shall be encouraged but not required to enroll.
 - c. Advocating as necessary to ensure that homeless students are able to choose to continue to attend their school of origin (i.e., where they went before becoming homeless or the school in which they were last enrolled), or the local school where they live currently. Students have the right, if feasible, to attend their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of the academic year during which they find permanent housing.
 - d. Advocating on behalf of homeless students as necessary to ensure that they receive the services for which they are eligible, including assistance from the local school district's homeless liaison, early childhood education programs, Head Start, services for disabled students, free school meals, services for English language learners, gifted and talented



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services, before and after school care, and referrals to health, mental health, dental and other services.

- e. Helping homeless students to succeed in school and to get help from the local homeless education liaison, as necessary.
- f. Developing relationships with colleges to access higher education services specifically for homeless youth.
- g. Designating a staff person who is responsible for:
 - Helping participants to understand their educational rights
 - Ensuring that children and youth are enrolled in school & connected to services
 - Ensuring that children and youth receive the transportation services to which they are entitled (i.e., school districts must provide transportation to and from schools of origin, as necessary).

These need not be the only responsibilities of the designated staff person.

- i) Ensuring that the designated person is involved in the development of participant's service plans where there are extensive or significant unmet educational needs.
- j) Ensuring that no policies, procedures, or practices that are inconsistent or interfere with the educational rights established under federal law are adopted by the project.