

# Outreach to Homeless Families Guidance

## Purpose

This document provides the definition of the McKinney-Vento Act, recruitment strategies and next steps in enrolling and supporting the homeless family.

## Guidance

The Federal McKinney-Vento Act requires us to identify homeless children and remove all barriers for enrollment into our programs. Transitional housing, shelters and churches are locations where outreach for recruitment can occur. When a family meets the definition of homeless, the child is categorically eligible and the *Living Situation Survey* is completed.

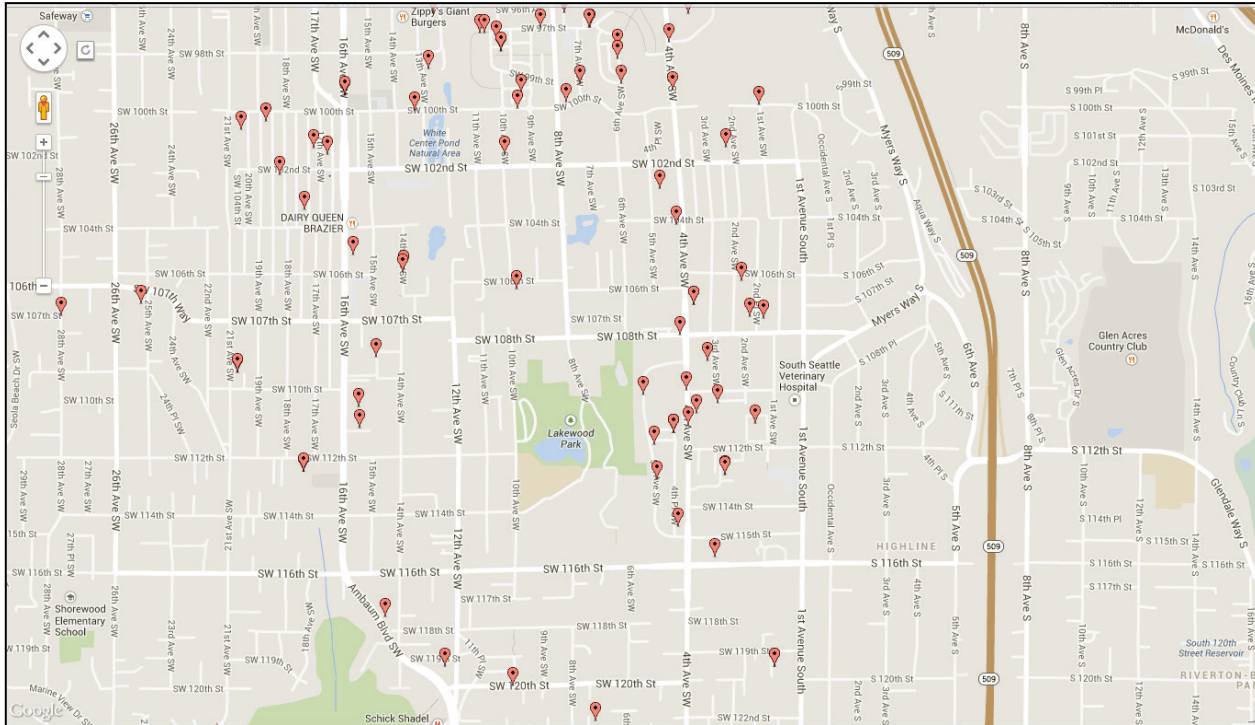
### Meeting the definition of “Homeless”

Families who share adequate housing on a permanent basis or due to cultural preferences/convenience are not covered by the Act. The McKinney-Vento Act covers immigrant families who can no longer live with their sponsor and therefore become homeless. It does not apply to immigrant students who live in a fixed, regular and adequate residence.

### Strategies for recruiting Homeless Families

- Develop formal partnership with community-based organizations around your service area:
  - Food Banks
  - Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
  - Public Health Clinics
- Homeless Shelters (see King County and Pierce County Resource Guides )
- Post flyers at local K-12 schools to recruit siblings of K-12 students
- Ask the schools to post announcement on their newsletter
- Translate your flyers in multiple languages
- Mapping of recruitment area
  - The purpose of this mapping process is to ensure recruitment occurs in all areas.
  - For example, the red dots on the map below represent applications received for various zip codes. Similar mapping can be done for your service area. Contact your Family Support Coordinator if you need assistance with this process.

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## Income verification of Homeless Families

All homeless children are categorically eligible. See Eligibility section of the manual for guidance.

## Related Documents

Living Situation Survey

## Resources

<http://www.k12.wa.us/homelessd/assistanceact.aspx>

Below are links to King County and Pierce County Resource Guides. The guides provide name of organizations by the type of service. Many of these service areas serve homeless and/or low-income families that can be referred to an Early Learning program.

[http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/detention/resource\\_guide.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/detention/resource_guide.aspx)

<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1986>