



# OUR HOME

**Opening Doors: Statewide Access to Education for Homeless Children and Youth**  
**ILLINOIS MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

October 2010

Volume 9 - Issue 1

## Homeless Data In IWAS

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is requesting that school districts provide more detailed information on homeless children and **unaccompanied** youth through the Student Information System (SIS).

This tracking system is more accurate and will give those who work with homeless children and youth a better idea of what areas of need should be addressed.

Information on the new homeless data elements can be found at:

<http://www.isbe.net/sis/pdf/homeless.pdf>

Please work with your district staff to identify and report this very at-risk population.

The receive an electronic copy of OUR HOME, please send your request to:

[mworthin@roe26.net](mailto:mworthin@roe26.net)

or this current issue of OUR HOME and back issues are available at

<http://homelessed.net/resource/newsletters.htm>

### **ISBE Homeless Assistance Hotline** **800/215-6379**

Sharon Neely,  
Principal Consultant  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777-0001  
Phone 217/557-7323  
Fax 217/782-7937

[saneely@isbe.net](mailto:saneely@isbe.net)

# A B

## Alphabet Soup *Understanding What's What, Who's Who and What's Due!*

# C

*Ann Schwarm, Area 5 Lead Liaison, ROE #3 Bond/Fayette/Effingham*

Each fall when local homeless education liaisons, new and experienced alike, attend annual training sessions, they are barraged with terms and acronyms that they may or may not fully understand. In this series of articles, we will endeavor to impart a basic understanding of these important terms. Here is the long and short of it.

**Local Liaison** - This is the individual at the local school district level who is responsible for guiding the homeless student through the enrollment process, seeing that the homeless student receives all the necessary school resources and services and links the homeless students and his/her family with other community resources. The local liaison also is responsible for completing all necessary regional, area and state reports.

**LAL or Lead Area Liaisons** - There are seven, one in each of the six geographic areas of the state and one in the city of Chicago. See page 4 of this newsletter for names and contact information.

**School of Origin** - This is the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled.

**"Neighborhood" School** - This is the school that serves the students in the geographic area in which the student is being temporarily housed.

**Doubled Up** - This is a term used to describe a living situation when a homeless student is living in a home that is not the home of his/her family (ie: living with an aunt, friend, boyfriend/girlfriend, grandparent, etc.).

**Couch Surfing** - This is a term to describe what many homeless teenagers will do - go from house to house - changing nightly, every few days, weekly - and sleeping on the couch or spare bed with no permanency in the living situation.

**S.I.S.** - Student Information System, which is the electronic system into which homeless education data is recorded on an on-going basis.

**LEA** - Local Education Agency and another term for "school."

**NCHE** - National Center for Homeless Education

**NAEHCY** - National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

**FERPA** - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and an act that must not be violated when attempting to verify a student's living situation.

**IEP** - Individual Education Plan, a special education term, for an agreed to plan for individualized instruction for a student.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Upcoming Events

### 22nd Annual NAEHCY Conference November 6 - 9, 2010



NAEHCY's (*National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth*) annual conference is dedicated to improving the education of homeless children and youth by providing a unique showcase of best practices in education and homeless service provision from across the country. The conference equips educators and advocates nationwide with the knowledge, skills, information, and inspiration they need to remove barriers and help ensure that every child and youth experiencing homelessness is successful academically, personally, and socially. For more information go to: [http://naehcy.org/conf/conf\\_2010.html](http://naehcy.org/conf/conf_2010.html)

### Annual Statewide ESEA/ NCLB Conference February 8 - 10, 2011

Designed in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education this conference brings the latest news to Illinois educators regarding federal and state programs, innovative and research-based classroom techniques, and hands-on workshops. For more information go to: [http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f\\_events-nclb.html](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc/pages/f_events-nclb.html)

## Locating Community Resources

Deb Foust, Area 2 Homeless Liaison  
ROE #47 Lee/Ogle



As a school or district liaison, effectively meeting the needs of our homeless children often involves finding resources outside of the classroom. Because each community is different, homeless liaisons need to be familiar with their own local community resources—both in the public and private sectors. Personal connections to resource agencies continue to be the best means of getting the services needed for children. Our homeless families are already under a great deal of stress, so they do not need to “go on a wild goose chase” to locate resource services. This is why it is critical that homeless liaisons know the local resources and keep current names and contact numbers. The sooner homeless liaisons are able to help address these “outside-of-the-classroom” issues, the sooner children are able to concentrate on their education.

To assist homeless liaisons in finding local resources, following are some resources that are available statewide. Many have a “search engine” that assists with locating offices that will serve local areas. More services are provided than what is highlighted, but this may help to locate the appropriate agency.

Catholic Charities – [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) or 703-549-1390  
Catholic Charities works with families in emergency situations, in the form of case management and financial help.

Child and Family Connections – [www.childandfamilyconnections.org](http://www.childandfamilyconnections.org) or 888-594-8364 This organization ensures that referrals are handled in a timely manner. Children with special needs may benefit the most from this group.

Department of Children & Family Services – [www.state.il.us/dcfs](http://www.state.il.us/dcfs) or 800-232-3798 The Department of Children & Family Services helps with a wide range of services including: locating medical providers, foster care, and Medicaid billing.

Department of Human Services – [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us) or 800-843-6154  
This Department helps with cash, food, housing, and child care.

Illinois Department of Public Health – [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us) or 800-547-0466  
The Illinois Department of Public Health helps with locating vital records such as birth, divorce, and death certificates. The Department also assists with vaccinations, food, and water testing.

Lutheran Social Services – [www.lssi.org](http://www.lssi.org) or 847-635-4600 This organization helps with foster care, crisis intervention, counseling, and housing.

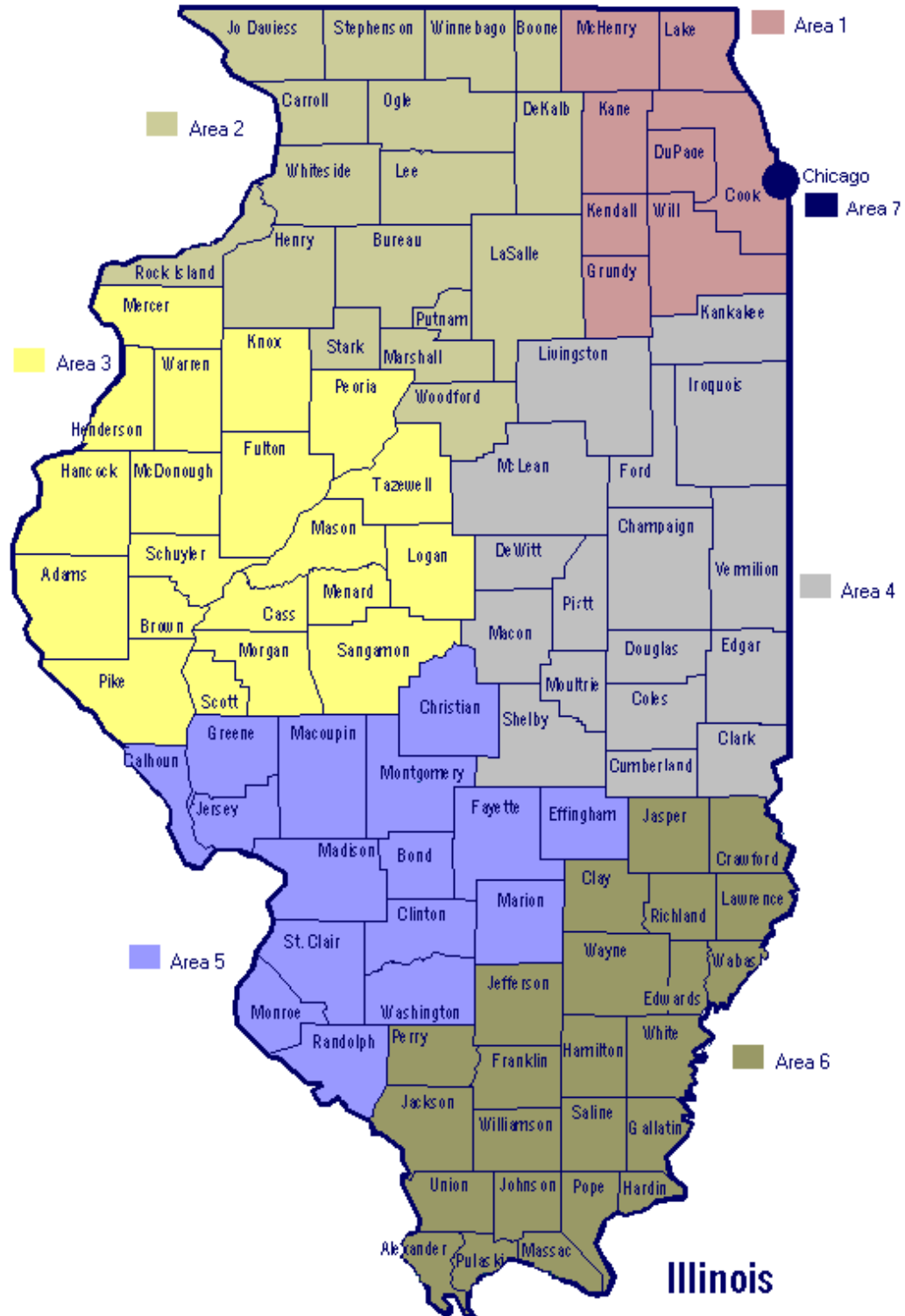
Salvation Army – [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org) The Salvation Army helps with disaster relief, food, clothing, furniture, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Department of Employment Security – [www.ides.state.il.us](http://www.ides.state.il.us) or 800-244-5631  
The Department of Employment Security helps with unemployment benefits and job placement.

(Continued on page 5)

## Illinois McKinney-Vento Lead Liaison Programs

<http://homelessed.net>



## ILLINOIS LEAD LIAISON PROGRAMS

**Area 1** – Dave Levek, Lead Liaison – [dlevek@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:dlevek@willcountyillinois.com) - Regional Office of Education #56  
 Address: 702 West Maple Street  
 City State Zip: New Lenox, IL 60451  
 Phone: (815) 462-5404 Fax: (815) 740-4788  
 Web Site: <http://www.will.k12.il.us/>

**Area 2** – Lois Porter, Lead Liaison - [lporter@leeogle.org](mailto:lporter@leeogle.org) - Regional Office of Education #47  
 Address: 7772 Clinton Street  
 City State Zip: Dixon, IL 61021  
 Phone: (815) 652-2054 ext. 234 Fax: (815) 652-2053  
 Web Site: [www.leeogle.org](http://www.leeogle.org)

**Area 3** - Eileen Worthington, Lead Liaison - [mworthin@roe26.net](mailto:mworthin@roe26.net) - Regional Office of Education #26  
 Address: 130 South Lafayette Street  
 City State Zip: Macomb, IL 61455  
 Phone: (309) 837-4821 Fax: (309) 837-2887  
 Web Site: [www.mcdonough.k12.il.us/roe26](http://www.mcdonough.k12.il.us/roe26)

**Area 4** – Jim Moberly, Lead Liaison - [jmoberly@i-kan.org](mailto:jmoberly@i-kan.org) - Regional Office of Education #32  
 Address: 189 East Court Street - Suite 600  
 City State Zip: Kankakee, IL 60901  
 Phone: (815) 937-2952 Fax: (815) 937-2921  
 Web Site: [www.ikan.k12.il.us/frconten.htm](http://www.ikan.k12.il.us/frconten.htm)

**Area 5** – Ann Schwarm, Lead Liaison - [aschwarm@fayette.k12.il.us](mailto:aschwarm@fayette.k12.il.us) - Regional Office of Education #3  
 Address: 1830 W. Fletcher St. - Suite B  
 City State Zip: Vandalia IL 62471  
 Phone: (618) 283-1763 Fax: (618) 283-9833  
 Web Site: [www.fayette.k12.il.us/roeweb](http://www.fayette.k12.il.us/roeweb)

**Area 6** – Mickey Sullivan, Lead Liaison - [msullivan@roe21.k12.il.us](mailto:msullivan@roe21.k12.il.us) - Regional Office of Education #21  
 Address: Williamson County Courthouse - 200 W. Jefferson St.  
 City State Zip: Marion, IL 62959  
 Phone: (618) 998-1283 ext. 212 Fax: (618) 998-9226  
 Web Site: [www.roe21.k12.il.us](http://www.roe21.k12.il.us)

**Area 7** – Tremel Daniel, Lead Liaison - [tdaniel@cps.k12.il.us](mailto:tdaniel@cps.k12.il.us) - Chicago Public Schools District #299  
 Address: Chicago Public Schools, Office of School Coordination - 125 S. Clark  
 City State Zip: Chicago, IL 60603  
 Phone: (773) 553-2242 Fax: (773) 553-2182  
 Web Site: [www.oism.cps.k12.il.us/hep.shtml](http://www.oism.cps.k12.il.us/hep.shtml)

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Marica Cullen**, Division Administrator  
[mcullen@isbe.net](mailto:mcullen@isbe.net)  
**Sharon Neely**, Principal Consultant  
[saneeley@isbe.net](mailto:saneeley@isbe.net)  
**Vicki Hodges**, Principal Consultant  
[vhodges@isbe.net](mailto:vhodges@isbe.net)  
 100 North First Street – C215  
 Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
 ISBE Homeless Hotline 800-/215-6379  
 Phone: (217) 557-7323  
 Fax: (217) 782-7937  
 Web Site: [isbe.net/homeless](http://isbe.net/homeless)

**OPENING DOORS** – <http://homelessed.net>

**Adult Learning Resource Center**  
 2626 S. Clearbrook Dr., Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
 Phone: (224) 366-8620 Fax: (847) 378-6225  
**ROE 26 – Hancock/McDonough**  
 130 S. Lafayette – Suite 200, Macomb, IL 61455  
 Phone: (309) 837-4821 Fax: (309) 837-2887  
**ROE 3 – Bond/Fayette/Effingham**  
 1830 W. Fletcher St. - Suite B, Vandalia IL 62471  
 Phone: (618) 283-1763 Fax: (618) 283-9833

**Alphabet Soup** - (Continued from page 1)

ELL - English Language Learner

ESL - English as a Second Language

LEP - Limited English Proficiency

IWAS - ISBE Web Application Security System and the system in which homeless education data used to be gathered. Now that information is gathered through SIS.

McKinney and Vento - These are the last names of the U. S. Senators who authored the act that protects the educational rights of homeless students.

More who's who and what's what next time as we also start to look at what's due!

**Locating Community Resources** - (Continued from page 2)

Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services - [www.hfs.illinois.gov](http://www.hfs.illinois.gov) or 800-526-5812 The Department of Healthcare & Family Services helps with healthcare coverage and child support services.



Medical and Dental Clinics – [www.freemedicalcamps.com](http://www.freemedicalcamps.com) This site can help locate clinics closest to your area.

Emergency Shelters – [www.hud.gov/local/il/homeless/shelters.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/local/il/homeless/shelters.cfm) This site lists shelters in your local area.

Red Cross – [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) The American Red Cross helps during emergency and disasters with shelter, food, and money.



**\*Additional resources can be found at the Opening Doors web site at: <http://homelessed.net> - click on [Resources](#)**

**National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**

November 14-20, 2010

Co-sponsored by: *National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness*



Each year, as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, many people take time to consider what they are thankful for, and donate some of their time to those less fortunate. Every year, in the spirit of Thanksgiving and education, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, one week prior to Thanksgiving. During this week over 500, schools, communities and cities throughout the nation endeavor to bring a greater awareness to the issues of hunger and homelessness. This manual not only serves as a guide to evaluate past efforts, but also as a tool to inspire your community to get involved with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week! The 2010 Awareness Week Manual can be downloaded at: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/awareness/2010index.html>

*\* Don't forget that the needs of the homeless do not disappear after the holidays. You can stay involved throughout the year by offering your time and talents. Your students or your organization can contribute any time during the year. Sponsor a dance and collect can goods; a food drive to support your local pantry; a pizza party for the neighborhood shelter; or arrange to read to homeless children For more ideas go to JustGive.org at <http://www.justgive.org/ways/50wayshomeles>*





# Opening Doors

Statewide Access to Education for Homeless Children and Youth — <http://homelessed.net>

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

### The Student Information System (SIS): The Importance of Reporting McKinney-Vento Students

*Sharon Neely and Vicki Hodges, Principal Consultants  
Curriculum & Instruction, ISBE*



The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) requires all state agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) to submit information to be able to determine the extent to which States ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to a free, appropriate public education under Title VII, Subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, also authorized as Title X, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended. The purpose of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in homeless situations. The SIS reporting program was designed to ensure that all homeless children and youth have equal access to public education and that the state reviews and revises policies and regulations to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, and academic achievement.

It is important to remember when reporting homeless children and youth in SIS to appoint a qualified member of staff, such as the district homeless liaison, who has attended appropriate trainings that have been made available to them or to request training through ISBE SIS personnel. Due to the level of responsibilities that district superintendents face and the time involved keeping records in SIS current, it is recommended that they appoint someone as the district homeless liaison and not assign themselves to that position. Staff personnel that may qualify for the district homeless liaison may include social workers, Title I coordinators, guidance staff or special services coordinators.

Finally, it is important to consider that as funding continues to become available based on the number of homeless children and youth reported in SIS in your district, your funding level could be vastly affected by inaccurate information.



## BEST PRACTICES

### Continuums of Care: What They Are and How They Can Help Glenda Farkas, West Central Illinois Continuum of Care Chairperson

Continuums of Care (COC) were created to address homelessness in a comprehensive manner along with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). COCs consist of groups that represent public and private nonprofit organizations, government agencies, housing developers, service providers, neighborhood groups, veterans' organizations, domestic violence agencies, coalitions of churches, groups that represent homelessness or formerly homeless persons, and others who want to ensure that adequate services are provided while eliminating or reducing the duplication of services. COC funding comes from numerous resources; several agencies involved are funded through HUD. COCs provide help to get students on the path to success while assisting community agencies at the same time by assisting community agencies at the same time by:

- assisting in eliminating transportation needs,
- providing necessary items and tools for educational needs,
- working within the continuum to connect student with housing resources, and
- making a connection to other services in the community.

School districts and COCs can work together to deal with the problems of lack of appropriate and affordable housing, lack of guidance to community resources and connection to those resources for homeless children and youth by understanding what each has to offer and keeping the communication open and current. COCs have tools and resources available that can be provided to districts to assist in meeting many of the needs of students and their families struggling with homelessness.

For further information, visit <http://www.hud.gov/local/il/homeless/coccontacts.cfm>.

**Opening Doors** is an I.S.B.E. grant-funded project provided through the McKinney - Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.

Under the direction of the Curriculum and Instruction Division, the goal of this initiative is to disseminate information and provide technical assistance to Illinois schools and shelters as to the educational rights and needs of homeless children and youth. The Opening Doors project partners include:

Adult Learning Resource Center, 2626 Clearbrook Dr., Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Phone 224/366-8620 / Fax 847/378-6225  
ROE #26 Hancock/McDonough, 130 S. Lafayette St.-Suite 200, Macomb, IL 61455. Phone 309/837-4821 / Fax 309/837-2887  
ROE #3 Bond/Fayette/Effingham, 1830 W. Fletcher St.-Suite B, Vandalia, IL 62471. Phone 618/283-1763 / Fax 618/283-9833

OUR HOME is supported 100% through a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education funded by the United States Department of Education under the McKinney-Vento Education for the Homeless Children & Youth Program.