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**Description of the Program: (2011-2013)**

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized by Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2011, ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. This federal law ensures that children experiencing homelessness can enroll, attend and succeed in school and preschool programs. The Missouri State Plan for Homeless Children and Youth serves as legislation which enacts this law and assures that homeless children within the state are afforded a free and appropriate education and have an opportunity to meet the same challenging academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

**Description of How the Program's Services are Developed and Delivered:**

Services to homeless students may include transportation, educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, gifted and talented programs, before- and after-school programs, and programs for students with limited English proficiency. Homeless students are not to be segregated in a separate school or placed in a separate program within a school based on a child's status as homeless. These services are individualized according to the child's specific needs based on conversations with social workers, teachers and administrators.

**Key Program Stakeholder Groups**

- Students
- Parents
- Staff
- Administrators
- Board of Education
- Taxpayers
- Other (Specify.)

**Student and/or Stakeholder Needs Addressed by the Program**

Transportation is the most immediate need of a student experiencing homelessness. If it is in the best interest of the homeless child or youth to attend the school of origin, transportation to and from that school is provided. The Homeless Coordinator for Special School District works with the Homeless Coordinator of the school district of origin and the school district where the child is residing to arrange for, and share the costs for transportation. Additionally, students identified as homeless are eligible to receive a wide variety of services and supports. The most common of these include free/reduced lunch, counseling/social work, staff professional development and awareness, referral for medical, dental and other health services, school supplies, referrals to external agencies, clothing and parent education.

**Overall Goals of the Program**

**Expected Measurable Outcomes**

Goal 1: To properly identify homeless students.	<p>1.1 New SSD social work staff will be trained to immediately identify and respond to families who experience homelessness.</p> <p>1.2 The SSD Homeless Coordinator will meet quarterly with other regional coordinators to collaborate on topics of mutual interest relating to homelessness.</p>
Goal 2: To provide homeless students with the services and supports to which they are entitled.	2.1 Guidelines and descriptions of available services will be displayed in prominent locations in SSD schools.

<p>Goal 3: To utilize a tracking system to monitor and study emerging trends that will help to deliver needed services and supports.</p>	<p>3.1 Monitor attendance for students identified as homeless.</p> <p>3.2 Monitor services provided to students identified as homeless.</p>
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**Evaluation Questions**

- What is the status of the program’s progress toward achieving the goals?
- What do students and other stakeholders consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the program?
- What do staff consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the program?
- How does the program’s actual implementation compare with the program’s design?
- How should priorities be changed to put more focus on achieving the goals?
- How should goals be changed? Any added or removed?

**Data Collection Methods**

- Surveys and questionnaires
- Interviews
- Document reviews
- Observations
- Focus groups
- Case studies
- Assessments
- Other (Specify)



**Evaluation Results**

What is the status of the program's progress toward achieving the goals?

Goal 1: To properly identify homeless students.

Measurable Objective 1:	1.1 New SSD social work staff will be trained to immediately identify and respond to families who experience homelessness.
Results: Met. All social work staff were trained to identify and respond to families who experience homelessness.	

Measurable Objective 2:	1.2 The SSD Homeless Coordinator will meet quarterly with other regional coordinators to collaborate on topics of mutual interest relating to homelessness.
Results: Met. The SSD Homeless Coordinator met quarterly with other regional coordinators.	

Goal 2: To provide homeless students with the services and supports to which they are entitled.

Measurable Objective 1:	2.1 Guidelines and descriptions of available services will be displayed in prominent locations in SSD schools.
Results: Met. The guidelines and descriptions were displayed prominently on posters in all SSD schools.	

Goal 3: To utilize a tracking system to monitor and study emerging trends that will help to deliver needed services and supports.

Measurable Objective 1:	3.1 Monitor attendance for students identified as homeless.
Results: Met. Attendance was monitored individually by social workers in SSD schools.	

Measurable Objective 2:	3.2 Monitor services provided to students identified as homeless.													
Results: Met. Services were monitored through an electronic system of requests to Title I coordinator. In 2012-2013 \$1,784.24 of Title I funds were spent on homeless service. The total cost for homeless transportation was \$27,003.98. A total of 53 students were identified as homeless.														
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Students who were Homeless for at least part of the year in 2012-2013</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Total Identified</th> <th>In SSD Schools</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SPED</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tech</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Students who were Homeless for at least part of the year in 2012-2013				Total Identified	In SSD Schools	SPED	29	21	Tech	24	24
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What do key staff and stakeholders consider to be the strengths and opportunities for improvement /weaknesses of the program?

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>All social workers are trained annually to identify and provide services to homeless students.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities/Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Process of monitoring homeless student attendance is not systematic.</i></li> </ul>

How well aligned are the program’s priorities and processes with the goals of the program?

The program’s priorities and processes are well aligned with the goals of the program?

Deployment Level of Program Services: Services are well deployed, with no significant gaps.

Should priorities be changed to put more focus on achieving the goals?  Yes  No

Should goals be changed, added or removed?  Yes  No

**Evaluation Implications**

**General Recommendation Resulting from the Evaluation**

Select from the following possible recommendations resulting from the evaluation:

- Continue the program as is. It is meeting or exceeding all expected outcomes.
- Expand the program, replicating effective components.
- Streamline, refine, or consolidate elements of the program.
- Redesign the program.
- Reevaluate the purpose and/or goals of the program.
- Discontinue ineffective or nonessential program components.
- Discontinue the program.
- Other (Specify.)

## **Action Plans**

Determine feasibility of a system to identify designated person in each SSD school to monitor homeless attendance.

## **Review of Prior Action Plans**

- *Continued use of the NCLB Checklist and SSD internal tracking system/process to monitor services and supports provided to homeless students will be maintained.*

These checklists were used to monitor services and supports.

- *The coordinators of the Federal Programs, Food Service and Social Work departments will continue to be notified on a regular basis as to homeless students in the district.*

These notifications were made as students are identified.

- *The monthly social worker reporting process will be amended to include data on services provided to students identified as homeless.*

The social work data gathering system was amended to include requests for homeless services.

- *Further analysis of the factors affecting homeless students' attendance should be considered.*

The low number of homeless students and the high variability of each case prevent systematic analysis.

**Cost and Funding Source** The costs are included in the budget.