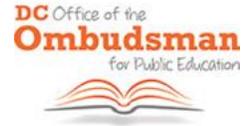




Homelessness Community Resource Toolkit



Dear DC Families, Schools, and Communities:

Recognizing that the issue of homelessness increasingly affects students and families in DC, the Office of the Student Advocate and the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education present this resource toolkit to centralize the most vital information and resources for our communities.

In this way, we hope it will help our students and families to ***be informed, be connected, and be empowered*** around issues of homelessness.

Please feel free to contact Office of the Student Advocate at (202) 741-4692 or student.advocate@dc.gov or Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education at (202) 741-0886 or om.budsman@dc.gov if you have questions about our work, this resource toolkit, or would like to discuss opportunities for us to work in partnership together.

Sincerely,

Faith Gibson Hubbard, Chief Student Advocate
Office of the Student Advocate | D.C. State Board of Education
441 4th St. NW, Suite 723N, Washington, DC 20001

Joyanna Smith, Ombudsman for Public Education
Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education | D.C. State Board of Education
441 4th St. NW, Suite 723N, Washington, DC 20001



Frequently Asked Questions

- **How are the educational rights of homeless children and youth protected?**

The McKinney-Vento (MKV) Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law to ensure that every homeless child receives services of support to eliminate barriers and meet the changing needs in education.

- **What are rights of homeless children and youths?**

Students experiencing homelessness have the right to:

- Enroll in school immediately, even if they do not have their school records, medical records, or any other documents schools require during the enrollment process.
- Stay in their school of origin (the school in which they were last enrolled before becoming homeless) if it is in their best interest.
- Attend the school nearest to the place where the family currently lives if it is in their best interest.
- Receive transportation assistance to and from school, if needed.
- Receive uniform assistance if wearing uniforms is a requirement of the school.
- Request help from the school's Homeless Liaison for other supports, such as medical, dental, mental, and other health-related services.

- **What is the definition of homeless children and youth?**

The McKinney-Vento (MKV) Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless as "individuals who lack a fixed (permanent), regular, and adequate (acceptable) nighttime residence."

- **Can homeless children enroll in school?**

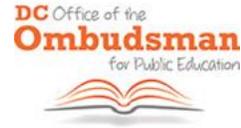
Yes. Schools must allow homeless students to enroll immediately. If families have problems working with the school's Homeless Liaison or getting their children enrolled, they can contact the OSSE Transitory Services team at 202-654-6123.

- **What school do homeless students have the right to enroll in?**

They have the right to continue to attend the same school they held the right to attend before becoming homeless. Alternatively, homeless students can enroll immediately at schools nearest to where they are staying.



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▪ **What if parents disagree about the school their students should attend?**

- DCPS must provide families a written statement of the reasoning behind their placement decision and the appeal rights.
- If families disagree, they can appeal the decision by contacting the school's Homeless Liaison. If families have problems working with the school's Homeless Liaison or getting the issue resolved at a local level, they can contact the OSSE Transitory Services team at 202-654-6123.
- During the appeal, students can enroll immediately where they choose.

▪ **What documents do homeless students need in order to enroll?**

Students have the right to enroll in school immediately even without the right paperwork. Schools cannot require homeless families or students to provide proof of residence or proof of immunization before enrolling.

▪ **How can homeless students get to and from school?**

Schools are required to provide transportation to homeless students, including those who receive special education services. In DC, schools provide metro fare for homeless students to travel to and from school. They also provide metro fare for parents of students who are too young to ride the bus or metro alone. If families have problems getting to and from school, they can contact the Student Transportation Parent Resource Center at 202-576-5000.

▪ **How can homeless students get uniforms?**

Schools will provide free uniforms for homeless students. If families have problems getting these materials they can contact the DCPS Homeless Children and Youth Program at 202-576-9502.

▪ **What other resources may be available to homeless students?**

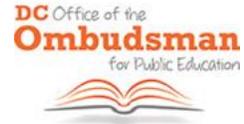
Schools may have funds to help homeless families pay for school supplies, glasses, immunizations, and SAT/AP/GED testing. Schools may also offer counseling, tutoring, and extra learning time for homeless students. To find out what services are available, contact your school's Homeless Liaison.

Please see below for a list of agencies and community organizations that can support homeless families and children.

Agency	Mission & Resources
<p>School's Homeless Liaison https://osse.dc.gov/publication/district-columbia-homeless-liaison-contact-list</p> 	<p>Each school has an identified homeless liaison trained and responsible for providing assistance to homeless students and their families by protecting their rights and providing them support.</p> <p>Ask at the school's front office.</p>
<p>DCPS Homeless Children and Youth Services https://dcps.dc.gov/service/homeless-children-and-youth-services-dcps Phone: 202-576-9502</p> <p>Homeless Children and Youth Services - DCPS</p> <p>DCPS is committed to serving all students residing in the District of Columbia, including homeless children and youth.</p> <p>A homeless student is defined as a child without a regular, fixed, and adequate nighttime residence. The child may live in a shelter, a temporary home, a motel, a car, a campground, or on the street. Homeless children may also be living temporarily with relatives or friends because of a loss of permanent housing.</p>  <p>Homeless Students' Rights</p> <p>The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 requires all school districts to provide homeless children and youth, including unaccompanied youth, a free and appropriate education.</p> <p>The Office of Youth Engagement (OYE) Homeless Children and Youth Program (HCYP) works with homeless students and families, schools, shelters, and community organizations to ensure that their basic educational rights are protected.</p> <p>These rights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate enrollment in school • Confidentiality regarding disclosure of homeless status • Continuity of educational program at the school of origin or placement in a school that is in the best interest of the student • Transportation assistance • A challenging, rigorous education equal to that of their peers 	<p>This office works with homeless students and families, schools, shelters, and community organizations to ensure their basic educational rights are protected.</p> <p>These rights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate enrollment • Confidentiality • Transportation assistance <p>Extra DCPS services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School supplies • School fee assistance • Parent training
<p>OSSE Homeless Children and Youth Program https://osse.dc.gov/service/education-homeless-children-and-youth-program Phone: 202-654-6123</p> 	<p>The mission of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program is to ensure free, appropriate, public educational opportunities for all homeless children and youth; to provide technical assistance for schools, shelters, and the community; and to heighten awareness of homeless issues.</p>



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DC Coalition for the Homeless

<http://www.dccfh.org/>

Phone: 202- 347-8870



The purpose of the Coalition is to assist individuals and families in the District of Columbia who have become homeless to fulfill their potential for economic self-sufficiency.

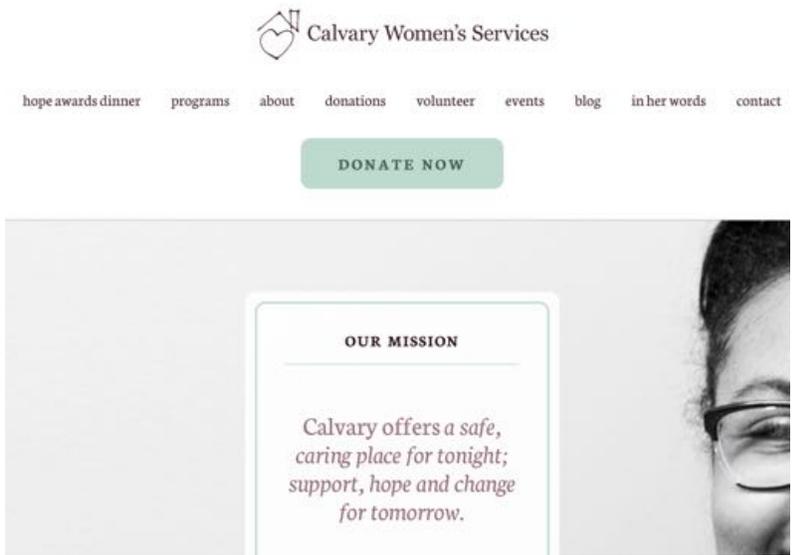
DC Interagency Council on Homelessness

<http://ich.dc.gov/>

Phone: 202-727-7973



The Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) is a group of cabinet-level leaders, providers of homeless services, advocates, homeless and formerly homeless leaders that come together to inform and guide the District's strategies and policies for meeting the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless in the District of Columbia.

Community Organization	Mission & Resources
<p>Bread for the City http://www.breadforthecity.org/ Phone: 202-265-2400</p>  <p>The mission of Bread for the City is to provide vulnerable residents of Washington, DC with comprehensive services, including food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services, in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.</p>	<p>The mission of Bread for the City is to provide vulnerable residents of Washington, DC with comprehensive services, including food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services, in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.</p>
<p>Calvary Women's Shelter http://calvaryservices.org Phone: 202-678-2341</p>  <p>Calvary offers a <i>safe, caring place for tonight; support, hope and change for tomorrow.</i></p>	<p>Calvary Women's Services offers housing, health, education and employment programs that empower homeless women in Washington, D.C. to change their lives.</p> <p>Services include personalized case management, life skills and education opportunities (LEAP), job placement services (Step Up DC), health services, and addiction recovery meetings.</p>

Catholic Charities

<https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org>

Phone: 202-772-4300



Catholic Charities assists individuals and families in need, especially those who are most vulnerable. We believe in helping people develop the skills and strength to move from crisis or isolation to stability and growth.

Community of Hope

<https://www.communityofhopedc.org>

Phone: 202-526-0017



Our Mission: Community of Hope creates opportunities for low-income families in Washington, DC, including those experiencing homelessness, to achieve good health, a stable home, family-sustaining income, and hope.

DC Central Kitchen

<https://dccentralkitchen.org>



DC Central Kitchen's mission is to use food as a tool to strengthen bodies, empower minds, and build communities. Every day, dedicated volunteers transform wasted food into balanced meals for the community.

WE FIGHT HUNGER DIFFERENTLY

Eyes Wide Open Mentoring

<http://www.ewomentoring.org/>



The mission of Eyes Wide Open Mentoring (EWOM) is to empower homeless youth to rise above their immediate circumstances and take the steps necessary to ensure successful futures. EWOM believes that the best way a homeless child can do this is with the help of a caring and committed adult mentor. EWOM serves homeless and transitioning youth exclusively with an innovative model designed to address the unique challenges that homelessness poses.

Friendship Place

<http://friendshipplace.org>

Phone: (202) 364-1419



Our mission is to empower individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness to rebuild their lives with the involvement of the community. Our vision is a DC community and a nation in which every person has a place to call "home."

Miriam's Kitchen

<https://miriamskitchen.org/>

Phone: (202) 452-8926



Miriam's Kitchen is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization founded in 1983 in response to an urgent need for services for the homeless in downtown Washington, DC.

N Street Village

www.nstreetvillage.org

Phone: (202) 939-2076



N Street Village is a community of empowerment and recovery for homeless and low-income women in Washington, D.C. With comprehensive services addressing both emergency and long-term needs, we help women achieve stability and make meaningful gains in their housing, income, employment, mental health, physical health, and addiction recovery.

National Network for Youth

<http://nn4youth.org>

Phone: 202-783-7949

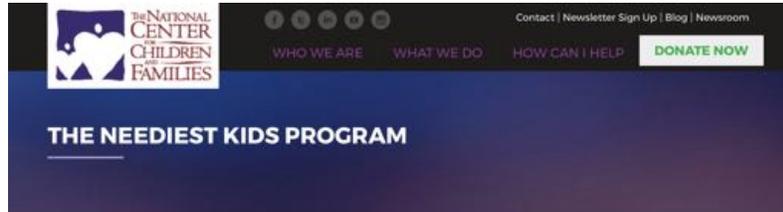


The nation's leading organization advocating at the federal level to educate the public and policymakers about the needs of homeless and disconnected youth.

Neediest Kids Fund

<http://www.nccf-cares.org/neediestkids/>

Phone: 202-543-3217



The Neediest Kids Program helps to provide vulnerable students with the tools they need in a manner that allows them the dignity they deserve to make their own decisions.

When a principal, teacher, social worker, counselor, nurse, or other school professional identifies a student struggling in school due to a lack of basic needs and school tools, they can request a purchase order from the Bridge to Success Program for the following goods or services:

- New clothing, coats, shoes, school uniforms
- Eye examination and glasses
- Food and personal care items
- School supplies
- Dental and medical care
- Bedding, diapers, etc.

Sasha Bruce

<http://sashabruce.org>

Phone: 202-547-7777



Sasha Bruce Youthwork (SBY) improves the lives of homeless, runaway, abused and neglected youth and their families in the Washington DC area. This year marked our Ruby Anniversary. For four decades, we've reunited more than 13,000 homeless youth with strengthened families.

So Others Might Eat (SOME)

<http://some.org/>

Phone: 202-797-8806

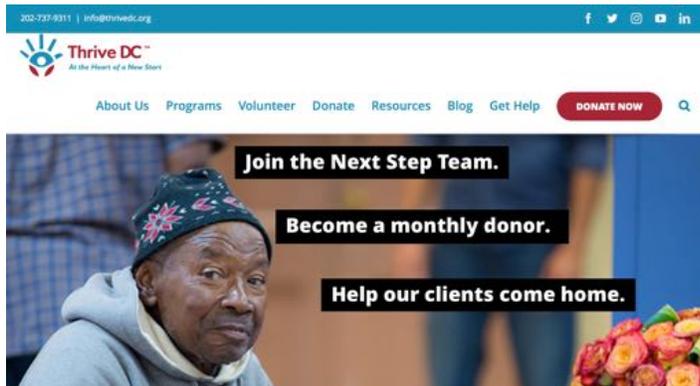


SOME (So Others Might Eat) is an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of our nation’s capital. We meet the immediate daily needs of the people we serve with food, clothing, and health care. We help break the cycle of homelessness by offering services, such as affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment, and counseling, to the poor, the elderly and individuals with mental illness.

Thrive DC

<http://www.thrivedc.org/>

Phone: 202-737-9311



Thrive DC works to prevent and end homelessness in Washington, DC by providing vulnerable people with a wide range of services to help stabilize their lives. Founded in 1979 to serve dinner to homeless women, Thrive DC has grown to be a comprehensive, professionally staffed, bilingual organization serving more than 2,000 men, women, and children each year.

Transitional Housing Corporation

<http://thcdc.org/>

Phone: 202.291.5535

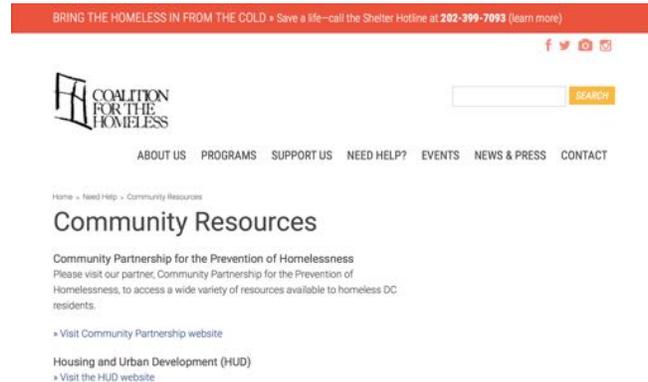


Transitional Housing Corporation (THC) is a nonprofit that provides housing and comprehensive support services to homeless and at-risk families so that they can transform their own lives.

Virginia Williams Family Resource Center - Central Resource Center for Homeless Families

<http://www.dccfh.org/programs/housing/virginia-williams-family-resource-center>

Phone: 202-526-0017



BRING THE HOMELESS IN FROM THE COLD • Save a life—call the Shelter Hotline at 202-399-7093 (learn more)

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

ABOUT US PROGRAMS SUPPORT US NEED HELP? EVENTS NEWS & PRESS CONTACT

Home » Need Help » Community Resources

Community Resources

Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness
Please visit our partner, Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, to access a wide variety of resources available to homeless DC residents.

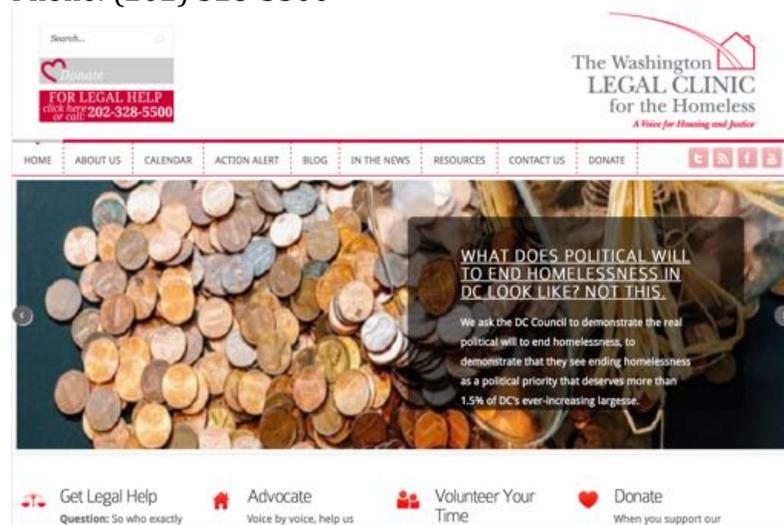
- » Visit Community Partnership website
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
» Visit the HUD website

The Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC) is the central resource center for homeless families with minor and/or dependent children that are experiencing housing instability in the District. The mission of VWFRC, in collaboration with the community, is to help create lasting solutions for families experiencing housing instability through self-sufficiency planning, goal setting and goal achievement.

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

www.legalclinic.org

Phone: (202) 328-5500



Search...

FOR LEGAL HELP
click here or call 202-328-5500

The Washington LEGAL CLINIC for the Homeless
A Voice for Housing and Justice

HOME ABOUT US CALENDAR ACTION ALERT BLOG IN THE NEWS RESOURCES CONTACT US DONATE

WHAT DOES POLITICAL WILL TO END HOMELESSNESS IN DC LOOK LIKE? NOT THIS.

We ask the DC Council to demonstrate the real political will to end homelessness, to demonstrate that they see ending homelessness as a political priority that deserves more than 1.5% of DC's ever-increasing largesse.

Get Legal Help
Question: So who exactly

Advocate
Voice by voice, help us

Volunteer Your Time

Donate
When you support our

The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless envisions a just and inclusive community for all residents of the District of Columbia, where housing is a human right and where every individual and family has equal access to the resources they need to thrive.