

McK-V Inquirer

A bi-monthly digest of helpful tips and resources for serving children and youth experiencing homelessness
March, 2018



Serving Homeless Families in Early Care and Education Programs

Publication Reaches Over 100 Conference Participants

The Wisconsin Task Force on Homelessness in Early Childhood recently published a tool kit for serving homeless families with young children. A print copy of the publication is available for free by contacting the Child Care Information Center at 608-422-7000 or for the electronic version, visit [this link](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/CPlinkedDocs/Final-Proof.pdf).
<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/CPlinkedDocs/Final-Proof.pdf>

The tool kit has been rolled out at several recent conferences including the Wisconsin Head Start Association Conference, The Preserving Early Childhood Conference and The Fulfilling The Promise conference. Over 100 books were distributed at these venues.

Feedback from these presentations has been positive overall. Some participants would have liked more applicable strategies that they could put to work quickly. As a result of this feedback a new feature will be found in this and future issues of the McK-V Inquirer that highlight one or two practical strategies for better serving families with young children who are experiencing homelessness.

We will be seeking input from readers to populate this new feature.

New Feature Practical Strategies

This new feature of the McK-V Inquirer is seeking input from readers. If you have a particular practice that works well for meeting the unique needs of families experiencing homelessness, please send it to coriedavis1961@gmail.com. Ideas will be shared in future issues.

Strategy

Upon identification and enrollment of a new family, developmental screening of the children should be a top priority. Due to the high incidence of developmental delays displayed in children who have experienced homelessness it is critical that screenings take place as soon as possible. In this way referrals to appropriate services can be made quickly and children can receive the services they need and are entitled to such as Birth to 3 - Early Interventions Services or your School District's Special Education Program for children 3 to 5 years of age.

If you do not have access to a screening tool ask your local health department of use one of the free tools available at the following links.

CDC – Milestone Moments

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

Easter Seals – Make the First Five Count, Ages and Stages

Questionnaire

<http://www.easterseals.com/mtffc/asq/>



Resource Highlight

New Resource from School House Connection:

Childproofing Checklist for Housing and Homeless Service Providers

The “Ten ‘S’s for Safety” can be used to guide discussions, establish policies and practices, to “child-proof” housing and homeless services and settings. The tool can be used to strengthen collaborations between housing and children’s service community providers so that skills, resources, and services are shared across sectors. In addition, this tool can be used to assess needs and gauge progress over time toward achieving safe and “child- proofed” housing practices.

NOTE: The *Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters* contains a wealth of web links and other resources for many of these topic areas and can be accessed at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/e cd/ech_famil y_shelter_self_assessment_tool_120114_final.pdf



Resource Links

[Wisconsin Homeless Liaison Directory](#)

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)

[National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)

[Administration for Children and Families](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education](#)

[First Focus: Campaign for Children](#)

[Horizon's for Homeless Children](#)

[Head Start Early Childhood Knowledge and Learning Center](#)

[Institute for Child Poverty and Homelessness](#)

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

[Center for the Study of Social Policy](#)

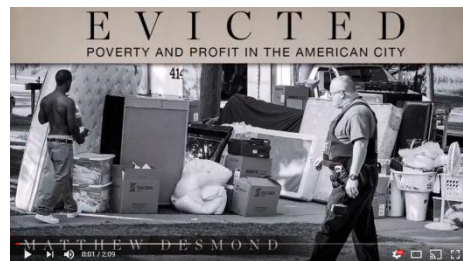
[School House Connection](#)

[The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)

Pulitzer Prize Winning Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City Video Trailer

Matthew Desmond takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge. The book looks at the eviction epidemic in America, and the sobering facts of how housing costs impact poor families. If we want to erase poverty, we must address the lack of affordable housing. Learn more about EVICTED here: <http://evictedbook.com/>

Watch the trailer here:



For questions or more information on serving homeless children and youth we encourage you to post to the server through which you received this message or contact:

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