

# Washington County School Districts' McKinney-Vento Program



McKinney-Vento Education Network (MVEN)

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ~ WASHINGTON COUNTY

# McKinney-Vento Program

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that protects the educational rights of students experiencing housing instability.



Any child experiencing housing instability qualifies for McKinney-Vento services

Support may include:

- Immediate school enrollment
- Transportation to school
- Ability to remain at the same school for the entire year
- Community resources

## Who is eligible for McKinney-Vento Services?

Children who lack a *fixed, regular and adequate* nighttime residence are eligible for McKinney-Vento Services.

This often looks like:

- ***Sharing the housing*** of others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in ***motels or hotels***.
- Living in emergency or transitional ***shelters***.
- Living in an ***unsheltered*** situation such as public or private place not designed for humans to live, camping, in a car, etc.
- Living in substandard housing: lack of access to electricity/heat/water/plumbing, excessive mold, vermin infestation, overcrowding

Available services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act:

- Immediate enrollment in school.
- Removing barriers to school enrollment, attendance and participation.
- Free School Meals and fee waivers for sports or school activities.
- Transportation support to and from school.
- Assistance obtaining documents that have been lost: birth certificates, immunization records, etc.
- Community based referrals to social services.

# Who is currently qualified for McKinney-Vento services?

School District	Double Up	Shelter	Motel or Hotel	Unsheltered	Total
Banks	8	0	0	0	8
Beaverton	971	89	45	259	1364
Forest Grove	24	7	1	18	50
Gaston	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hillsboro	224	13	9	89	335
Sherwood	22	0	0	0	22
Tigard/Tualatin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

\* School districts start collecting this data at the beginning of the school year. These numbers are cumulative and increase throughout the school year. Data collection stops at the end of the school year.

# Unaccompanied Houseless Youth (UHY)

Unaccompanied students face unique challenges:

- Not living with a parent or legal guardian can create a barrier to school enrollment and participation.
- Limited access to social services: Medical, mental health, SNAP, legal documents.

How we help:

- Remove barriers to school enrollment and participation.
- Provide meal benefits and transportation.
- Provide FAFSA/ORSAA verification of unaccompanied status.
- Partner with community based organizations like Home Plate Youth Services, Safe Place for Youth, and Second Home.

School District	Unaccompanied Houseless Youth
Banks	0
Beaverton	154
Forest Grove	5
Gaston	NA
Hillsboro	67
Sherwood	5
Tigard/Tualatin	NA

## Trends and Challenges

- McKinney-Vento is commonly mistaken for a housing program
- Increased referrals, surpassing pre-pandemic numbers.
- Rising evictions, sometimes leading to family separation (students housed with friends/parents unhoused).
- Growing number of families living in substandard housing due to prolonged doubled up situations caused by COVID, inflation, rising cost of rent.
- Continuing influx of refugee and immigrant families into temporary housing.
- Unaccompanied youth displaced because of safety concerns with parents, LGBTQ+ status, or host families can no longer support them.
- Difficulty finding or accessing rental assistance; common resources frequently run out of funds.
- Extended wait times for shelter placement, from 4-6 weeks to at least 2 months.
- Lack of immediate shelter options for children and families in Washington County

# Get Involved

- Join us at one of our McKinney-Vento Education Network (HEN) quarterly meetings to share about how your program could support our students/families. Reach out to [Abel García Gómez](#) (MVEN representative to HSSN board) for the invite.
- Our programs provide essential items and resources to students (hygiene products, jackets, etc.). If you know of anyone interested in donating, please share our information.
- Refer children experiencing housing instability to their McKinney-Vento school liaison.

# Contact Information

**Contact a school district's McKinney-Vento team for support:**

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