



- Do you feel like yourself...
- Do you feel blue...
- Do you feel down...
- Are you worried about your substance use...
- Have you ever had thoughts of suicide...
- Are you always stressed...
- How is your anxiety...
- Have your sleeping or eating habits changed...

The Ruth Ellis Center now offers **free** counseling/mental health services

If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the Ruth Ellis Center at 313-252-1950

Detroit Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency  
**Children's Initiatives**

Detroit Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency is a division of the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Youth ages 7-17
- Wayne County Residents
- Youth who are medicaid eligible

#### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Individual, group & family mental health services from a Mental Health Specialist
- Guidance/ Support
- Link individuals and families to community resources and coordinate services.



To provide short-term and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk gay, lesbian, bi-attractional, transgender and questioning youth in Detroit and Southeastern Michigan.

77 Victor Street. Highland Park, MI 48203

**OFFICE OF SCHOOL SOCIAL  
WORK SERVICE  
HOMELESS UNIT**

**Paula Henderson, Supervisor  
Homeless/School Social Work Service  
866-0845**

**Angela Johnson LMSW  
School Social Worker  
866-9670**

**Cynthia M. Reynolds, LMSW  
School Social Worker  
866-0792**



*"What homeless children need most of all is a home. While they are experiencing homelessness, however, children desperately need to remain in school. School is one of the few stable, secure places in the lives of homeless children and youth — a place where they can acquire the skills needed to help them escape poverty."*

*-National Coalition for the Homeless*



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The Board of Education of the school district of the City of Detroit does not discriminate in course offerings to any student on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, national origin, religion, marital status or handicap, as required by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Handicap Act of 1973. Contact the Office of Civil Rights, 3011 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202 (313) 873-3111.

**DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Department of Student Support Programs  
Office of Specialized Student Services**

**EDUCATION OF HOMELESS  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
PROGRAM**



**Office of School Social Work  
Longfellow Annex  
13141 Rosa Parks Blvd.  
Detroit, Michigan 48238  
(313) 866-0858  
(313) 866-9670  
Fax (313) 866-0777**

## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

“No Child Left Behind Act” reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth – it is the federal law that entitles children who are homeless to a free, appropriate public education, and requires schools to remove barriers to their enrollment, attendance and success in schools.

### Definition of Homeless Children and Youth

The term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes:

Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters or a domestic violence shelter; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement

Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings

To determine homelessness, consider the **permanence** and **adequacy** of the living situation.

## What Are the Educational Rights Of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness?

Children and youth experiencing homelessness have the right to:

- ❖ Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool, provided to the other children.
- ❖ Continue in the school they last attended before they became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is the parent’s or youth’s choice and if feasible.
- ❖ Receive transportation to the school they attended before the family or youth became homeless or the school they last attended, if the parent or youth request such transportation.
- ❖ Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. **Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.**
- ❖ Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- ❖ Receive the same special programs and services, if needed as provided to all children or youth served in these programs.
- ❖ Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

Children and youth in homeless situations must be enrolled

## Detroit Public Schools Can assist Students Experiencing Homelessness

Our district can provide important resource and referral information for:

PARENTS seeking information about

- ❖ School enrollment
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Homeless Shelters
- ❖ Social and community services

SCHOOL PERSONNEL seeking information about

- ❖ Homeless programs, resources
- ❖ Best Practices
- ❖ McKinney-Vento Legislation

SHELTER PROVIDERS seeking assistance for homeless families with school enrollment and access to appropriate educational opportunities.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS interested in networking on behalf of homeless children and their families

