

Forming Partnerships between Emergency Housing Non-Profits, Schools, and CoCs under EHCY

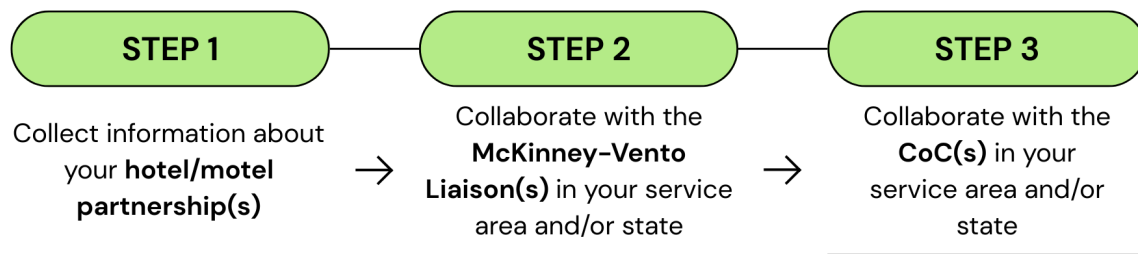
Lauren M. Strickland and Dr. Janesca Martin

August 18, 2026

Dear Fellow Emergency Housing Non-Profit Board Members and Staff,

On August 4, 2026, the United States Department of Education released a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) stating that Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grant funds could be used, subject to certain provisions, to provide emergency housing for students and families experiencing homelessness. To facilitate partnerships with the schools and Continuum of Care(s) (CoCs) in your service area or state, please see the following recommendations. You can also find this resource in its most up-to-date form as a Google Doc [here](#).

HOW CAN NON-PROFITS RESPOND TO THE CHANGES IN EHCY?



Step 1. Reach out to your non-profit's point of contact for the following details regarding your hotel/motel partnership(s):

- Cost of stay per night or week
- Any stipulations and/or regulations on duration of stay
- Any stipulations and/or regulations on who can stay
- Who to contact and how
- Any other relevant information (e.g., referral requirements)

Step 1a. Collaborate to draft a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU).

Step 2. Reach out to the [McKinney-Vento Liaison\(s\)](#) for your service area and/or state:

 Who are McKinney-Vento Liaisons?

McKinney-Vento Liaisons at the school, district, regional, and/or state levels support the identification of students experiencing homelessness and the provision of services as required by the [McKinney-Vento Act](#) (e.g., transportation, school stability, immediate enrollment, coordination of services).

Sample Email or Phone Call Script: Adapt sections as indicated (see [Google Doc](#) for easier copying and pasting)

Subject Line: Collaboration with Emergency Housing Non-Profit Re: EHCY Funding

Hello [\[insert liaison's name here\]](#),

I hope this email finds you well! My name is [\[insert your name, position, non-profit, and location. For example, I said, "Lauren Strickland, and I am the co-community liaison for the Supportive and Emergency Housing Ministry in Wilmington, Delaware\].](#) We are excited to hear the long-awaited [news](#) from the Department of Education that Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grant funds can now be used, with provisions, to support emergency housing for students and families. [\[Connect to your services. For example, I said "As part of our nonprofit, we operate the Dorothy Medeiros Motel Ministry, which provides short-term emergency housing."\]](#)

We would like to establish a partnership with the [\[insert name\(s\) of schools/districts here\]](#) to facilitate seamless, low-burden entry into emergency housing for the students and families you serve, guided by a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU). SchoolHouse Connection has provided [further guidance](#) for State and Local Education Agencies.

Below is some basic information about our [\[insert name of your hotel/motel partnership\(s\) here\]](#):

- Cost of stay: [\[insert cost here\]](#)
- Length of stay: [\[insert length of stay here\]](#)
- Who can stay: [\[insert who can stay here\]](#)
- Who to contact and how: [\[insert who to contact and how here\]](#)

Why should we partner?

Our goal is to help schools respond quickly and compassionately when students and families experience an immediate housing crisis. Through the [insert name of your hotel/motel partnership(s) here], we can provide short-term emergency housing that helps families remain safe and stable while longer-term housing solutions are explored. This partnership can provide McKinney-Vento Liaisons with an additional resource to support families, reduce barriers to accessing emergency shelter, and help minimize disruptions to students' education.

What would a partnership look like?

The partnership between us would be designed to be simple, collaborative, and low-burden for the schools and district(s). The McKinney-Vento Liaison(s) would identify eligible students and families who may benefit from emergency housing and connect them with our [insert name of your hotel/motel partnership(s) here] through an agreed-upon referral process. Together, the McKinney-Vento Liaison(s), school/district leadership, and our organization would establish clear communication, referral, and follow-up procedures through a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU). This would help all partners understand their respective roles and responsibilities as they work together to help families access immediate housing support and connection to longer-term resources.

We look forward to hearing from you and creating this partnership to best support the children, youth, and families in our community. Please let us know what questions you may have. CC'd are [introduce anyone you CC'd. For example, I CC'd our Board President, our Co-Community Liaison, and our Dorothy Medeiros Motel Ministry Administrator].

Sincerely,

[Your name, pronouns, role, non-profit organization, etc.]

For example, I said:

Lauren Strickland

she/her/hers

Co-Community Liaison

Supportive Transitional and Emergency Housing Ministry]

Step 3. Reach out to your service area or state's [Continuum of Care\(s\)](#):

💡 What are CoCs?

CoCs aim to promote a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness by providing funding to nonprofits and state/local governments, expanding access to programs, and improving effective utilization of programs for individuals and families experiencing homelessness (HUD).

Sample Email or Phone Call Script: Adapt sections as indicated (see [Google Doc](#) for easier copying and pasting)

Subject Line: Collaboration with Emergency Housing Non-Profit Re: EHCY Funding

Hello [\[insert name of CoC or point of contact\]](#),

I hope this email finds you well! My name is [\[insert your name, position, non-profit, and location\]](#). We are excited to hear the long-awaited [news](#) from the Department of Education that Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) grant funds can now be used, with provisions, to support emergency housing for students and families. [\[Connect to your services. For example, I would say "As part of our nonprofit, we operate the \[Dorothy Medeiros Motel Ministry\]\(#\), which provides short-term emergency housing."\]](#)

We would like to build a partnership with [\[insert the name of the CoC\]](#) to facilitate seamless and low-burden emergency housing for the students and families you serve. We are also seeking partnerships with the McKinney-Vento Liaisons in our service area.

Below is some basic information about our [\[insert the name of your hotel/motel partnership\(s\)\]](#):

- Cost of stay: [\[insert cost here\]](#)
- Length of stay: [\[insert length of stay here\]](#)
- Who can stay: [\[insert who can stay here\]](#)
- Who to contact and how: [\[insert who to contact and how here\]](#)

We look forward to hearing from you and creating this partnership to best support the children, youth, and families in our community. CC'd are [\[introduce anyone you CC'd. For example, I CC'd our Board President, our Co-Community Liaison, and our Dorothy Medeiros Motel Ministry Administrator\]](#).

Sincerely,

[\[Your name, pronouns, role, non-profit organization, etc.\]](#)

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to review this resource, and please reach out with any questions. Please let us know how we can support your efforts to collaborate with families, educators, and community partners.

Sincerely,

Lauren M. Strickland

she/her/hers

Lstrick@udel.edu

Supportive Transitional and Emergency
Housing Ministry ([STEHM](#))
Board of Directors Member
Grants Committee Member
Co-Community Liaison
Children's Education and Targeted Support
(CETS) Volunteer

Dr. Janesca Martin

she/her/hers

Jamartin@chestercommunitycharter.org

Chester Community Charter School
Director of Student and Family Advocacy

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Additional Resources

- [A guide to effective collaborations with community-based organizations to support students experiencing homelessness](#). **National Center for Homeless Education**. (2026, January).
- [Toward culturally sustaining leadership: Innovation beyond 'school improvement' promoting equity in diverse contexts](#). *Education Sciences*, 6(4), 33. **Santamaría, L. J., & Santamaría, A. P.** (2016).
- [Short-term, temporary emergency housing with EHCY funds: Resources for state and local educational agencies](#). **SchoolHouse Connection**. (2026, August).
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Update regarding the permissibility of short-term housing](#). **U.S. Department of Education**. (2026, August 4).
- [Toward culturally sustaining/revitalizing Indigenous family-school-community leadership](#). *Frontiers in Education*, 8. **Washington, S. A., & Johnson, L.** (2023).
- [U.S. Department of Education allows short-term emergency housing for students experiencing homelessness](#). *Yay Babies! Resilience and Adversity*. **Willard, J.** (2026, August 5).