

Title: 3.2 Educational Policy

Prepared By: CAFTH

Reviewed By: Governing Council

Approved By: Governing Council

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Purpose:

This policy serves to outline the responsibilities of the Continuum of Care (CoC) to connect persons experiencing homelessness with educational resources. This policy will apply to all Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funded agencies that operate within the CoC to ensure that all persons experiencing homelessness have access to educational resources and programming.

Policy

CoC- and ESG-funded programs are required to connect persons experiencing homelessness, including adults, youth, and school-aged children, with educational programs, resources, and assistance as needed. The MSCHC requires that each agency receiving funding, either through CoC or ESG Programs, coordinates with local education providers to ensure that homeless families and unaccompanied youth are aware of and access the educational resources available to them. Agencies should also ensure that local education providers participate in Homeless Consortium meetings and other relevant planning and service-related activities. Working relationships with homeless liaisons and other education providers should help homeless service providers identify homeless families, particularly those meeting the HUD definition of homelessness and those at risk of homelessness to ensure that homeless families access resources available to them.

Homeless service providers must ensure that any agency protocols or policies do not infringe on the rights of homeless families. Further, agencies should not replace schooling for homeless families with their own services or projects. Any programs offered by an agency should be supplemental to the formal educational opportunities available to the family.

Service providers must use discretion in their work with local education entities to maintain the privacy of families they assist, particularly regarding the household's housing status. Discretion is critical to avoid any undue discrimination the family may incur based on their housing status.