Child Find Procedure for Identifying Eligible Children who are Experiencing Homelessness

1. According to the McKinney-Vento Act, reauthorized in 2002, the definition of a child who is experiencing homelessness is an individual who lacks 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 a 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 transition shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; are waiting foster care placement; have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or are migratory and qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

2. As of October 2014, the Philadelphia School District Homeless Liaison is:

   Al Quarles  
   Regional Coordinator  
   abquarles@philasd.org

   215-400-6045  
   267-784-9956

3. A listing of resources can be found at the PA Homeless Children’s Initiative website: [http://homeless.center-school.org/](http://homeless.center-school.org/)

4. As a part of Philadelphia County’s Child Find efforts, Philadelphia EI has developed a procedure that details the system used to locate and identify eligible children who are experiencing homeless. Philadelphia County developed and funds a Supportive Housing Child Find Project. The Supportive Housing Project consists of two Child Outreach Specialists who maintain a regular schedule in 10 plus emergency and transitional housing sites in Philadelphia to identify children who are birth to 3 years old and refer them to Infant Toddler Early Intervention:

   a. The Child Specialist is notified by the Supportive Housing Staff when a new family with young children enters the emergency or transitional housing site and meets with the parent to complete a referral to Infant Toddler Early Intervention.

   b. IT EI Intake will prioritize the referral and promptly assign it to the Service Coordination Entity.

   c. The SC will promptly schedule an initial visit with the family and gather further information regarding concerns about the child.

   d. The SC will promptly schedule an Initial Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) meeting.

   e. If the child is found eligible for Early Intervention, the team, which includes the family, will discuss the desired outcomes and priority needs of the family for the child and will develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

   f. Every family is offered a choice of providers to deliver the IFSP services for their child. There are EI provider agencies, however, who are assigned to each shelter should the family not indicate a specific choice of providers. If the IFSP services and supports are to take place in the supportive housing site and the family has not indicated a specific choice of providers, the designated provider agency that is familiar with the supportive housing site, is available to provide Early Intervention services.

   g. If the child is not eligible for Early Intervention at the time of the MDE, the SC will enroll the child in At Risk Tracking for routine developmental Screening with the parent’s permission.