



South Plains Community Action Association
Head Start & Early Head Start

Recruitment, Outreach, and Service Coordination for Families in Homeless Situations

1. **Head Start and McKinney-Vento Act Questionnaire:** This questionnaire is used for each family at recruitment. During a conversation with the family, the Family Support Worker checks a “yes” or “no” for each of the statements. If any of the questions are answered with “yes” the family is categorically (automatically) eligible for our program. The verbiage used in this questionnaire comes directly from the McKinney-Vento Act definition of “Homeless”
2. **Recruitment:** During recruitment, families are asked to tell their story. For example, they may describe their day from beginning to end. If needs are identified at that time we automatically refer the family to other community service agencies to fill their needs. This includes services for homeless families.
3. **Selection Criteria:** The Selection Criteria is divided into 5 sections. Families are given points within each section. The sections are: Family Status, Special Needs, Income, Age, and Other. Homelessness is a category. Points for this category end in a one so we can easily identify a family in a homeless situation during our selection process. It also allows our Family Support Workers to quickly identify families experiencing homelessness for possible referrals or services.
4. **Training:** OHS Priorities Cluster Training – Homeless Training: Several management staff attended this training last February. The training provided information on the different types of homeless families, the Head Start Reauthorization Act, and Community Resources. This training was then provided to the entire staff at an In-Service in May.
5. **Internal Resource:** Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP)
The purpose of the program is to provide assistance to protect and improve the lives and safety of the homeless. Individuals or families forced to vacate their regular residence due to extenuating circumstances (including but not limited to financial inability to pay rent or mortgage, foreclosure, eviction and forced to accept shelter from a friend or relative.
6. **Internal Resource:** South Plains Community Action Association Housing provide Section 8 housing for families living in the South Plains Area. Just recently, they were awarded additional monies to provide housing for eligible families. We provided the names of all enrolled families living within that county to be contacted for possible housing. It is beneficial to work within a Community Action Agency in order to provide resources for our families.
7. **Community Resources:** There are limited resources within our service area for homeless families. We utilize the 211 resource system to access services for our families. The website address is <http://www.211txsouthplains.org/>.