



National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Request for Proposal Implementing Single Point of Contact Pilot Program

Executive Summary

Established in 1989, the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) is a national membership association focused on addressing barriers to education faced by children and youth experiencing homelessness. Members work in public schools, state departments of education, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, and community organizations to support the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth.

NAEHCY offers professional development, resources, and training to those interested in supporting the academic success of children and youth challenged by homelessness. NAEHCY has a newly created “Tool Kit” for colleges and universities.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento) has excelled in its purpose of supporting homeless students’ preschool through high school graduation. The mandates of McKinney-Vento focus on school stability and include provisions around immediate enrollment, school of origin, transportation, designation of a homeless liaison, etc. However, McKinney-Vento does not address barriers experienced by students transitioning to post-secondary opportunities. The pathway to post-secondary education becomes daunting to homeless college students without adequate support and resources.

Higher education offers one of the surest pathways out of poverty and homelessness. Yet, youth state their greatest challenge is accessing financial aid. They often lack the support to complete the financial aid application, enroll in post-secondary options, and successfully complete their post-secondary education. NAEHCY works to remove these barriers and assist youth, educators, service providers, and advocates in their efforts to make higher education a reality.

The NAEHCY Single Point-of-Contact SPOC Model (Tool Kit) is a product created from the knowledge and experience gained in working with homeless college students. These students report access to a SPOC or homeless liaison during their post-secondary transition, would have eliminated many barriers and challenges. The identification of resources and on-campus supports were identified as primary needs. The SPOC Tool Kit is a response to the needs of higher education campus administrators, public school homeless liaisons, practitioners, and homeless students. The SPOC Tool Kit is designed to support college students experiencing homelessness through the establishment of on-campus resources and a framework for collaboration with financial aid administrators, student support services, and residential services.

NAEHCY is ready to embark on the next phase of this journey: Implementation of SPOC Toolkit

NAEHCY is seeking a consultant to implement SPOC toolkit and strategies in two or three colleges and universities identified by the higher education committee. The consultant will work with the higher education committee, committee chair, and interim executive director.

Scope of Work

1. Work with the selected states in creating a project plan to launch the SPOC Tool Kit:
 - a. The consultant will serve as the liaison and point person between NAEHCY and the pilot states in creating a work plan for planning and implementation;
 - b. Consultant will be responsible to provide training, technical assistance, and consultation to the pilot states;
 - c. Consultant will assist in evaluating progress of the implementation and completion of the project with the pilot states;
 - d. Consultant will serve as a key member of the working group in pilot states while implementation is taking place.

2. Capture data: numbers of campuses setting up SPOC and numbers of homeless students served:
 - a. Consultant will assist the pilot states in creating a data matrix to collect needed data agreed upon by the working group and NAEHCY;
 - b. Consultant will create a matrix for NAEHCY project outcomes and collect data from all participating states;
 - c. Consultant will provide a report following completion of the pilots along with assessment and feedback for future replication and implementation.

Eligible Applicants

- Minimum of bachelor's degree in education, human services, or related field, plus at least five years' experience;
- Project management experience, preferably in a social services/nonprofit setting;
- Program development and/or implementation experience in the nonprofit sector;
- Higher education experience and experience working with students;
- Ability to travel;
- Support for the mission that ALL children and youth must receive appropriate services for their academic success and enrichment so that no child or youth experiencing homelessness is left behind.
- Aligns with NAEHCY core values and mission.

NAEHCY wishes to move quickly in this effort, proposals will be accepted until the position is filled.

Fees: NAEHCY estimates 30-40 hours to complete this work per implementation. The pilot project is anticipated to take six months per SPOC implementation.

For additional information about this RFP please contact:

Cheryl Jensen, Interim Executive Director

Phone: 612-203-4662 Email: cjensen@naehcy.org