

### About SchoolHouse Connection



SchoolHouseConnection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website:
  - http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org
- Newsletter:
  - https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign -up/
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships



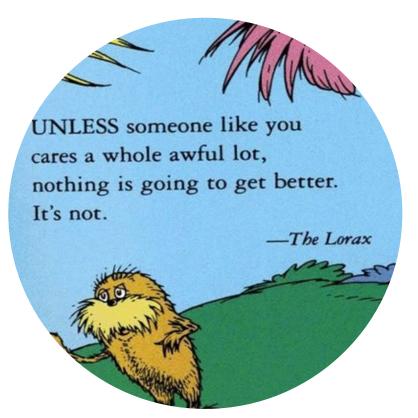


# Objectives of Today's Session

- 1. Current Federal Policy Issues
- 2. The Role of State Policy
- 3. Advocacy vs. Lobbying: Know the Difference
- 4. Preparing for Hill Visits: Before, During, Afterwards
- Online and Other Forms of Advocacy



#### Why Advocate?



- You can be the voice for our children, youth, and families.
- You are the expert.
- Constituent engagement is the best way – and often the only way – to change policy.

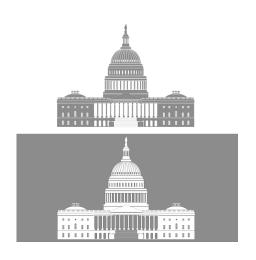
### Top Pending Federal Legislative Issues for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families

1. FY2020 Funding for Targeted Education and Service Programs for Homeless Children and Youth

2. Higher Education Act (FAFSA, etc.)

3. HUD Homeless Assistance (HUD definition of homelessness, etc.)

### FY 2020 Budget and Targeted Homeless Children and Youth Programs



#### What's at Stake?

 Annual funding for McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program and Runaway and Homeless Youth program

#### What's the Status?

- The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (HR 2740) that increases funding for both the EHCY and RHYA programs.
- The U.S. Senate draft bill includes EHCY increases.
- The appropriations process has stalled due to disagreements about overall funding levels, but negotiations are continuing.

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#### FY17-FY20 Budget and Targeted Homeless Children and Youth Programs

Program	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020 House	FY2020 Senate
The McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program	\$77 million	\$85 million	93.5 million	\$100 million	\$102.5 million (Preliminary Senate Draft - Not Yet Marked- Up in Committee)
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs	\$119 million	\$127.3 million	\$127.3 million	\$147 million	\$127.4 million (Preliminary Senate Draft - Not Yet Marked- Up in Committee)

#### FY17-FY20 Budget and Education/Early Care Programs

Program	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020 House	FY2020 Senate (Preliminary Senate Draft - Not Yet Marked-
					Up in Committee)
Head Start	\$9.25 billion	\$9.863 billion	\$10.1 billion	\$11.6 billion	\$10.1 billion
Child Care and	\$2.856 billion	\$5.226 billion	\$5.276 billion	\$7.7 billion	\$5.301 billion
Development Block					
Grant					
Title I Part A	\$15.459 billion	\$15.759 billion	\$15.9 billion	\$16.9 billion	\$15.859 billion
(Education for the					
Disadvantaged)					
Career and Technical	\$1.125	\$1.2 billion	\$1.27 billion	\$1.3 billion	\$1.9 billion
Education					
Federal TRIO Programs	\$950 million	\$1.01 billion	\$1.06 billion	\$1.1 billion	\$1.06 billion
GEAR UP	\$339 million	\$350 million	\$360 million	\$395 million	\$360 million
Pell Grants – Maximum	\$4,860	\$5,035	\$5,135	\$6,345	\$6,330
Grant					

#### FY17-FY20 Budget and Housing/Other Homeless Programs

Program	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019 Final	FY2020 House	FY2020 Senate
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$20.292 billion	\$22.015 billion	\$22.598 billion	\$23.81 billion	*\$23.83 billion
Project Based Rental Assistance	\$10.816 billion	\$11.515 billion	\$11.747 billion	\$12.590 billion	*\$12.60 billion
HUD Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.383 billion	\$2.513 billion	\$2.636 billion	\$2.8 billion	*\$2.761 billion

#### SHC's FY2020 Appropriations Asks

- 1. Support \$105 million for the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program in fiscal year 2020.
  - This is slightly over a 10% increase, thus in line with the past two funding bills, and responding to increasing student homelessness.
- 2. Support \$165 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program in fiscal year 2020.
  - This is the fully authorized funding amount.

## Or you could say...

"We really appreciate that Congress has increased homeless education funding by ten percent each of the past two years, and hope that Congress will continue to support this vital program in the FY2020 budget with similar funding increases."

#### SHC Resources on FY2020 Budget



A November 2017 ground-breaking report from the University of Chicago found that 4.2 million young people experienced homelessness in America over a 12-month period. This means that 1 in 10 young adults aged 18-25, and at least 1 in 30 adolescents aged 13-17, experienced some form of homelessness and are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian over the course of a year. Importantly, it also revealed that homelessness is just as much of a challenge in rural communities as it is in urban communities and that youth without a high school degree or GED are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness. Recent data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline shows that being a runaway homeless youth and living in unstable housing are two of the top risk factors for human trafficking. Public schools also identified 1.3 million homeless children and youth from 2016 to 2017, which is a seven percent increase from the previous three school years. Now more than ever, these children need our attention.

- Download a one-pager on FY2020 funding needs for the EHCY program
- Download a chart showing FY2017-2020 funding for selected education, housing, and homelessness programs
- Download a chart showing numbers of homeless children and youth identified by public schools from 2010-2016
- Download a Dear Colleague letter showing support for FY2020 funding in the U.S. House of Representatives



## Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth (HEASHFY) S.789 /H.R. 1724

#### Sponsored by:

- U.S. Senator Patty
  Murray (D-WA) and
  U.S. Senator Rob
  Portman (R-OH) in the
  Senate
- U.S. Representatives Katherine Clark (D-5th/MA) and Don Young (RAt Large/AK) in the House of Representatives

#### Removes barriers to higher education access and success caused by homelessness and foster care.

- 1. Unaccompanied homeless youth would not need to have their status redetermined annually.
- 2. More entities could make determinations of UHY status (not just liaisons, RHYA programs, HUD programs).
- 3. Financial aid administrators would be required to make determinations for UHY who cannot obtain documentation from third parties (same as current guidance).
- 4. Requires the designation of a higher education liaison (similar to K-12 liaison).
- 5. Requires a plan for housing during breaks and during semester.

## Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act (HEASHFY) S.789 /H.R. 1724 - Current Status



HEASHFY is one of many proposals that both Senate and House committees are reviewing as they consider the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Senator Alexander (R-TN), Chair of the Senate HELP Committee, and Senator Doug Jones (D-AL) introduced S. 2667, the FAFSA Simplification Act, which includes some of the FAFSA provisions for homeless and foster youth from HEASHFY.

The House Democratic proposal, The College Affordability Act, H.R. 4674, is a comprehensive HEA bill that includes all of the provisions of HEASHFY, and additional provisions (including a bridge program for homeless and foster youth to transition successfully from K-12 to higher education). H.R. 4674 passed out of Committee on October 31,2019.

## The ASK

Please urge your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative to cospor

S.789 /H.R. 1724, the Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth



The more cosponsors a bill has, the better its chances. A high number of cosponsors signals strong support to Committee Chairs and Congressional Leadership.



#### SHC Resources on HEASHFY



#### Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act of 2019

Sponsored by Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rob Portman (R-OH), and Representatives Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Don Young (R-AK)

For many working families, higher education can be a ticket to the middle class. Unfortunately, homeless and foster youth face unique and significant barriers to accessing and succeeding in higher education. In U.S. public schools, more than 1.3 million students are homeless and nearly 437,000 students are in foster exact. However, far too few of these students are able to enroll in, or afford, the rising costs of college, let alone graduate. Homeless and foster youth often lack the support network to help them navigate a complicated higher education and financial aid system. The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act would help remove these barriers and help ensure more students from all walls of life have strong and clear pathways into and through higher education.

This bill would require colleges to do their part to improve outreach, resources, and policies for homeless and foster youth, including streamlining the process of applying for and receiving financial aid, helping students access housing options between terms, and designating liaisons to help students access valuable support services. It also requires the U.S. Department of Education to help resolve questions about a student's independence, simplify the FAFSA, publish useable data and reports, and ensure programs (identify, recruit, and prepare homeless and foster students for college, Additionally, the bill would:

#### Remove barriers and make college more affordable for homeless and foster youth:

- Ease the verification and determination process for unaccompanied homeless youth or youth who
  are unaccompanied, self-supporting, and at risk of being homeless, and for foster youth;
- Remove the unnecessary and burdensome requirement that unaccompanied homeless youth must have their status re-determined every year unless conflicting information exists;
- Retain important documentation paperwork that often gets lost for homeless and foster youth, and can jeopardize access to financial aid and other critical supports;
- Clarify that youth under age 24 who are determined to be unaccompanied or homeless are considered independent students and can get the full financial aid they need;
- Explain that foster care support and services that help foster youth survive do not count as "income" for purposes of calculating financial aid; and
- Provide homeless and foster youth in-state tuition rates to reduce barriers to college attendance due to lack of financial support, particularly when they haven't had stable residency.

#### Support college retention, success, and completion of homeless and foster youth by having institutions of higher education:

- Develop a plan to assist homeless and foster youth in accessing campus housing resources during and between academic terms;
- Communicate the resources and financial aid available to homeless and foster youth;
- Designate liaisons to assist homeless and foster youth in accessing institutional and community services and to support their ability to complete higher education;
- Include homeless and foster youth in the data collected by college access programs and identify
  ways they can further support student retention and success; and
- Collaborate with child welfare agencies, homeless service providers, and school district homeless liaisons to identify, conduct outreach to, and recruit homeless and foster youth to college.

- A fact sheet on HEASHFY by the Congressional sponsors may be foundhere.
- A fact sheet on how HEASHFY responds to a Government Accountability Office study may be foundhere.
- A more detailed brief explaining HEASHFY's provisions may be foundhere.



## The Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2019 H.R. 2001 (HCYA)

#### Sponsored by:

U.S.
 Representatives
 Steve Stivers (R
 OH) and Dave
 Loebsack (DIA)
 in the House of
 Representatives

Corrects long-standing flaws in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homeless assistance for children, youth, and families

- 1. Aligns federal definitions of homelessness by amending HUD's definition so that children and youth identified by one of eight federal programs (including McKinney-Vento liaisons) would be eligible for HUD homeless assistance.
- 2. Requires HUD to honor local community priorities and needs.
- 3. Improves data on homelessness.



Congressional championseek opportunities to attach H.R. 2001, or parts of it, to other related legislation that may be moving (budget, housing, etc.).

## The ASK

Please urge your U.S. Representative to cosponsor H.R. 2001, t Homeless Children and Youth Ac

\*Note: While there is not currently a Senate bill, we expect one to be introduced soon.

So please include this issue in meetings with U.S. Senators, too!

#### SHC Resources on HCYA

#### REBUTTING ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT

<u>Claim #1:</u> Without more funding, changing HUD's definition of homelessness will take services away from the most dire and vulnerable situations: people in shelters and on the streets.

#### Reality:

- Research shows that children and youth who are identified by other federal programs as homeless, but who do not
  meet HUD's definition, are every bit as vulnerable as those who do meet HUD's definition and sometimes even
  more so. They also are at great risk of trafficking and violence, and of becoming homeless as adults.
- HCYA does not prioritize or require communities to serve homeless children, youth and families at the expense of
  others. Children and youth whose homelessness has been verified by one of eight specific federal programs would
  be eligible for HUD homeless assistance. This means they would be able to be ossessed for services using the same
  "vulnerability" indices (including age-specific criteria) as are used currently to prioritize people for assistance. It
  does not mean those children and youth necessarily would receive services. This assessment process ensures that
  those who are most in need of assistance receive it.
- Without HCYA, even if funding for HUD homeless assistance were vastly increased, children and youth who meet
  other agencies' definitions of homelessness, but not HUD's, would not be eligible for assistance. These children and
  youth could not even be assessed using the vulnerability indices currently used to prioritize people for assistance.
- The current HUD definition of homelessness results in inefficient and ineffective use of funds. Service providers
  must resort to using general funds to put families and youth into emergency shelters or motels for the sole purpose
  of qualifying them for HUD assistance. Some providers designate beds as emergency beds for the sole purpose of
  qualifying youth for HUD homeless assistance. This is a waste of resources and creates destabilizing and harmful
  moves.
- The complexity of the HUD program is another source of inefficiency. The HUD homeless assistance program has
  become so complicated that HUD spends millions of dollars in technical assistance to help communities understand
  and implement it. Service providers waste precious time documenting HUD's convoluted definitions. HCYA
  simplifies and streamlines eligibility and promotes leveraging additional resources through improved interagency
  collaboration.
- By allowing communities to assess and serve some of the most vulnerable children and youth, future homelessness

   and the costs associated with it will decrease.

- Download a PDFfact sheet on HCYA
- Download Questions and Answersabout the Homeless Children and Youth Act
- Download rebutting arguments against HCYA
- Download a Dear Colleague Letterfrom Reps. Stivers and Loebsack requesting cosponsors.



Listening Session at 5:15pm on Monday in the Georgetown Room

Don't Forget to Tell HUD, USICH, and ED Directly about Any Challenges with HUD Definition and Homeless System

#### Other Federal Homelessness Legislation

H.R. 1856, S.2613 "The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019" US Rep. Maxine Waters-(CA), US Senator Kamala Harris (PA)

Using "emergency spending," includes \$13 billion (FY2020-FY2024) for the following:

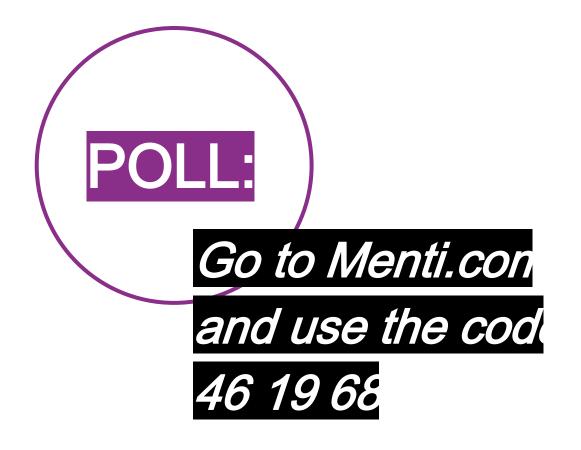
- \$1 billion for emergency grants, 75% of which must be used for permanent supportive housing (must meet HUD's definition, and have a disability). The formula for grants is weighted toward unsheltered individuals and chronically homeless.
- \$500 million for special purchase housing vouchers. Limited to HUD definition.
- \$100 million to hire outreach workers for HUD-defined homelessness

Excludes most homeless children, youth, and families, and continues federal policy priorities that have failed. For these reasons, SchoolHouse Connection does not support this legislation.

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### State Policy Advocacy

Do state laws make it harder for you to support children, youth and families experiencing homelessness?





## Why State Policy Reform?

Many of the policies most important for preventing and addressing youth homelessness fall under state law– particularly policies relating to minors.

State early care and education policy

Employment programs

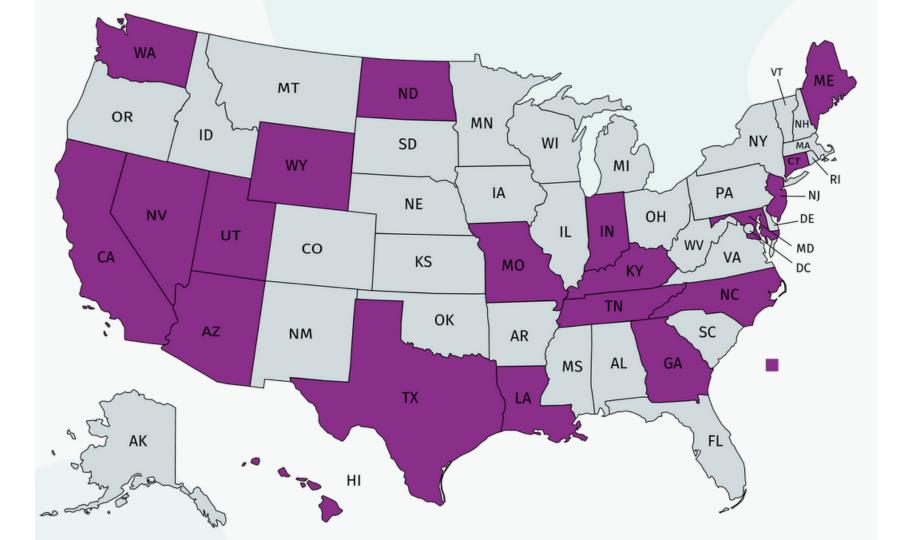
Health and mental health insurance and access

Access to vital documents

State funding for services

Minor consent for shelter/housing

Post-secondary education policy





#### Recently -passed laws include:

#### #1

Creating and funding state programs for housing, college housing, and educational success for youth experiencing homelessness

#### #2

Promoting high school graduation (partial credits, alternative diplomas)

#### #3

Promoting higher education completion (liaisons, housing, fee waivers)

#### #4

Empowering
unaccompanied
homeless minors
to consent for
health care, mental
health care, and
housing

#### #5

Empowering unaccompanied homeless youth to access their own birth certificates, photo IDs, and driver licenses at no cost

#### #6

Providing a tax credit for employing youth experiencing homelessness

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/policy-advocacy/state-policy/

#### How to Address Law and Policy Barriers

- 1. Assess state law barrier and assemble stakeholders.
- 1. Explore what <u>other states</u> have done on those issues.
- 1. Create solutions for your state.
- 1. Enlist allies and advocate to turn those solutions into state laws.



## Taking it to the Hills

- 1. Advocacy vs. Lobbying: Know the Difference
- 2. Preparing for Hill Visits: Before, During, Afterwards
- 3. Online and Other Forms of Advocacy





**Advocacy:** Any activity to influence policy. Includes:

- Educating
- Providing information
- Arguing a cause

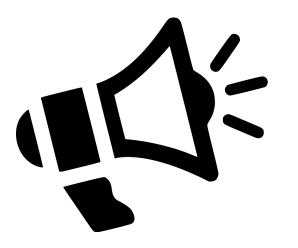




Lobbying: Activities that ask legislators to take a specific position on a specific piece of legislation, or urge others to do the same (IRS definition for non-profits).



#### What If I Can't Lobby?



- Check to be sure, be mindful of the narrow, specific definition of lobbying.
- Offer information to educate Congressional staff about the impact of proposed policies, but stop short of making a specific ask.
- Find others to "make the ask": National organizations, like SHC, nonprofit community partners, etc.
- Act as a private individual. You don't lose your rights as a citizen just because you work for government.

### "Citizen - Centric Advocacy:" Congressional Management Foundation Report

- 1. Direct constituent interactions have more influence on lawmakers' decisions than other advocacy strategies.
- 2. Congress places aigh value on groups and citizens who have built relationships with the legislator and staff.
- 3. **Citizen advocates** are more influential and contribute to better public policy when they provide personalized and local information to Congress.
- 4. Citizens have significant potential to enhance their advocacy skills and influence Congress.

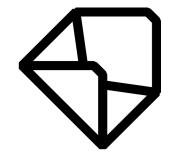


#### **Common Methods of Advocacy**



#### Meetings

- Group/Individual
- Town hall



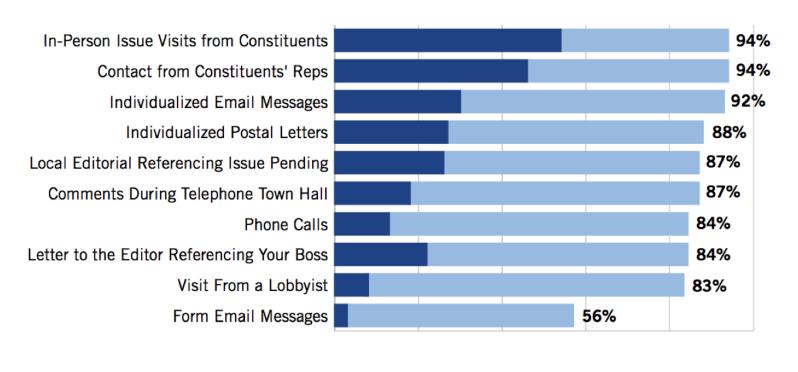
#### Letters

- Individual
- Group sign-on letters



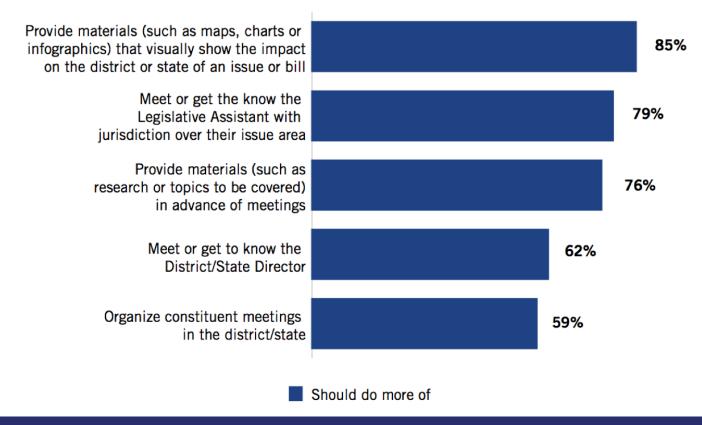
Phone calls

### If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the *Washington office* have on his/her decision?

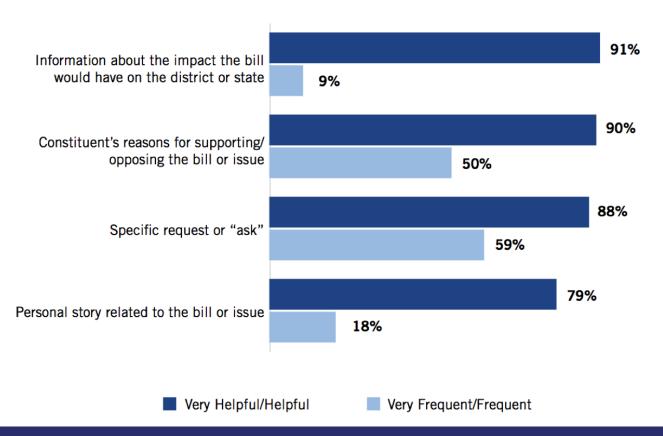


A Lot of Positive Influence Some Positive Influence

In thinking about constituents and the groups that represent them (e.g., associations, nonprofits, companies), what should they do more or less of to build better relationships with your office and your Member/Senator?



#### How helpful is it for messages from constituents to include the following? How frequently do messages from constituents include the following?





# Nuts and Bolts of Capitol Hill visits (Also applies to meetings back home)

#### Before:

- Setting up the Meeting
- Preparing for the Meeting

#### During:

Conducting the Meeting

#### After:

Following Up from the Meeting



# Setting up Meetings

Call and ask for the name and email address of the staff who handles the issues you plan to discuss. Typically:

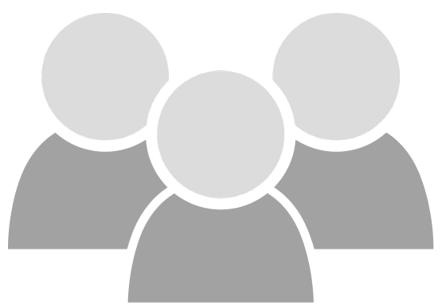
- Education staff cover early childhood, K12, and higher education.
- Housing staff cover HUD homeless assistance.
- Phone numbers for US Representatives' offices can be found on <u>www.house.gov</u>and phone numbers for US Senate offices can be found onwww.senate.gov

If you don't reach that person, leave a message and send an email request with the purpose of your meeting, who will be coming with you, and the times that you are available to meet.

# Setting up Meetings

- Staff will either reply with a time they can meet, or find another staff in the office who is available at that time.
- Occasionally, if the Senator or Member is in town and available, they will see if he or she can join the meeting.
- SHC can help we have a directory of staff names and email addresses (for the DC office and the state/district office).

## **Titles of Congressional Staff**



### By level of seniority/responsibility:

- Legislative Correspondent
- Legislative Assistant
- Counsel
- Legislative Director
- Chief of Staff



# **TIPS**

- Legislative staff are critical; they have tremendous influence. Good relations with staff are essential.
- Most legislators don't do details, but if they commit to an issue, it is GOLD.
- It is worth trying to meet with legislators when back at home.

# Before: Preparing for Meeting

Become familiar with the top issues that Congress is <u>currently</u> considering that directly relate to homeless children, youth, and families.

- Check out SHC's twopage summary handout; you can bring a copy with you to the Hill, and we have extras at our exhibit table.
- Review SHC's federal policy page for even more background information, including fact sheets on these bills, and current status.

# Before: Preparing for Meeting

#### Do a little research:

- Has the Member has been a champion or expressed interest in an issue that can be connected to the education, health, and well-being of children and youth experiencing homelessness?
  - For example, trafficking, opioids, child care, mental health, housing, etc.
- Be prepared to connect the Member's top issue the work that you do.

# Before: Preparing for Meeting

- Prepare a 1-page document (two-sided) with local or state information that relates directly to the issues on which you would like the Member to take action.
  - SHC has a onepage template you can customize for your community and/or state.
- Include local statistics/data if you have them.
- Be prepared to give specific example of or story about a problem that the legislation would address, and how the legislation would positively impact children and youth.
- If you don't have time to prepare a document in advance of down some talking points, then send information to the staff after the meeting.

# During: Six Parts of a Hill visit

- 1. Start with **brief introductions** (your name, your agency, what you do)
- 2. State the purpose of the meeting, including the specific legislative issues you'd like to discuss.
- 3. Ask if the staff is <u>familiar with McKinney-Vento</u> (or issue you wish to discuss).
- 4. Share your local or state document/information, and walk the staff through the basics: local trends, and challenges related to the legislative issues; how the pending legislation would help.
- 5. Close by making the requests pport funding for the EHCY/RHYA programs; sign on as a co-sponsor to HEASHFY; sign on as a co-sponsor of HCYA.
- 6. Thank the staff for their time. Offer to be a resource for them on these topics, and to organize a site visit for the Member when he/she is back in the district/state.



# **TIPS**

- Plan for a maximum of 20 minutes, perhaps shorter.
- Think of the visit as a conversation, not as a presentation pause, ask if they have questions, be responsive to their interests.
- If you don't know the answer, let the staff know you'll find the answer and get back to him or her; you also can refer them to SHC.
- If you are going with a group, consider assigning people to open the meeting, close the meeting, and move the conversation along.
- The person with the hometown connection or the constituent should lead the introductions and the conversation.

# Let's Role Play!

# After: Follow -up is Essential

- Email the staff a thank you note attach electronic copies of your local/state information, and reiterate your request.
- Offer again to be aresource for them on these topics.
- Organize a site visit for the Member when he/she is back in the district/state, and/or attend a Town Hall Meeting.
- Look for reasons to stay in touch: sending local news articles, and reaching out when any of the top three bills (or related bills) move forward in the legislative process.

### After: Follow -up is Essential

- Send another thank you if they do sign on as a cosponsor.
- Ask other local groups/people, particularly those who know/have a relationship with the Member, to follow up on the issue.
- Let SHC know how the meeting wen we can follow up and provide additional supporting information.

### Hill Visits "Dos and Don'ts"



#### HILL VISITS "DOS" AND "DON'TS"

Adapted from the NASW's Lobby Day Toolkit.

#### DO:

- Do present local and/or state trends in child and youth homelessness, as well as local challenges
  that are directly related to issues that Congress is considering, such as federal funding for the
  McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, barriers to higher
  education for homeless youth (FAFSA), and problems caused by HUD's definition of
  homelessness. Visit www.schoolhouseconnection.org for current topics in federal policy.
- Do use data and some specific examples from the legislator's home state or district, and be prepared to share real stories that illustrate both the challenges and how the legislation would address them.
- Do admit you don't know if you are asked a question to which you don't know the answer. Offer
  to find out the answer and send information back to the office. (SchoolHouse Connection is
  happy to help you find answers, too.)
- Do spend time developing relationships with the legislative staff, including sending an email after the visit with electronic copies of any materials that you provided.
- Do thank the staff for his or her time, and for any actions the legislator has taken that you support

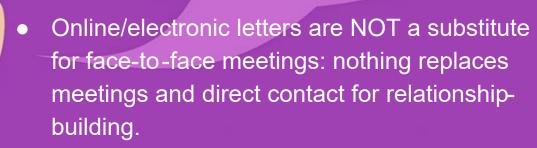
#### DON'T:

- Don't be offended if a legislator is unable to meet and requests that you meet with his or her staff; legislative staff have significant influence.
- Don't assume legislative staff are familiar with the issues, nationally or locally: their schedules and workloads tend to make them generalists, not specialists.
- Don't give a presentation; the meeting should feel like a conversation and allow time for the staff to ask questions.
- Don't be long-winded; staff are very busy, and you may lose their attention if you are not succinct.
- Don't be intimidated; you are the expert. Good policy is based on accurate, compelling information provided by constituents.



# Other Forms of Advocacy: Electronic Form Letters





 However, generating large numbers of PERSONALIZED electronic letters can be helpful in drawing attention to an issue.

## SHC's RallyCongress Platform

### Help Homeless and Foster Youth Succeed in Higher Education

Cosponsor the Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act (S. 789/H.R. 1724)

Homeless and foster youth care encounter many barriers to higher education. These vulnerable young people contend with histories of abuse, neglect, trauma, and frequent educational disruption caused by mobility. They struggle without parental care or other adult support, and frequently lack the basics that most of us take for granted, like shelter and food.

Higher education is their best hope for a better life

The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act ensures that

homeless and foster youth benefit from college access programs, have access to financial aid without burdensome and prohibitive documentation, and receive the support they need to stay in school and graduate.

Please take one minute to help homeless and foster youth realize their dreams and achieve economic independence through higher education.



Send Message

Send a Tweet

Phone Lookup

- Rally Congress is an online platform that delivers supporters' electronic messages, phone calls, tweets, and letters to lawmakers.
- Simply enter your zip code, edit the template letter, and send.
- You can also send tweets to your legislators and make calls from the site, too.

### How to Stay Up -to-Date on the Issues



 To see if your Member has signed on as a cosponsor, go to Congress.gov, and type in the bill number or name of the legislation.

Sign up for SHC'se-newsletter

Check out SHC's federal policy page

## Let's Get Social

#1



www.facebook.com/SchoolHouseConnection

#2



https://www.facebook.com/SchoolHouseConnection/groups/

#3



https://twitter.com/SchoolHouseConn

# Questions?





Scholarship open to applicants:

Born on or after November 11, 1999 Entering college for the first time in the 2020-21 school year

Who have experienced homelessness within the last 6 years

DC Summit

Leaders in policy, advocacy, and mentorship

https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/ youth-leadership/scholarship-program/