



Rise & Brew Summary

January 21, 2025

Winter's Not Always a Wonderland: Supporting MV Students Through the Five-Ts of January

Thank you so much for joining us for our January Rise & Brew! This month, we focused on equipping you with tools and tips about **Winter's Not Always a Wonderland: Supporting MV Students Through the Five-Ts of January!**

Overview:

"**Rise & Brew**" is a 30-minute insightful session specifically designed for MV Liaisons. These monthly virtual get-togethers are like a shot of express-o, providing timely updates, valuable insights, and a space for MV liaisons from across the nation to come together and brew some amazing ideas!

1. Temperature: Coping with the Cold
 - a. Winter is not so wonderful as temperatures plummet, and families face inadequate housing, heating, and limited access to warm clothing.
 - b. Support Strategies: Connect families with warming center lists when applicable, coats/scarves/gloves, utility assistance, and heater access to address immediate needs.
2. Turnover: When the Welcome Mat Wears Out
 - a. Homelessness is on the Rise
 - b. Colder temps, indoor activities, and shorter days/ longer nights lead to increased doubled up housing turnover.
 - c. Solution: Create contingency plans, provide resource lists, and collaborate with local shelters and housing access points to mitigate turnover.
3. Taxes: Financial Hope or Hurdle?
 - a. Many MV families rely on the "hopium" of tax refunds (EITC, CTC) for financial relief, which often leads to unsustainable financial decisions.

- b. Guidance: Work with families and community partners to prioritize sustainable budget plans.
- 4. Transitions: When families find a home
 - a. When families secure housing, working with families, staff, and transportation moves at the speed of trust. Address Updates & Quick Communication
 - b. Guidance: Build support networks by working closely with school staff, transportation teams, and families to ensure smooth school stability and support for homeless children and youth.
- 5. Transportation: School Stability
 - a. Transportation to the school of origin is vital for homeless children and youth during times of transition.
 - b. Best Practices: Submit MV transportation requests as quickly as possible, follow up with families to confirm needs, and customize plans.
- 6. Winter Support Plan: Proactive Family Assistance
 - a. Evaluate the Resource Capital of each family
 - b. Develop a Housing Plan
 - i. Immediate/Short Term Plan
 - ii. Long Term Plan
 - c. Readily Accessible Community Resource Lists