

Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention

Child Find for Identifying Eligible Children who are Experiencing Homelessness

Definition of Children Experiencing Homelessness

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, reauthorized in 2002, 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 awaiting 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.

Philadelphia School District Homeless Liaison

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

Al Quarles 215-400-6045
Regional Coordinator 267-784-9956
abquarles@philasd.org

Procedures

1. Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention (ITEI) collaborates with Philadelphia's Office of Homeless Services to identify potentially eligible children through onsite visits at shelters and transitional housing sites and through programs and cooperative efforts for families experiencing homelessness outside of the shelter system. Wherever possible, data sharing agreements that support the identification of children and families in transition are used.
2. ITEI's Child Find for families of young children in shelters and transitional housing is *Early Intervention for Families in Transition (EI FIT)*. ITEI oversees EI-FIT and works in collaboration with KenCrest Services to implement this project. *EI FIT Partners* maintain contact with over 15 sites to identify potentially eligible children.
 - a. The EI-FIT Partner establishes a routine communication and visiting process with each site to meet new families with infants and toddler and to complete a referral to Infant Toddler Early Intervention.
 - b. EI Intake prioritizes these referrals and promptly assigns the family to a Service Coordination Entity.
 - c. The assigned Service Coordinator promptly schedules an Initial Visit with the family to gather further information regarding concerns about the child.
 - d. While with the family at this Initial Visit, the SC schedules an Initial Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) meeting.
 - e. If the child is found eligible for Early Intervention, the team, which includes the family, discuss the desired outcomes and priority needs of the family for the child and 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 agencies, however, who are assigned to each shelter should the family not indicate a specific choice of providers.

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- g. If the child is not eligible for Early Intervention at the time of the MDE, with the parent's consent the SC will enroll the child in Regular Developmental Screening.
- 3. ITEI is an active member of the Children's Workgroup Early Childhood Committee, that consists of public and private agencies and organizations dedicated to identifying and supporting families of young children experiencing homelessness. ITEI regularly participates in cross system meetings to improve outreach and support to families of young children who are experiencing homelessness.