



McKinney-Vento Program

The Children's Trust of Alachua County May 11, 2026



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

MISSION AND SCOPE

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness have access to a free, appropriate public education by removing barriers.

- Immediate enrollment
- School of origin
- Transportation (including school of origin)
- Comparable service

- Free school meals
- Partial credit accrual
- Access to postsecondary education

McKinney-Vento — Alachua County Program

935

Students Identified
2025–2026

~1,000

Annual Average Over
5 Years of Growth

Increasing

Current economic conditions indicate
a rise in eligibility

Additional Population Context

- 5 years of consistent growth, with an average of 1,000 displaced students annually
- COVID caused a temporary decrease in identification
- Current economic conditions indicate an increase in eligibility

Primary Causes of Displaced Students and Families

- Lack of affordable housing

- Non-monetary evictions (unique to our community)

- Lack of employment opportunities

Identification and Outreach

Identification Methods

- Enrollment questionnaire
- Staff/counselor referrals
- Self-identification at registration
- Family liaison home visits
- Community partners: Family Promise, One More Child, Continuum of Care, Safety Net Collaborative, and Headstart



Outreach Strategies

- Partnerships with shelters and food banks
- Training for all school-based district staff
- Multi-lingual flyers and community postings
- Participation in displaced student and family community events



Under-Identified Student Populations

These populations are often overlooked and require targeted outreach to ensure they receive the services they are entitled to under federal law.

Doubled-Up Housing

Families sharing space not meant for them

English Language Learners (ELL)

Language barriers complicate identification

Migrant / Seasonal Workers

Frequent moves disrupt enrollment

Immigrant Families

Fear and unfamiliarity with school systems

Unaccompanied Youth

Teens living without a parent or guardian

 **Proactive outreach and staff training are essential to reaching these hidden populations.**


Services and Supports

 **Clothing,
Hygiene Kits,
Backpacks and
Food Bank
Referrals**

Essential needs

 **Transportation
to School of
Origin**

Stability in transit

 **Immediate
Enrollment
Without Records**

*No barriers to
entry*

 **Case
Management
Services**

*Coordinated
support*

 **Social
Worker
Services**

Family advocate

 **Tutoring and
Academic
Services**

*Academic
stability*

 **Dropout
Prevention
Specialists**

*Long-term
success*

Outcomes & Impact

Providing transportation to the school of origin ensures stability and minimizes disruption for McKinney-Vento students and families.

Community Partnership Examples

**Alachua County
Social Services**

Family Promise

One More Child

**Safety Net
Collaborative**

**Continuum of Care
(CoC)**

KEY OUTCOME: SCHOOL STABILITY

Students experiencing homelessness who remain at their school of origin show improved attendance, higher academic performance, and stronger social-emotional outcomes — all of which translate directly to long-term community benefit.

Challenges and Gaps

Federal Funding Constraints

Grant funds are limited and highly competitive, restricting program capacity.

Donation Constraints

Restrictions on use of donated goods create service gaps for basic needs.

Transportation Demands

High family mobility of McKinney-Vento students makes consistent transportation extremely difficult and costly.

Housing & Economic Instability

Lack of affordable housing, inflation, and post-pandemic instability continue to drive rising need.

Staffing Capacity

Current staffing levels are insufficient to meet the growing demand for services and outreach.

Funding and Sustainability

Alachua County Public Schools McKinney-Vento Program Funding Sources:

Federal Title IX, Part A	McKinney-Vento grant funds — primary federal funding stream
Title I, Part A Set-Aside	Required set-aside to supplement services for homeless students
Nonprofit Organizations	Fiscal contributions supporting basic needs and services
University Student Organizations	Community engagement and in-kind support
Community Donations	Supplemental supplies and basic needs items

Data and Accountability

Data Systems

- Student information systems — Skyward
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliance logs
- Florida Department of Education reporting

Data Sharing Partners

- United Way
- Alachua County Housing Authority
- Department of Children and Families
- Meridian Behavioral Health
- Children's Trust

DATA SHARING PRINCIPLE

All data is shared in compliance with FERPA and applicable Florida statutes. The goal is coordinated care and improved service delivery — not surveillance. Consent and transparency are central to all partnerships.

Ideal County System

To truly serve McKinney-Vento students and families, Alachua County needs a coordinated, fully-resourced system of support:

Financial Literacy

Programs to help families achieve long-term economic stability

Sufficient Staffing

Transportation, materials, and community services at scale

Affordable Housing

Support services to stabilize and house displaced families

Employment Services

Identification and placement services for working-age adults

Long-Term Child Care

Sustained care options to support working parents

Questions and Discussion

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