**Definition of Homelessness**
Children and youth who lack a regular, adequate and fixed nighttime residence including: children who share housing with other persons due to loss of housing or economic hardship; children living in emergency or transitional shelters; children living in motels, campgrounds, trailer parks, etc., as well as unaccompanied youth.

**Homeless students and their families have the following rights:**
- **To go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there.** They must be given access to the same public education, including pre-school education, provided to other children.
- **To stay in their original or last school even if they move to another district.** Homeless students have the right to stay in the school they attended prior to the loss of housing, or to remain in the school they were last enrolled, unless the parent or unaccompanied youth chooses otherwise. This is called the school of origin.
- **To get transportation to their original school.** School districts must arrange transportation for students in homeless situations so that students can stay at their school of origin, even if students move to a different city, county, or school district.
- **To immediately enroll in the school district in which they are situated.** Schools in the district in which a homeless student is situated must immediately enroll the student, allowing them to attend classes and participate fully in school activities. These students are able to enroll even if they do not have records or other items that are required for non-homeless students. This includes: immunizations or immunization records; physical examinations or medical records; academic records; proof of residency; a parent or legal guardian; birth certificates; and/or other documents.
- **To receive automatically free breakfast and lunch at school.** A shelter worker or parent may contact the school to verify the child's homelessness. The school must immediately begin providing meals based on verification.
- **To receive Title 1 services.**
- **To receive all the educational and supplemental services that all other children are provided.**

**If Your Family Lives in any of the Following Situations:**
- In a shelter, motel or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find affordable housing

Then your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

**When you move, you should do the following:**
- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue his/her former placement.
- Contact the school and provide information that will assist the teachers in helping your child.
- Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider or social worker for help with clothing and supplies, if needed.

**For Assistance with Medical Services**
Newton Health and Human Services Department
Deborah Youngblood, PhD, Commissioner
(617) 796-1420

Newton Division of Social Services
(617) 796-1420

The Newton Division of Social Services provides case management, outreach, information, and referral for Newton residents related to:
- **Budget/Financial Planning**
- **Emergency Oil/Fuel Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Food Insecurity**
- **Housing/Shelter**
- **SNAP Applications**
- **Mental Health Referrals**
- **Legal Assistance**
- **Substance Use Referrals**
- **Support Groups**
- **WIC Referrals**
- **Workforce Development**

**Additional Social Service Agencies**
YMCA of Greater Boston . . . . . (617) 782-3535
EmPath Economic Mobility Pathways . . . . . (617) 782-7600
Middlesex Human Services Agency . . . . . (781) 647-9957
Jewish Family and Children's Services . . . . . (781) 647-5327
Action for Boston Community Development . . . (617) 783-5646
Family Aid Boston . . . . . . . . . . . (617) 542-7286
Resources for the Homeless

FOOD
Newton Food Pantry ............................................. (617) 796-1233
Family Table ..................................................... (781) 693-5593
Alston-Brighton Food Pantry .................................. (617) 254-4046
Brookline Food Pantry ......................................... (617) 800-5339
Boston Food Pantry ............................................. (617) 375-0700
Helping Hand Food Pantry .................................. (617) 576-2329
Greater Boston Food Bank .................................... (617) 427-5200
Centre Street Food Pantry ................................... (617) 340-9554
Arabic Baptist Church Food Pantry ......................... (617) 723-9766
WIC ........................................................................ (781) 642-7194
SNAP ....................................................................... (617) 576-2329

FURNITURE/CLOTHING
Salvation Army ....................................................... (617) 427-6700
Solutions At Work ................................................ (617) 492-0300
St. Francis House .................................................. (617) 542-4211

HOUSING
Newton Housing Authority ..................................... (617) 552-5501
Homes for Families ................................................. (617) 227-4188
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership ................ (617) 859-0400
Dept. of Transitional Assistance, Boston .................. (617) 348-8400
Dept. of Housing and Community Development .... (617) 573-1100
MetroList ............................................................... (617) 635-3321

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES
Safelink .................................................................. (617) 524-0100
National Domestic Violence Hotline ....................... (800) 799-7233
Second Step .......................................................... (617) 965-3999
Casa Myrna ............................................................ (617) 521-0100
Crittenton Women's Union .................................... (617) 259-2900
Elizabeth Stone House .......................................... (617) 427-9801
FINEX House ........................................................ (617) 288-1055

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Boston Medical Center Homeless Program ............... (617) 534-2526
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program .......... (617) 642-8500
Head Start Brighton ............................................... (617) 783-5646
Friends of Boston's Homeless ................................ (617) 534-2526
Society of St. Vincent De Paul ................................ (617) 268-0710
Department of Children & Families ......................... (781) 641-8510
American Red Cross .............................................. (617) 274-5200

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001

"Supporting the Academic Achievement of Students in Non-Permanent Housing"

Local Liaison for Homeless Education:
Jill Glashow
617-559-9003
glashowj@newton.k12.ma.us

Newton Public Schools
McKinney-Vento Liaison and Foster Care Liaison