
Housing and Community Resources for McKinney-Vento Students and Families

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Housing and Community Resources

Tacoma Public Schools created my current position in hopes to help McKinney-Vento families gain streamlined access to housing and community resources in Pierce County. One of the largest challenges serving families and students in our district has been the difference in definition of homelessness. In order to qualify for most housing programs in our community, families must be “literally homeless” – as defined by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which is “an individual or family who live in a place not meant for human habitation (including the streets or in a car), emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization.” More information about these policies, funding and programs can be found at this link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/>

For this document, my hope is to offer some general details for families who meet the “literally homeless” definition, as well as for those who are currently doubled-up or couch-surfing. I have chosen this format with hopes to keep information up to date - as numbers and resources are constantly changing.

For any additional needs not covered here, if you have questions that were not answered with this document, or have a unique housing-related concern related to students and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability, please feel free to reach out through email sivero@tacoma.k12.wa.us or over phone at 253-571-6781.

Pierce County Coordinated Entry

If students and families meet the HUD definition of “literally homeless” they will want to contact **Access Point for Housing** at **253-682-3401**. At the time of the call they will need to verify their situation with an intake specialist. From there they will be offered an intake appointment – where they will discuss housing options and available programs. Families and students that do not meet the HUD definition will be turned away. ***There are currently VERY LIMITED funds to prevent the experience of homelessness.***

Emergency Shelter and Housing Resources

The Rescue Mission Adams Street Family Shelter: Does not require a screening from Access Point for Housing. Offers emergency shelter for families.

Call every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:00-10:00 am

Have Picture ID, Social Security and criminal background will be reviewed.

Phone Number: 253-383-4493 - Ask for Adam’s St Family Shelter

Salvation Army: Requires screening from Access Point for Housing. Families will be placed through referral process. Offers emergency shelter for families.

Phone Number: 253-572-8452

YWCA: Families experiencing domestic violence will want to call their 24 hour hotline and will be assessed at time of call. Offers DV support services, legal services, and safe shelter.

Phone Number: 253-383-2593

KWA (Korean Women’s Association): Offers shelter and support services for families impacted by domestic violence. Contact their 24 hour crisis line to access their resources.

Phone Number: 253-359-0470

Catholic Community Services Family Day Center: Offers drop support services for families experiencing homelessness. Families can access onsite caseworker, Coordinated Entry intake, showers, laundry, computers and kitchen facilities.

Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

Wednesdays: Noon-6:00pm

Address: 5050 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409

Comprehensive Life Resources Youth Shelter:

Overnight Shelter

The overnight shelter has 50 beds and serves young people ages 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness.

Open daily 9:00 pm – 6:30 am.

Location: Beacon Senior Center

415 South 13th Street (At the corner of 13th& Fawcett) Tacoma, WA 98402

Phone Number: 253-256-3087

Community Youth Services New Directions

Shelter for 12 to 17 year olds

There are limited beds reserved for this population – they ask that youth call on their own in order to understand their situation first hand. Please note – CPS and Law enforcement are notified, as reunification is the end goal for this population.

Phone Number: 253-212-3432

The REACH Center <http://reachtacoma.org/>

The REACH Center is a one-stop youth service center for young people 16-24 seeking to advance their educational, career, and life goals. Serves walk-ins and is a Coordinated Entry site for accessing resources for youth experiencing homelessness.

Open Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: 714 South 27th Street, First Floor Tacoma, WA 98409

Phone Number: 253-573-6590

ACT: Resource Navigation for Youth

ACT is housed at the REACH Center (714 S. 27th St. Tacoma, WA 98409). ACT is composed of a team of caseworkers that are focused in serving 16-24 year olds. They will be able to provide additional support with housing referrals and resources, education and employment services, legal advocacy and representation, LGBTQ+ community support and resources, accessing shelter, clothing/hygiene/food resources, and physical/mental health referrals. To get students connected to this team, call the number below.

Phone Number: 253-573-6882

Shared Housing Services <http://www.sharedhousingservices.org/>

Shared Housing Services offers low-income individuals and families innovative and affordable solutions to prevent homelessness and foster independence through home sharing and transitional housing programs that include case management services and connections to vital community resources. Address: 901 South 11th Street Tacoma, WA 98405

Phone Number: 253-272-1532

Miscellaneous Community Resources

Energy Assistance

Salvation Army (NEW AS OF OCTOBER 22, 2018) - LIMITED FUNDS

Utility Assistance will be available through calling and scheduling and by walk in appointments. The individual will need to bring their ID and a current utility bill in their name which reflects 30 days of charges.

Call In Scheduled Appointments will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Walk Ins will be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10-11am.

Telephone: **(253) 572-8452**

MDC Energy Assistance

The Energy Assistance Program provides a one-time per program-year grant to assist eligible low-income households with heating costs. To apply, you must live within the city of Tacoma and meet the income guidelines. Payment is made directly to the heating vendor and the amount paid will be based on your last 12 months' heating costs.

The Energy Assistance Appointment Line Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Telephone: **(253) 572-5557** Fax: (253) 597-6700

Information Found at: <http://mdc-hope.org/housing/energy-assistance>

Pierce County Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

EAP pays heating bills directly to utility companies for eligible applicants. Payments are based on eligible household's fuel usage for the past 12 months and income.

All applicants receive education on energy conservation, utility payment plans and budgeting. Resources are limited. To see if you're eligible, please call the automated appointment line at **1 (855) 798-HEAT (4328)**.

Information Found at: <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/1280/Energy-Assistance>

Basic Needs Assistance

To access basic food, cash assistance and medical insurance needs the primary agency for these resources will be DSHS. Depending on what area the family or student resides will dictate which community service office (CSO) they will need to visit.

Information Found at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/food-cash-medical>

If a student or family is in need of additional resources related to food, please visit this website that lists phone numbers, times, and locations of local food banks in Tacoma and Pierce County. <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/454/Food-Banks>

For children 0-18 years of age that are placed in the foster care system, The Wishing Well Foundation provides clothing resources. Contact Erika Thompson at **206-406-2398** or email thewishingwellwa@hotmail.com to access this resource.

Fair Housing and Landlord/Tenant Concerns

If you encounter a student or family who feels they are facing discrimination that is connected to their housing, they can contact either of these agencies below to file a formal complaint and/or learn more about their legal rights as a tenant.

Fair Housing Center of Washington

Location: 1517 Fawcett Ave # 250
Tacoma, WA 98402
Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Phone: 253-274-9523
Fax: 253-274-8220

Information Found at: <https://fhcWASHINGTON.org/>

City of Tacoma Landlord Tenant Program

Location: 747 Market Street
Room 108
Tacoma, WA 98402
Walk-In Wednesdays
9 AM - 1 PM
Located in the Customer Support Center
Phone: (253) 591-5000

Information Found at:

https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/equity_and_human_rights/landlord-tenant_program

Legal Assistance

Volunteer Legal Services

Volunteer Legal Services can help with civil legal issues in Pierce County when you cannot afford to hire an attorney. You do not have to be a Pierce County resident to get help with your case. Call **(253) 572-5134** or e-mail **vls@tacomaprobono.org**.

Information Found at: <http://www.tacomaprobono.org/>

Northwest Justice Project - Tacoma Office

NJP operates a toll-free intake and referral hotline called CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education Advice and Referral). CLEAR serves as the statewide, centralized point of access for clients seeking free legal help, including advice, education, limited legal services, self-help materials and, where available, referrals for further representation. NJP attorneys in offices around the state provide assistance and direct representation in high priority, complex cases, including cases that address barriers to persons seeking access to our justice system, and also engage in community education efforts.

Location: 715 Tacoma Avenue South Tacoma, WA 98402

(253) 272-7879

1-888-201-1015

1-888-201-1014 (CLEAR - Client Intake)

Fax: (253) 272-8226

Information Found at: <https://nwjustice.org/>

Domestic Violence And Sexual Assault Assistance

Crystal Judson Family Justice Center

For individuals or those who are aware of those experiencing domestic abuse, this agency offers a variety of resources. **This agency does not offer emergency shelter services. If an individual is experiencing domestic violence and is in need of shelter - please refer to the ywca. Information is above in the Emergency Shelter Resources section.**

Location: 718 Court E Tacoma, WA 98402

Helpline: 253-798-4166

Toll Free: 800-764-2420

TDD: 253-798-4620

Business Line: 253-798-4310

Fax: 253-798-4320

Information Found at: <http://www.aplaceofhelp.com/>

Rebuilding Hope - Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County

For individuals or those who are impacted by sexual assault - contact this agency. Contact the 24-hour Crisis Line if someone you care about is a victim of sexual assault or abuse: **1-800-756-7273 or in the local Tacoma area (253) 474-7273.** Office Hours and Office Phone: Monday – Thursday from 8:30am – 5:30pm (253) 597-6424
Information Found at: <http://www.sexualassaultcenter.com/>

Child Care Resources

Child care stipends are offered to families connected to DSHS - known as Working Connections Child care. This is a great resource that can be accessed by going to the family's DSHS Community Service Office.

Child Care Aware Of Washington Family Center

If a family is experiencing homelessness (McKinney-Vento definition) - there are resources for child care subsidies and help finding a licensed child care provider. Parents or guardians will want to call **1-800-446-1114** for this assistance.

This resource can also be reached by email: familycenter@childcare.org

Summer Programs

Graduate Tacoma Summer Learning

Visit link below to explore summer opportunities from online learning to meal sites for students and families.

<https://www.summerlearningtacoma.org/?go=process>

Email: summerlearning@graduatetacoma.org

Phone: 253-272-1600 Ext 105 (Office will be closed on Fridays in July 2019)

Metro Parks USDA Summer Meal Program

Visit link below to explore free summer meal sites for students and families.

<https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/free-summer-meal-program/>