

# Understanding the Needs and Barriers of Students Experiencing Homelessness

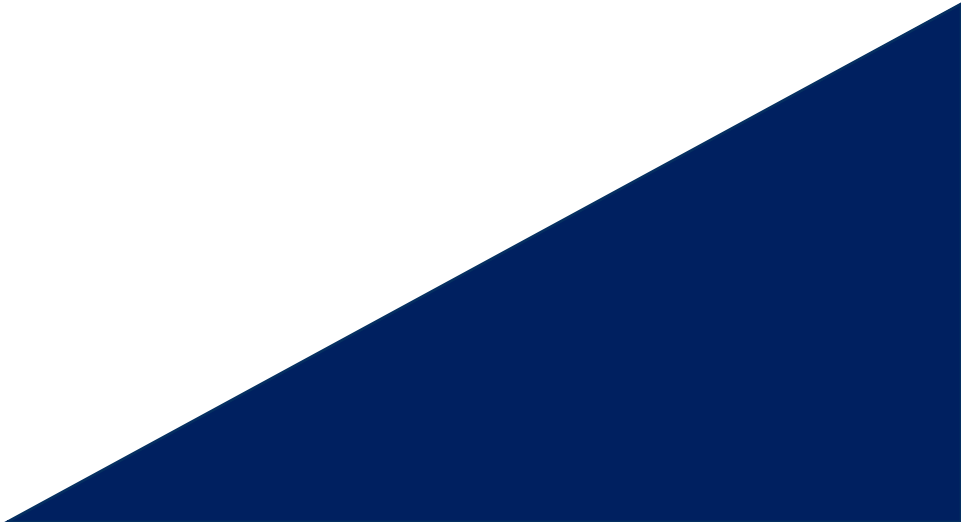
Daniel Jordan, Program Specialist  
North Carolina Homeless Education Program  
[djordan@serve.org](mailto:djordan@serve.org)  
[Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov)

April Query, Ed.D.  
Assistant Vice President, College Access & Community Outreach  
College Foundation of North Carolina  
[April.Query@cfi.org](mailto:April.Query@cfi.org)

May 2, 2024

# Agenda

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- Who is NCHEP?
  - Understanding McKinney-Vento
  - Homeless Liaison roles
  - SPOC programs
  - Why SPOC programs are needed
  - Best practices
  - Common barriers for students experiencing homelessness/UHY
  - CFNC's involvement
  - Resources
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# North Carolina Homeless Education Program

## NCHEP Staff

Lisa Phillips

**State Coordinator for EHCY**

336-543-4285

[lisa.phillips@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lisa.phillips@dpi.nc.gov)

[lphillip@serve.org](mailto:lphillip@serve.org)

Anelia “Neely” Ward

**Program Coordinator for EHCY**

336-260-0619

[anelia.ward@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:anelia.ward@dpi.nc.gov)

[award@serve.org](mailto:award@serve.org)



# North Carolina Homeless Education Program

## NCHPEP Staff

Beth Branagan  
**Program Specialist**  
*Regions 5-8*  
(743) 241-0818  
[Beth.Branagan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Beth.Branagan@dpi.nc.gov)

Daniel Jordan  
**Program Specialist**  
*Special Populations*  
(743) 241-0097  
[Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov)

Savannah Gay  
**Program Specialist**  
*Charter Schools*  
(336) 315-7434  
[Savannah.Gay@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Savannah.Gay@dpi.nc.gov)

Tamika Dawkins  
**Program Specialist**  
*Special Populations*  
(743) 222-9024  
[Tamika.Dawkins@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Tamika.Dawkins@dpi.nc.gov)

Lisa "LJ" Von Dohlen  
**Program Coordinator**  
*Foster Care*  
(743) 208-3686  
[Ivondohlen@serve.org](mailto:Ivondohlen@serve.org)

Derick Buggs  
**Program Specialist**  
*Regions 1-4*  
(336) 840-4116  
[Dbuggs@serve.org](mailto:Dbuggs@serve.org)



# North Carolina Homeless Education Program

- January 2009 – The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction contracted with The SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to operate the Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program for the state of North Carolina.
- NCHPEP Responsibilities:
  - Ensure Compliance
  - Provide Technical Assistance
  - Conduct Monitoring
  - Provide Information and Awareness



# North Carolina Homeless Education Program



## McKinney-Vento Act

Supports students experiencing homelessness through:

- Enrollment
- Attendance
- Academic Success

*\*A federal law that supersedes local and state policies and laws.*

# McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence



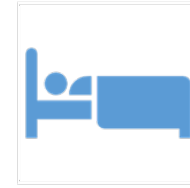
## **Fixed residence**

Stationary, permanent,  
not subject to change



## **Regular residence**

Used on a routine  
basis



## **Adequate residence**

Home setting meets  
both the physical and  
psychological needs

# Homeless Liaison Eligibility Determination

Sharing a home due to loss of housing/  
economic hardship

Living in motels/hotels/  
trailer parks

Living in a shelter/bus or train  
stations

Abandoned in hospitals

Living in cars/parks/  
under bridges

Living in campgrounds/  
abandoned buildings

Migratory children

Human trafficking

Unaccompanied homeless youth

To determine eligibility, the homeless liaison must assess if the student can go to the -  
Same place (fixed)  
Every night (regular)  
To sleep in a safe and sufficient space (adequate)





# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

A youth who is not in the physical custody of  
a parent or legal guardian

**AND**

lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate  
nighttime residence.



# Homeless Liaison Main Responsibilities

- Identify, enroll, and ensure academic success of eligible students
- Referrals to community providers
- Inform parents, guardians, and unaccompanied homeless youth of their rights and educational opportunities
- Post educational rights and information
- Oversees disputes at local level
- Transportation services
- Internal and external professional development, technical assistance, and collaboration
- Data collection of students
- Maintain an annual needs assessment
  - <https://nche.ed.gov/needs-assessment/>
- Attend PD and required trainings
- Oversee McKinney-Vento funding

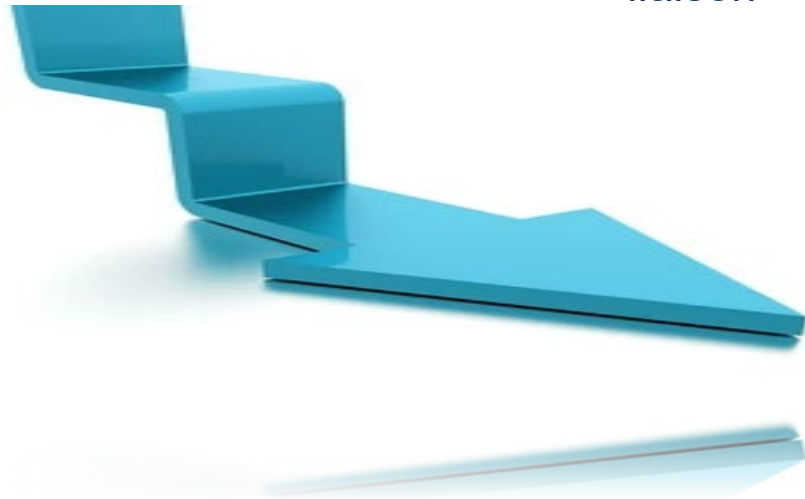
# McKinney-Vento: Implications for Higher Education

McKinney-Vento  
Act: No federal-level  
equivalent in higher  
education

Students  
experiencing  
homelessness are  
accustomed to  
working with a  
liaison

Need to bridge the  
experience from  
secondary to post-  
secondary settings

Opportunities for  
partnerships between  
secondary,  
postsecondary, and  
community settings



# McKinney-Vento: Implications for Higher Education

- McKinney-Vento Act: no federal-level equivalent in higher education
- Students experiencing homelessness are accustomed to working with a homeless liaison
- Need to bridge the experience from secondary to postsecondary settings
- Opportunities for partnerships between secondary, postsecondary, and community settings



# Which Leads us to Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs)...

What is a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) program?

Designated safe and supported college offices and/or staff members committed to helping students experiencing homelessness to successfully navigate the college admissions and enrollment process, succeed while in college by providing supportive services, and connecting them to on-and off-campus resources.

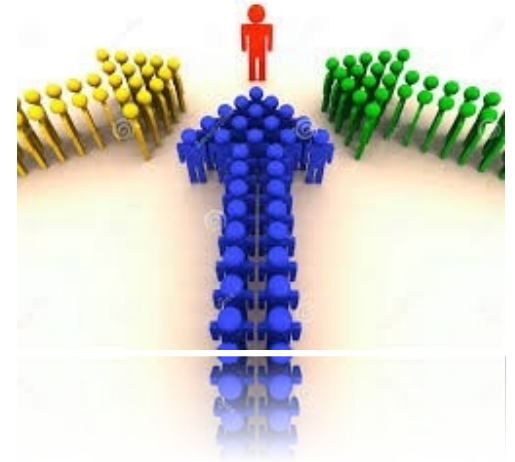
They often assist students with:

- Admissions
- Financial aid
- Academic advising
- Student life
- Community resources

**Who in here has a designated SPOC at their institution?**

# Single Point of Contact

- Reduces the number of times a student has to repeat or relive situations that led them to being homeless
- Having a staff member on campus that is knowledgeable of federal guidance and state laws impacting higher education access and success for UHY
- While the folks who run programs like your food pantry may not be SPOCs, the SPOC would, for example, have a running list of programs like this to share with students experiencing food insecurities and homelessness.



# Best Practices on College Campuses

- Establish coordination between financial aid offices, student support services, and campus housing
- Open a food and clothing bank on campus
- Consider housing options for homeless students when dorms close:
  - Leaving one residence hall open
  - Allow UHY to stay in housing for international students
  - Provide a list of “host homes” in the community
- Establish SPOCs in colleges/universities to help eliminate barriers to higher education access
- Open communication on campuses, reduce shame

# Implementing SPOC Programs

Questions to consider:

- Is there a solo administrator? Possibility for a new department/office?
- Are there funds available? State or foundation funds?
- Risk management concerns on campus?
- How will the staff locate and outreach to homeless students on campus? How to outreach to other campus departments and academic units on campus?
- How will confidentiality be maintained?
- What criteria will be used to assess eligibility?
- Who would handle press inquiries?
- Who are your campus & community partners/assets?
- What is your sustainability plan?



# Implementing SPOC Programs

What resources will the program offer?

- Advocacy?
- Referrals?
- Case management?
- Financial assistance?
- Food pantry?
- Clothing?
- Others?

What do you already have on campus that this can be folded into or connected with?



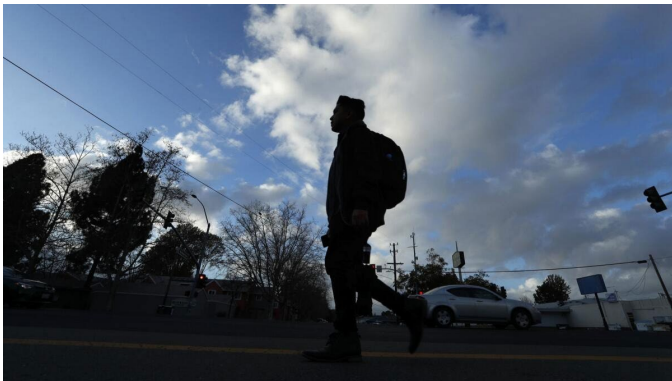
# Implementing SPOC Programs - Other

Other aspects to consider –

- Mental health support
- Employment
  - Kennesaw State University's FWS program set aside \$10,000 in funding toward a temporary on-campus job placement program for recipients of the campus SPOC program, CARE Services. This offers a model for implementing a temporary work program that engages students through employment while addressing their current financial situation and giving them additional experiences to succeed after college (NSEA Journal, Summer 2017).
- Consider conducting a campus needs assessment
- Get other faculty and staff involved by establishing a faculty/staff-based Student Support Committee. This might include admissions, financial aid, counseling center, career center, advisors, advancement office, Bursary's Office, student body members, etc.

# What are some common barriers for students experiencing homelessness/UHY

- Lack of access to parental financial information and support
- Lack of financial means to live independently and safely
- Inability to be financially self-sufficient once enrolled in college
- Limited housing options, especially in small towns or rural areas
- Failure to meet state residency requirements
- Struggling to balance school
- Lack of adult guidance and support
- Lack of information about available support systems



# What do SPOC Programs do?

- Extend the work of the homeless liaison
- Bridge secondary and postsecondary settings
- Help youth navigate the college admissions and enrollment process
- Connect students to campus-based resources and support services
- Advocating to remove barriers
- Providing direct services (financial counseling, housing voucher assistance, transportation support, food assistance, clothing closet, etc.)

**What sounds familiar?**

**Which is your campus doing now?**

**What would you like to do in the future?**

NC State has enacted a Steering Committee, and from their research in 2021, found that:

- 15% of students at NC State have experienced homelessness since the pandemic began.
- Nearly 25% have experienced food insecurity in a 30-day period.
- Student wellness has been poor during the pandemic, with many students indicating that they rarely feel cheerful, calm, or in good spirits; they are not rested and they lack vigor. These feelings are much more intense for students who are food or housing insecure and those who have experienced homelessness.
- Learning has been impacted, with nearly 90% of students who have experienced homelessness reporting that their learning has been negatively impacted by their living situation.

## Donate professional clothing or organize a professional clothing drive

› [Wolpack Styled Clothing Closet](#)

## Donate food or organize a food drive

› [Feed the Pack Food Pantry](#)

› [On-Campus Clothing Donation Sites](#)

› [Volunteer](#)

For more information on giving to these areas, please contact Nicki Peterson, executive director of development, at 919.513.1337 or [napeters@ncsu.edu](mailto:napeters@ncsu.edu)

### WAYS WE CAN HELP YOU NOW

#### Need help paying for college?

We can help answer your questions about financial aid and scholarships so your college costs are covered.

[Read more →](#)

#### Need options for paying tuition and fees?

We can help you set up a payment plan or get a short-term loan from NC State to keep you from getting behind.

[Read more →](#)

#### Need emergency money?

We can help you apply for a grant from the Student Emergency Fund.

[Read more →](#)

#### Need help with food?

From the Feed the Pack Food Pantry to NC State Meal Scholarships, we can help you find food.

[Read more →](#)

## Need a place to stay?

We can help students who are homeless or dealing with housing insecurity.

[Read more →](#)

## Need to speak with a free lawyer?

We provide advice and representation to help you resolve legal problems so they don't interfere in your educational endeavors.

[Read more →](#)

## Need a laptop, textbook, or other device?

We have a limited number of laptops, document cameras and other devices for students to use off campus.

[Read more →](#)

## Need childcare, transportation, a doctor or something not listed above?

Check out these resources, from free computer software to clothes for an interview, childcare and more.

[Read more →](#)

## Need to find a job?

We can help you find job opportunities on campus.

## Need clothes for a job or an interview?

We can provide you with the professional clothing needed for an interview, a career fair, a conference or for your first week of work.

## Want to discuss your situation in a confidential meeting with the Student Ombuds?

The Student Ombuds office is independent, impartial, informal and confidential.

[Read more →](#)

## Become certified as a Pack Essentials Ally

Gain a better understanding of food insecurity, housing insecurity, basic needs and under-resourced students.

[Read more →](#)

<https://dasa.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/76/2024/03/Homeless-ess-and-Food-and-Housing-Insecurity-Among-NC-State-Students-March-2024.pdf>

- › Student Care and Outreach
- › Our Philosophy of Care
- › Share A Concern Now
- › When to Share Concerns

### ▼ Student Resources

- › Helping Friends
- › Academic Strategies & Timeline
- › Hospital Visits
- › Top Strategies for Students

### Learn More and Get Involved:

Elon provides a range of opportunities to learn more and get involved in supporting those in need. Below are just a few of these opportunities:

- › [Kernodle Center's Special Issue Guide for Food Security](#): Includes opportunities for involvement, a sampling of Elon courses focused on food security, and reflection questions.

### Local Resources:

- › [Salvation Army of Burlington](#) | 812 N Anthony St, Burlington, NC 27217 | (336) 227-5529
  - Providing food pantry staples
- › [Allied Churches of Alamance County](#) | (336)229-0881
  - Providing food service, shelter, and coordinated assessment for emergency housing

Students and families in need of advice or support around issues related to food and financial insecurity are encouraged to contact our office. Below, we have summarized some of the most common resources available to students at Elon:

### Elon Resources Related to Financial and Housing Insecurity:

- › [Elon Chaplain's Fund \(Truitt Center\)](#) | (336) 278-7729
  - Students experiencing food insecurity may contact Jan Register at [jregister@elon.edu](mailto:jregister@elon.edu) for assistance from the Chaplains Fund.
- › [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#): (336) 278-3566
  - Students seeking tuition assistance should consult with staff from Financial Aid. Scholarships and other Federal Financial Aid are available. Funds are limited based on the date of application.
- › [On-Campus Jobs and Federal Work Study \(Student Professional Development Center\)](#) | (336) 278-6538
  - Student employees work in almost every department of the University. Student Employment offers undergraduate degree-seeking students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience. The Elon Job







Scholarships & Financial Aid > *Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity*

## > Students Experiencing Housing Insecurity

### > Determining Eligibility

If you feel you are eligible to be considered a Homeless Student or an unaccompanied youth, please **complete this form**. Once we review your information, we will contact you to seek any additional information needed to process your request.

>

[VERIFY HOUSING STATUS](#)

[ASK IM](#)

### • **Academic Support through ASPIRE**

Students verified to be homeless/unaccompanied youth are enrolled in WSSU's ASPIRE (Academic Scholars Prepared for Impact, Retention and Engagement) Program. ASPIRE students are supported through full-time Resilience Coaches, who provide mentorship, academic support, mandatory study hours, personal and professional growth workshops, as well as many other student-focused opportunities.

### • **Counseling Center**

The members of the WSSU Counseling Services are here to support students who are experiencing stress, discomfort or dissatisfaction in their personal lives. Counseling services are confidential and available at no cost to all currently enrolled Winston-Salem State University students. If you are an enrolled student and would like to receive services, you can call Counseling Services at (336)-750-3270 to schedule an appointment or use their online scheduling service on their website.

# Cape Fear Community College Food Pantry

## CFCC FOOD PANTRY

The CFCC Food Pantry exists to provide temporary supplemental food relief to CFCC students at no cost and remove barriers associated with food insecurity. In addition to helping alleviate hunger within our CFCC community, the CFCC Food Pantry aims to reduce the impact of food insecurity on our students' academic success.

### DO YOU NEED TEMPORARY FOOD ASSISTANCE?

If so, we invite you to shop Sea Devils Food Pantry. The pantry is open to current CFCC students at no cost.

[Sign up for food assistance here.](#)

Items can be dropped in our boxes around campus or you can shop our Amazon wish list or Walmart and have them delivered to CFCC, 411 N Front Street, Wilmington, NC 28401.

### DONATION DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Downtown-Union Station 1st floor business office
- Downtown – Union Station 2nd floor – in elevator lobby
- Downtown – Union Station 5th floor – in elevator lobby
- Downtown – Union Station 3rd floor – in elevator lobby
- Downtown – McLeod S Building – 2nd Floor, Elevator lobby by desk
- Downtown – Natural Science, N Building – 2nd Floor, at door entrance
- Downtown – L Building by Athletic offices
- Downtown – L Building, Library
- North Campus – McKeithan, NB Front Lobby by security desk
- North Campus – NA Building by Security
- North Campus – ND Building – Front Lobby
- Burgaw – Front Lobby



# Time for Discussion & Questions for You

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In the chat, let us know if you currently have a SPOC.

If not, is this something you are planning to do soon?

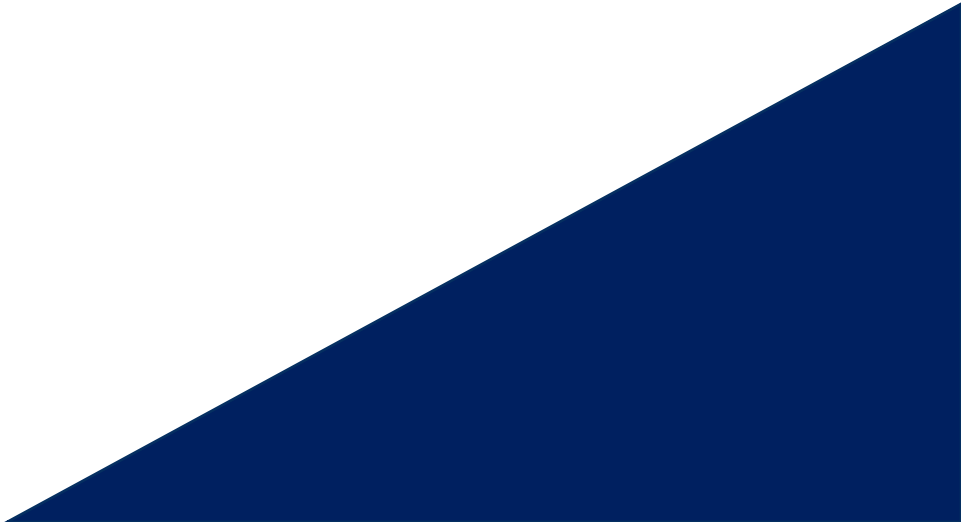
Also, do you feel the current SPOC is the right person, given all of this information? Yes or no in the chat.



# Time for Discussion & Questions for You

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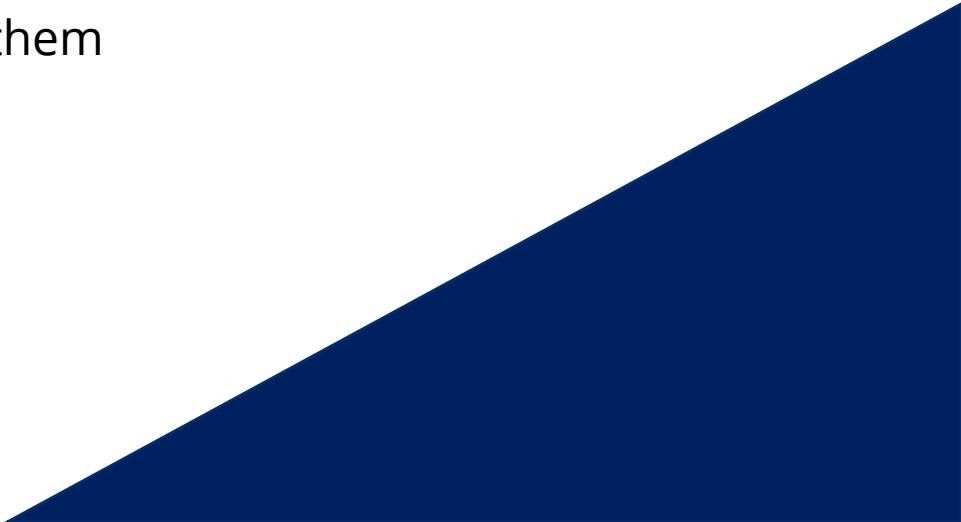
If you do have a SPOC, what are their main duties?

- A. Simply the person listed on the SPOC list published on CFNC.org
  - B. Someone who guides students experiencing homelessness to various other departments on campus, based on their particular needs.
  - C. The SPOC is part of a larger program we have on campus for students experiencing homelessness and/or food insecurities.
- 

# Time for Discussion & Questions for You

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Current SPOC responsibilities:

- A. Runs our food pantry
  - B. Runs a clothing closet
  - C. Helps with on-campus housing needs (e.g. somewhere to stay during breaks)
  - D. Connects students with mental health resources on campus
  - E. Creates eligibility requirements for students to be part of a SPOC program
  - F. Connects students with financial resources outside of general financial aid (e.g. one-time emergency funds)
  - G. Communicates with other faculty & staff about SPOC resources
  - H. Identifies community partners to assist students & connects them
  - I. Assisting the student with employment
  - J. Other?
  - K. None of the above
- 

# What do you Need?

As we plan programming for the next academic year, we would like to hear from you on what programming you would find helpful. Let's discuss in the chat.

- A. Best practices panel – SPOC programs at NC colleges & universities
- B. Models for food pantry to get one going for your campus
- C. Models for clothing closet to get one going for your campus
- D. Assistance connecting with Homeless Liaisons at local high schools
- E. More info on McKinney-Vento
- F. In-person training/convening for SPOCs
- G. In-person training/convening for SPOCs & NC Homeless Liaisons
- H. Ready to go, fillable form for you to list your departments and contacts for common UHY/unhoused students needs.
- I. Assistance connecting with community agencies who might be able to assist students
- J. Assistance with flyers/marketing on campus for students experiencing homelessness and/food insecurity
- K. Other?

# Next Steps

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Based on your suggestions & needs, we'll be back in the fall with more training opportunities & resources.

Development of SPOC list on CFNC.org – addition of fields such as where a food pantry is on your campus.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Danny or April with any questions or comments.



# Student Page on CFNC.org

## Students With No Fixed Address

As the time for college approaches, some students find themselves in temporary housing situations or homeless. While this can present challenges for the college application and financial aid process, there are numerous resources available. Also, NC colleges have experts ready to help who are called SPOCs (Single Points of Contact on Campuses for Unaccompanied/Homeless Youth).



## Campus Resources

Once you get on campus, there are still more resources to assist you. Each North Carolina public four-year and two-year institutions have a single point of contact (SPOC) on their campus specifically for homeless/transitional students. The SPOC is an administrator designed to support homeless and transitional youth with things such as admissions, financial aid, academic advising, campus housing, meal services, and community resources. [Find your SPOC](#)

## North Carolina Resources

Explore the resources offered within North Carolina like the ones below.

### NC Dept of Health and Human Services

Offering programs like food and nutrition services, housing assistance and more.

**See what options are available for you!** [↗](#)

### NC 2-1-1

NC 2-1-1 is funded by the United Way and offers services like housing, food, utilities and more.

**Get information and referrals from over 19,000 resources across NC!** [↗](#)

### Food Bank of the Carolinas

Helping to ensure that you have a healthy, adequate and consistent food supply.

**Find your local food bank today!** [↗](#)

### Salvation Army of the Carolinas

They provide services like sheltering, seasonal assistance, family stores and more.

**Find the location that is near you!** [↗](#)

### SchoolHouse Connection Youth Scholarship Program

This scholarship is for students who have experienced homelessness to help reach their college graduation goals.

**See if you meet the requirements to apply today!**

[↗](#)

### NAEHCY Scholarship

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Scholarship provides opportunities for students to complete their college journey.

**Apply Today!** [↗](#)

### Horatio Alger Association

These scholarships are for students with a financial need who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming big obstacles in their lives.

**Apply to these scholarships now!** [↗](#)

### Dell Scholars Scholarship Program

Scholarships for students eligible for Pell Grants that also includes personalized support.

**Get more information now!** [↗](#)



# CFNC Regional Representatives and Spanish Services

## Amy Denton - 252 area

Phone - [252.402.6157](tel:252.402.6157)  
Facebook - [Amy at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [amyatcfcnc](#)

[amy.denton@cfl.org](mailto:amy.denton@cfl.org)

## Takeila Hall - 336 area

Phone - [336.402.5622](tel:336.402.5622)  
Facebook - [Takeila at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [takeilaatcfcnc](#)

[takella.hall@cfl.org](mailto:takella.hall@cfl.org)

## Timeka Ruffin - 704/980 area

Phone - [704.281.3437](tel:704.281.3437)  
Facebook - [Timeka at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [timekaatcfcnc](#)

[timeka.ruffin@cfl.org](mailto:timeka.ruffin@cfl.org)

## Devon McCarthy-James - 828 West area

Phone - [828.712.9840](tel:828.712.9840)  
Facebook - [DevonAtCFNC](#)  
Instagram - [devonatcfcnc](#)

[devon.mccarthy-james@cfl.org](mailto:devon.mccarthy-james@cfl.org)

## Skip Watts - 828 East area

Phone - [828.337.7939](tel:828.337.7939)  
Facebook - [Skip at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [skipatcfcnc](#)

[skip.watts@cfl.org](mailto:skip.watts@cfl.org)

## Brittany Privott - 910 area

Phone - [910.280.1883](tel:910.280.1883)  
Facebook - [Brittany at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [brittanyatcfcnc](#)

[brittany.privott@cfl.org](mailto:brittany.privott@cfl.org)

## Sarita Broadway - 919 area

Phone - [919.264.3686](tel:919.264.3686)  
Facebook - [Sarita at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [saritaatcfcnc](#)

[sarita.broadway@cfl.org](mailto:sarita.broadway@cfl.org)

## Juana Hernandez-Lira - Spanish Services

Phone - [919.799.3779](tel:919.799.3779)  
Facebook - [Juana at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [juanaatcfcnc](#)

[juana.hernandez-lira@cfl.org](mailto:juana.hernandez-lira@cfl.org)

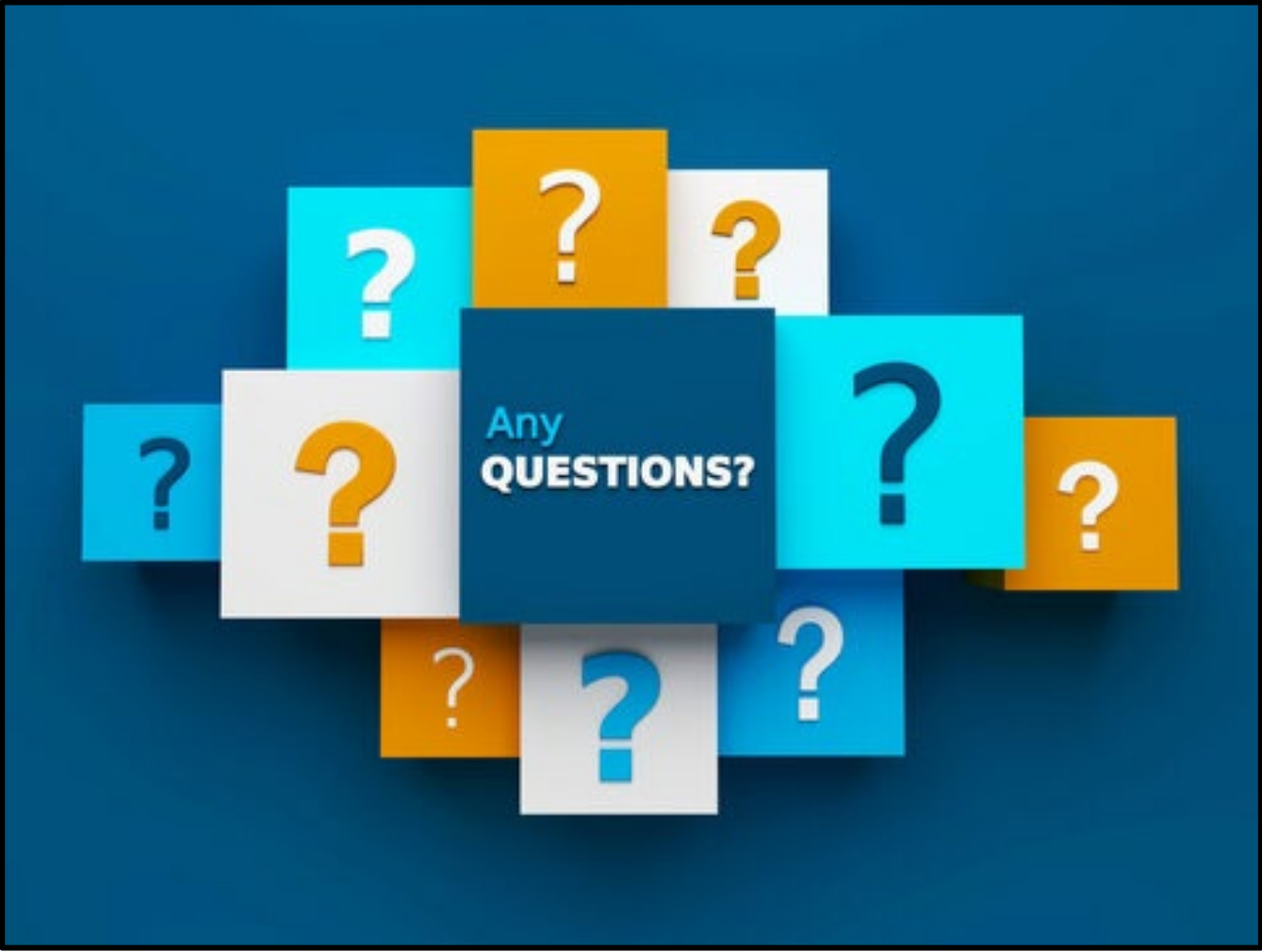
## Dr. JuanEs Ramirez - Spanish Services

Phone - [984.297.1032](tel:984.297.1032)  
Facebook - [JuanEs at CFNC](#)  
Instagram - [juanesatcfcnc](#)

[juanes.ramirez@cfl.org](mailto:juanes.ramirez@cfl.org)



# Questions?



# Links & Resources

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

1-800-308-2145

<https://nche.ed.gov>

\*Upcoming webinar with Danny Jordan thru NCASFAA

CFNC


[www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)

NEACHY Higher Education

<https://naehcy.org/higher-education/>

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children is a national nonprofit, member association. Their vision is that every child and youth experiencing homelessness is successful in school, from early childhood through higher education.



<https://naehcy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/SPOC-Model-Revamp-FINAL.pdf>



**ARE YOU A  
COLLEGE-BOUND  
STUDENT WHO'S  
EXPERIENCED  
HOMELESSNESS?**



Apply to the SchoolHouse Connection Scholarship Program! The scholarship includes a \$2,500 Award, 1-on-1 Support, and 3 All-Expenses-Paid Trips.

 **APPLY NOW AT**  **SCHOOLHOUSECONNECTION.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP**

# Links & Resources

## NAEHCY

- Processing Financial Aid for Homeless Youth  
<https://0vab42.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Processing-Financial-Aid-for-Homeless-Youth.pdf>
- College student perspective  
<https://0vab42.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/NAEHCY-Article-Abdullah.pdf>
- Higher Education Opportunity Act: Homeless and Foster Youth  
[https://0vab42.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/hea\\_summ.pdf](https://0vab42.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/hea_summ.pdf)
- Excerpt from study, *Hunger on Campus: The Challenge of Food Insecurities for College Students*  
[https://0vab42.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/NAECHY-Higher-Ed\\_article-for-June.pdf](https://0vab42.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/NAECHY-Higher-Ed_article-for-June.pdf)

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336-543-4285

[lisa.phillips@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lisa.phillips@dpi.nc.gov)

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Beth Branagan

**Program Specialist**

*Regions 5-8*

(743) 241-0818

[Beth.Branagan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Beth.Branagan@dpi.nc.gov)

Tamika Dawkins

**Program Specialist**

*Special Populations*

(743) 222-9024

[Tamika.Dawkins@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Tamika.Dawkins@dpi.nc.gov)

Anelia "Neely" Ward

**Program Coordinator for EHCY**

336-260-0619

[anelia.ward@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:anelia.ward@dpi.nc.gov)

[award@serve.org](mailto:award@serve.org)

Savannah Gay

**Program Specialist**

*Charter Schools*

(336) 315-7434

[Savannah.Gay@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Savannah.Gay@dpi.nc.gov)

Derick Buggs

**Program Specialist**

*Regions 1-4*

(336) 840-4116

[Dbuggs@serve.org](mailto:Dbuggs@serve.org)

Lisa "LJ" Von Dohlen

**Program Coordinator**

*Foster Care*

(743) 208-3686

[lvondohlen@serve.org](mailto:lvondohlen@serve.org)

Daniel Jordan

**Program Specialist**

*Special Populations*

(743) 241-0097

[Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov)

# Thanks for Joining!!

Daniel Jordan, Program Specialist  
North Carolina Homeless Education Program  
[djordan@serve.org](mailto:djordan@serve.org)  
[Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Daniel.Jordan@dpi.nc.gov)

April Query, Ed.D.  
Assistant Vice President, College Access & Community Outreach  
College Foundation of North Carolina  
[April.Query@cfi.org](mailto:April.Query@cfi.org)

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