

## **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education**

Italy Independent School District assists students experiencing homelessness to enroll in school and have access to academic supplies and services to participate and attend school daily. We are committed to ensuring that barriers are removed so that all students experiencing homelessness have the opportunity for academic success.

Who We Serve:

- Homeless students
- Students living in temporary homes due to economic hardship (shelters, hotels, RVs, etc.)
- Students living with family members or friends (doubled-up) due to economic hardship or loss of housing
- Unaccompanied youth

Services:

- School enrollment assistance
- School transportation assistance
- Free lunch program
- School supplies

Students experiencing homelessness have certain legal rights that may affect registration and transfer procedures. IISD addresses issues related to enrollment and assists schools with homeless students' needs.

### **Definition of Homeless Child**

According to federal law (McKinney Vento Sec. 725), and the TEA state plan for homeless children and youth, children/youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. This includes children and youth who sleep at night:

- In a shelter (including runaway youth shelters and domestic violence shelters),
- In a shelter awaiting institutionalization, adoption, foster care, or other placement,
- In a car, tent, an abandoned building, or other place, public or private, not ordinarily used as a sleeping accommodation for human beings,
- In a motel, hotel, trailer parks, or camping grounds, bus or train stations,
- In someone else's home, due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason,
- In transitional, temporary housing (i.e., rent paid by local service providers),
- Migrant students who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

### **Definition of an Unaccompanied Child**

According to federal law (McKinney Vento Sec. 725), an unaccompanied child is a child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. Homeless unaccompanied youth have the same rights as other homeless students, including the rights to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.

For assistance with enrolling, please contact Lisa Jacinto, McKinney-Vento Liaison, at 972-483-3270 or [ljacinto@italyisd.org](mailto:ljacinto@italyisd.org)

## **Ellis County Assistance Programs:**

**Italy Food Pantry, operated by the Italy Ministerial Alliance**, is open the Third Monday of each month from 5 P.M. TO 7 P.M. and is located at: 405 W. Moseley, Suite #4, Italy TX 76651. For additional information, please call 972-483-7474.

**HOPE Clinic** is an Ellis County medical facility that provides health care to everyone, whether they have insurance or not, and whether they can afford to pay their bills or not. The goal of the clinic is to offer health care for all individuals and families. They address chronic and acute medical care, provide free or discounted prescription medications; dental care, access to laboratory, radiography and specialist referrals, health education and preventative health information, prenatal care, and also mental health care.

It is very important to note that all patients are welcome to use HOPE clinic services. Note that some private and HMO health insurance plans are accepted, as well as Medicaid, Medicare, and Texas CHIP plans. Even if you do not have any health insurance, and if you do not qualify for any other assistance programs, whether federal or state of Texas, the clinic offers a sliding fee schedule based on family size and income. And you may not need to pay any medical bills at all. 972-923-2440

**Waxahachie Care** is another local non-profit. Call them for low priced goods from the thrift store. Other aid is offered for TXU and Reliant bills, monthly rent, water expenses, and even medical bills. Free school supplies are offered too. 972-923-2273