



What Policy Options Prevent Youth Homelessness?

Joint Fellows Convening

Child Welfare · Early Childhood · Youth Homelessness

Embassy Suites, Denver Downtown Convention Center
 Silverton Ballrooms | Denver, CO | Sept. 12-14, 2022

Meeting Overview:

Each year 4.2 million youth and young adults experience some form of homelessness, and state policymakers across the country are seeking guidance on how best to address the problem in their states. NCSL is answering the call with this new policy fellows program through which participants will enhance their subject-matter knowledge in a cohort-based, peer-learning environment.

This program is designed to help fellows achieve the following goals:

- Strengthen fellows’ knowledge of youth and young adult homelessness.
- Explore options to prevent homelessness and mitigate the consequences when it does occur.
- Foster new relationships among fellows, faculty and NCSL staff.
- Develop an individual legislative action plan.
- Identify opportunities for NCSL to support your individual action plan.

During the final in-person meeting, fellows will learn more deeply about systems of care that intersect with youth experiencing homelessness. They will also consider policy options across these systems that prevent youth and young adult homelessness. Fellows will discuss topics within their cohort and enjoy cross-topic programming with child welfare and early childhood fellows.

Agenda

Monday, Sept. 12	
3 p.m.	Registration Opens Pick up your name tag and meeting folder. Location: Silverton Foyer – 2 nd Floor
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Networking Reception Enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres, beverages and conversation with child welfare, early childhood and youth homelessness fellows. Meet at 5:20 p.m. at the valet station on the ground floor of the hotel. We will walk as a group to Earls Kitchen + Bar. Location: Earls Kitchen + Bar (1600 Glenarm Pl #140, Denver)
Tuesday, Sept. 13	
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast and Networking Breakfast is provided by the hotel and is available in the restaurant.
8:30 – 9:45 am	Joint Opening Plenary: Putting Money to Work for Children and Families



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	<p>Learn from Elizabeth Gaines, a nationally recognized expert in public financing, how to optimize funding to better meet the needs of young children and youth. Gaines is the founder and chief executive officer of Children’s Funding Project, a nonprofit social impact organization that helps communities and states consider opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing.</p> <p>Moderator: Wade Fickler, NCSL and Tahra Johnson, NCSL Speaker: Elizabeth Gaines, founder and CEO, Children’s Funding Project Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 3</p>
<p>9:45 – 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Break and Room Change Move to assigned cohort rooms.</p>
<p>10:00 – 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Reconnect with Youth Homelessness Fellows Reengage with fellows and preview what’s in store throughout the meeting.</p> <p>Facilitators: Heather Hanna, NCSL; Heather Wilson, NCSL; Walker Stevens, NCSL Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2</p>
<p>10:15 – 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Housing, Employment and Economic Supports to Prevent Youth Homelessness Housing, employment and economic support services can help reduce and prevent youth from experiencing homelessness. This session will provide an overview of supportive housing services and key takeaways for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Learn about national and state trends to help youth move toward housing security.</p> <p>Moderator: Heather Hanna, NCSL Speaker: Annie Bacci, director, Corporation for Supportive Housing Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2</p>
<p>11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Local and State Collaboration to Prevent Youth Homelessness In Seattle, fellows learned about Washington’s efforts to prevent youth homelessness. In this session, hear how two states are collaborating to align systems, funding, housing solutions and services for youth experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Moderator: Heather Wilson, NCSL Panelists: Adrienne Bush, executive director, Housing and Homelessness Coalition of Kentucky and Brittany Wade, homeless program specialist, Office of Homeless Youth Services.</p>



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	Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	<p>Lunch and Networking</p> <p>Lunch will be provided by NCSL. Fellows and faculty are invited to engage in conversation.</p> <p>Location: Silverton Ballroom Salon 3</p>
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	<p>Juvenile Justice and Youth Homelessness: What the Connection?</p> <p>Approximately one million young people have contact with youth courts, probation and incarceration systems. In this session, learn how a lack of shelter and basic needs and abuse or family conflict can contribute to juvenile justice system-involved youth experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Moderator: Heather Hanna, NCSL Speaker: Naomi Smoot Evans, executive director, Coalition for Juvenile Justice Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2</p>
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Break and Room Change
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<p>Meeting the Complex Needs of Youth Exiting Foster Care</p> <p>In this joint session with the child welfare fellows, participants will learn from the data collected by Think of Us and hear what youth and young adults who have experienced the foster care system need to safely and securely transition into adulthood and avoid homelessness. This session will include state policy examples and options for policymakers to consider.</p> <p>Moderator: Heather Wilson, NCSL Speaker: Taylor Vitello, director of proximate policy, Think of Us Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 3</p>
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Break and Room Change
3:45 – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Legislative Action Planning – Part 1</p> <p>In this first action planning session, fellows will explore what the future could look like and the tools needed to get there.</p> <p>Facilitators: Heather Hanna, NCSL; Heather Wilson, NCSL; Walker Stevens, NCSL Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2</p>
6 p.m.	<p>Dinner on Your Own</p> <p>Venture out on your own or with others to enjoy Denver’s food scene. Save your receipts. NCSL will reimburse up to \$40.</p>



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Wednesday, Sept. 14	
7:00 – 8:30 a.m.	<p>Breakfast and Networking</p> <p>Breakfast is provided by the hotel and is available in the restaurant.</p>
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	<p>Strategies to Prevent Human Trafficking and Youth Homelessness</p> <p>Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of becoming victims of sex or labor trafficking. In this session learn about the prevalence of human trafficking among youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, risk factors and potential policy solutions.</p> <p>Moderator: Heather Wilson, NCSL Speaker: Darla Bardine, executive director, National Network for Youth Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2</p>
9:30 – 9:45 am	<p>Hotel Check Out</p>
9:45 – 10:45 am	<p>Barriers and Opportunities: Access to Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness</p> <p>Many youth experiencing homelessness face significant barriers to accessing legal, health and financial services. Learn about policy opportunities to reduce and prevent these barriers.</p> <p>Moderator: Walker Stevens, NCSL Panelists: Kelly Russo, director, Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, American Bar Association and Patricia Julianelle, senior policy strategist for Program Advancement and Legal Affairs, School House Connection Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2</p>
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Legislative Action Planning – Part 2</p> <p>Fellows will leave this session with a personal action plan to prevent youth in their state from experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Facilitators: Heather Hanna, NCSL; Heather Wilson, NCSL; Walker Stevens, NCSL Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 2</p>
12:00 – 12:15 p.m.	<p>Break</p>
12:15 – 1:40 p.m.	<p>Joint Lunch and Closing Plenary: Up and Down the Prevention Continuum</p> <p>Engage with fellows across the three programs over a networking lunch. Then hear from Melissa Merrick, CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America. Merrick will share her organization’s vision and the important role you as lawmakers and NCSL policy fellows can play. We will consider the continuum of prevention strategies and</p>



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	<p>opportunities for parents and other caregivers to create better outcomes for their children.</p> <p>Moderators: Kate Blackman and Wade Fickler, NCSL Speaker: Melissa Merrick, Ph.D., president and CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America Location: Silverton Ballroom Salon 3</p>
1:40 – 2 p.m.	<p>Closing Ceremony: You're Awesome, but Now What?</p> <p>Congratulations! Enjoy final closing remarks by NCSL's CEO as you complete your time as a Youth Homelessness Fellow. NCSL is your organization, and we're here to support you as you return home with new subject-matter knowledge and ideas about how to better meet the needs of your constituents.</p> <p>Moderators: Kate Blackman, NCSL and Wade Fickler, NCSL Speaker: Tim Storey, CEO, NCSL Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 3</p>
2 p.m.	Adjourn

This meeting is made possible through a grant from the Raikes Foundation.