Developing and Enhancing Collaboration Between Education and Shelter Agencies:

Building a Shelter Outreach Program

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Full Sail Ahead: Supporting Students Navigating Smooth & Stormy Waters
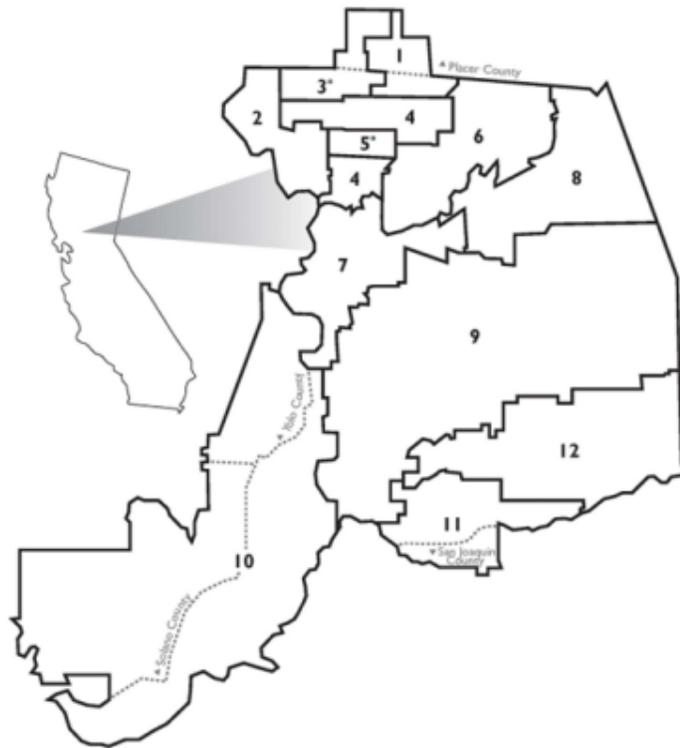
Who's in the room?

Presentation Goals:

- To share examples of shelter outreach programs

- To discuss the value of developing/enhancing relationships between shelters and education

- To leave attendees with motivation and tangible next steps!

Sacramento County LEA Overview

Public School Districts
Within Sacramento County

Sacramento County Office of Education

- 13 School Districts
- 53 Charter Schools

2024-25 School Year

- **278,700** - Total Students Enrolled
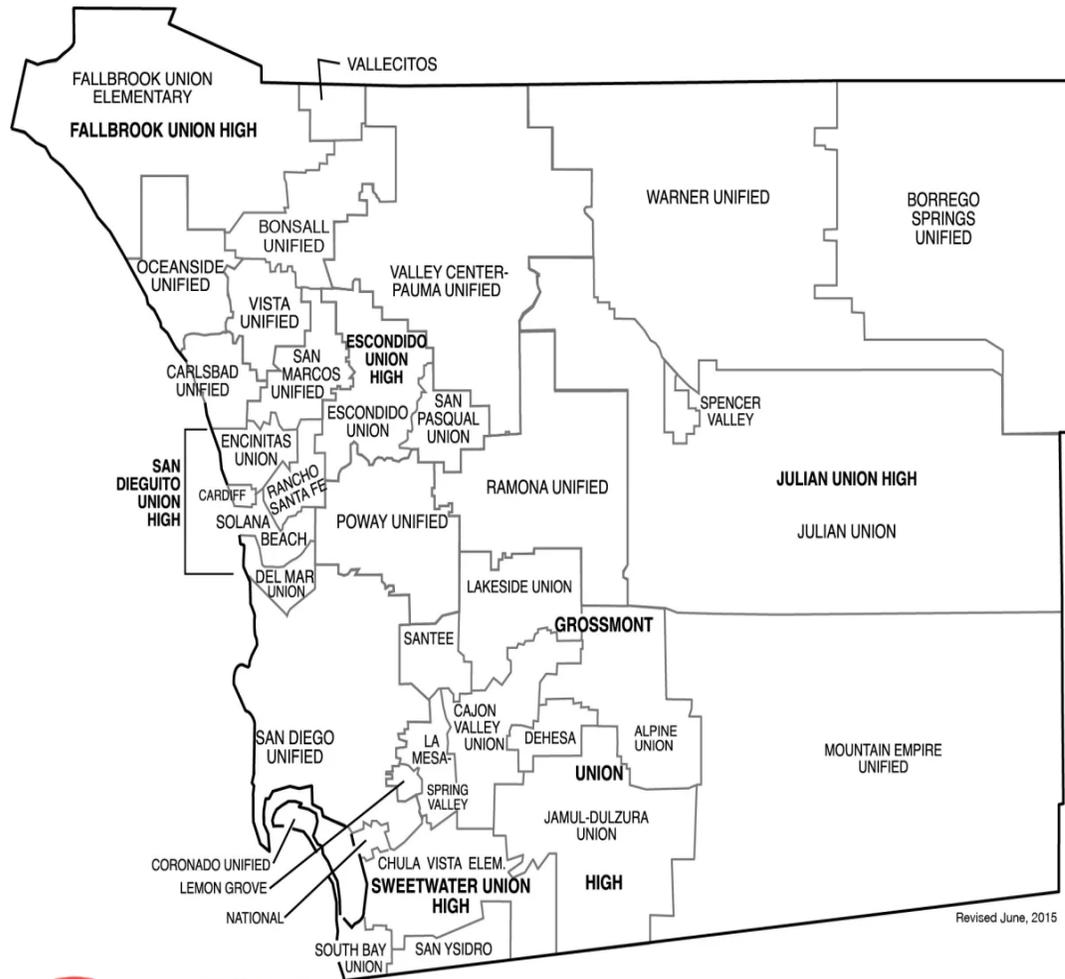- **16,417** - Students Identified as Homeless

Sacramento County Shelter System

- 60+ shelters in Sacramento County

- 13 programs focus on serving **families and youth**
  - 1 for men with children
  - 1 youth shelter (ages 12-17 only)
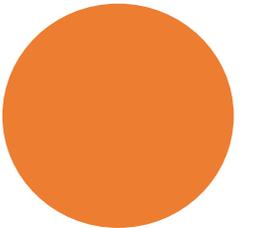
San Diego County LEA Overview

San Diego County Office of Education

- 41 School Districts
- 120+ Charter Schools

2024-25 School Year

- **497,692** - Total Students Enrolled
- **24,739** - Students Identified as Homeless

San Diego County Shelter System

- Around 30 shelters in San Diego County

- 1 shelter for Unaccompanied Youth

- Over 10% of San Diego residents live below the poverty line

The Beginning

STEP 1: Get a List!

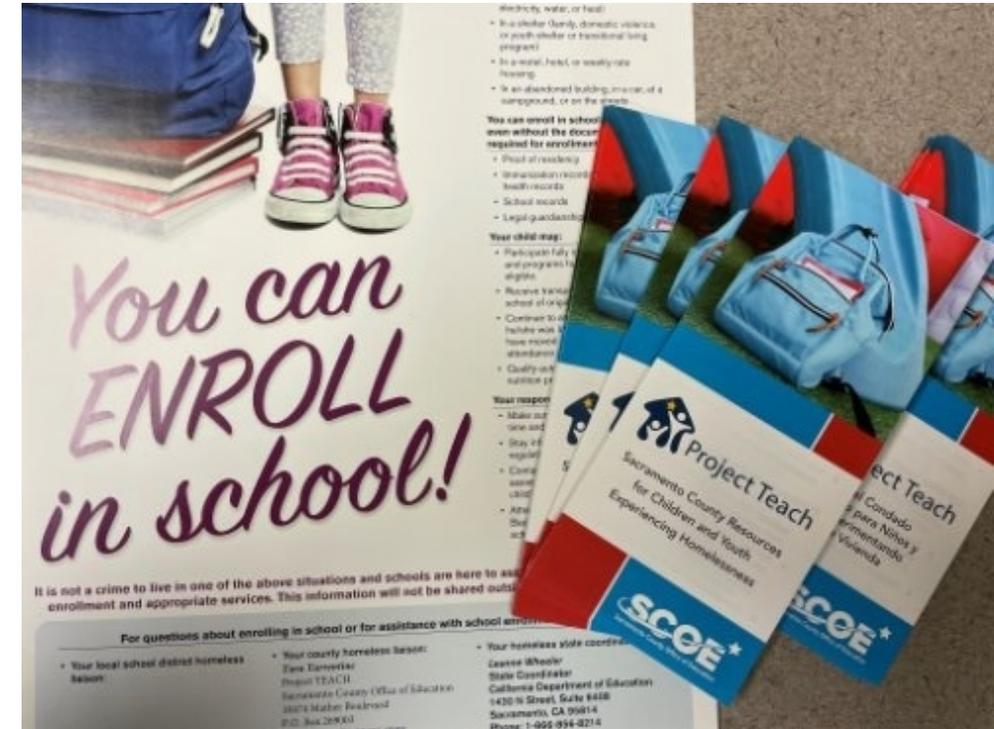**First, figure out the shelters in your area.**

Ideas:

- o Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

- o 2-1-1 (if available)

- o Ask LEAs/other staff what they know

- o Use any other resources you may have

STEP 2: Initiate Contact!

Next, start reaching out to shelters.

- Send emails, make phone calls, attend relevant meetings, etc.

- Ask for a tour and offer to share information about McKinney-Vento with staff and/or residents.

- Learn about their referral process, the criteria and details of their program, and what their greatest challenges are.

- Give materials.

STEP 3: Develop Goals!

Create goals for your program.

Sacramento COE's <u>example</u>:

1. To strengthen relationships between education and local shelters

2. To connect Homeless Liaisons and Early Education Advocates to local shelters

3. To ensure parenting residents know what their children's educational rights are under the McKinney-Vento law

STEP 4: Maintain Contact!

Relationships are key!

Ideas:

• Continuously offer **training** to shelter staff and residents

• Connect to **Homeless Liaisons and Early Childhood Education**

• Provide **resources**, including posters, brochures, and tangible items

Create Community!

Ideas:

- Annual **Resource Fair**

- Schedule **enrollment days**

- Create a **shelter listserv**

  - for needs assessments, offering valuable resources, fall/summer baskets, creating a community, etc.

Outcomes

Successes and Wins!

Increased **identification**

Shelter residents counted in the **CDE Annual Homeless Data Report**

Funded within CoC to support the Coordinated Access System

Successes and Wins – The Immeasurable Ones

Helpful Tips

- Take Early Learning and liaisons with you after the first visit for personal connection and warm-handoffs

- Connection is constant—staff turnover happens a lot in housing programs, so try to have more than one contact

- Have tangible items—they're an excuse to visit shelters and get shelters to respond

- There may not be immediate engagement, but when the topic of education comes up your name will be at the forefront of their mind

- Remain grateful

Turn to a partner:

What's one thing you can do to improve the connection between education and shelters when you leave here?

Questions?

Thank you for joining us! Don't hesitate to reach out!

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