



# Project HOPE New River Valley

## McKinney-Vento Count: 2017/2018 School Year

2017-2018	Giles	Floyd	Montgomery	Pulaski	Radford	Total
Unsheltered	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sheltered	2	0	17	2	13	34
Doubled-up	22	18	164	41	42	287
Hotel/Motel	1	1	22	11	3	38
Total	25	19	204	54	58	360
Unaccompanied	2	2	44	13	12	73

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## Project HOPE Happenings

Project HOPE NRV is a regional program for Homeless Education which includes the five school division in the New River Valley.

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Heather Turman, Regional Coordinator, attended the VAFEP Conference in Williamsburg, VA October 15-17. Leading the charge to address the increase in mental health supports of students in school is the idea of Trauma Informed Schools. This approach can help all students, especially McKinney-Vento students. *See info graphic to the left.*

Dr. Pat Popp, McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, announced a possible HOPE conference with information directed towards McKinney-Vento initiatives and homelessness in our schools. If you would like to help plan the conference contact Project HOPE at [homless@wm.edu](mailto:homless@wm.edu).

Woodsmen-Life Thanksgiving Bags delivered November 16<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you for Margarette Dobbins and colleagues for their continued support of our Unaccompanied Homeless Older Youth in the NRV. They will provide another 20 bags for the winter break.

Project SPROUT, Christiansburg Honor Society and The Blacksburg New Comers Club hosted book drives to support Project HOPE. The clubs collected more than 350 books and more are coming in! Regional Coordinator will restock the libraries at the four **New River Family Shelter** sites with these children's and young adult books. Books also distributed to local liaison upon request.



**EDUCATION**  
 Provide staff development for educators to better understand trauma's impact on learning

### SAFETY

Help students feel safe (physically, socially, emotionally, and academically)



### HOLISTIC

Meet students' needs by taking into account their relationships, self-regulation, academic competence, and physical and emotional well-being.

### COMMUNITY

Connect students to the school community and provide them with multiple opportunities to practice newly developing skills;



**ACCOUNTABILITY**  
 Embrace a shared responsibility for all students

### ADAPTABILITY

Staff anticipate and adapt to the ever-changing needs of students.





## Newly enacted opioid bill could help homeless children, youth and families

<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/>

On Wednesday, October 24, President Trump signed into law bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6, the [SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act](#).

This sweeping legislation contains many provisions that could help children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness who are impacted by the opioid crisis, as well as provisions to help all children and youth who experience trauma.

We'll share more a complete analysis of the legislation in the coming weeks, but below are some highlights of H.R. 6:

- Definition of "Homeless Youth"** – The legislation includes a definition of "Homeless Youth" that is aligned with the definition of homelessness in the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act. This definition of homelessness matches the reality of youth homelessness. It includes youth who stay with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, and youth who stay in motels due to lack of adequate alternative
- Adverse Childhood Experiences Data Collection** – The legislation authorizes the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to support states in collecting and reporting data on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in order to help understand the causes and effects of ACEs. The CDC now includes two questions about homelessness on its optional YRBS questionnaire. 24 states and 10 localities included one or both of those questions in their 2017 YRBS

accommodations.

- Youth Prevention and Recovery Initiative** – This initiative requires the Secretary of HHS, in consultation with the Department of Education, to identify and disseminate best practices for the prevention of and recovery from substance use disorder, including for specific populations such as homeless youth and youth in foster care. Grants are authorized to carry out substance abuse disorder prevention and treatment programs.

administrations. The addition of ACEs questions will further the understanding of the relationship between ACEs and homelessness among high school students.

- Interagency Task Force on Trauma-Informed Supports** – The legislation creates a task force to recommend best practices for supporting children and families who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma in order to help identify, prevent, and address the impact of trauma on children and youth, inclusive of homelessness.
- Grants to Improve Trauma Support Services and Mental Health Care for Children and Youth in Educational Settings** – The legislation creates a grant to increase student support services and better integrate mental health care in schools, aimed at preventing and mitigating the effects of negative childhood experiences.

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## Sesame Street Workshop launched a national initiative on family homelessness...meet Lily!

[Sesame Street in Communities - Family Homelessness Resources](#)

Sesame Street in Communities will host an [interactive conversation](#) with a panel of experts to raise nationwide awareness about homelessness, its effects on children, and ways providers can help.

**Date:** Thursday, December 13

**Time:** 4:00 pm EST

**Tune in:** [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube Live](#)

