Leland School District

Federal Program Newsletter

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

November is Children’s Grief Awareness Month and includes National Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week — issues that are tragically intertwined, now more than ever. Consider:

* More than 140,000 children in the United States have lost a primary or secondary caregiver to the COVID-19 pandemic —that is one out of every 500 children in the U.S.
* Children of racial and ethnic minorities accounted for 65% of those who lost a primary caregiver due to the pandemic.
* Death of a parent or caregiver is associated with youth homelessness: in-depth interviews with unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness found that 35% experienced the death of at least one parent or primary caregiver.

Schools are required to identify, enroll, and serve children and youth experiencing homelessness, but COVID-related complications mean it is easier than ever for them to fall through the cracks. It’s vital that families and youth who are homeless know that help is available – that they have educational rights, and know how to exercise them. To help spread the word and give communities a starting place for outreach and identification, Leland School District is promoting public service announcements aimed at reaching youth, families, educators, community organizations, and leaders. Feel free to use these materials as you prepare for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 13-21).

Educational video on homelessness

[](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CX4TzWdDAFY)

[[](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CX4TzWdDAFY)](3:48  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CX4TzWdDAFY Parents and Kids Talk About HomelessnessNational Alliance to End HomelessnessYouTube - Feb 23, 2017)

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FEDERAL DEFINITION

DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

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

**Shelters/Transitional Housing**

Domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, youth shelters, trailers provided by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), housing paid for by programs such as transitional housing, etc.

**Hotels/Motels**

Staying in motels/hotels due to lack of adequate alternatives, regardless of who pays for the motel/hotel room.

**Staying with other people**

Staying with other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

**Unsheltered**

Staying in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

<https://youtu.be/CX4TzWdDAFY>

Dr. Nehru Brown

Leland School District

Federal Programs Director

662-686-5000

Everlyn Smith

Leland School District

Parent, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator

662-686-5017