**McKinney-Vento Region III College Initiative Announcement**

The McKinney Vento program is charged with helping homeless/unaccompanied youth pursue higher education after high school. Local district homeless liaisons must provide information to support homeless and unaccompanied youth to succeed in postsecondary education opportunities. The school district homeless liaison must prepare high school students for college and college readiness [42 U.SC. 11432] (g)(1)(K)].

S ervices that may be provided include:

Waivers for advanced placement exams and college entrance exams

Verification of independent student status for homeless and unaccompanied youth for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) information concerning need and merit-based scholarship opportunities Information concerning higher education services may be provided at the webpage:

 <https://nche.ed.gov/ibt/highered.php>

The new College Initiative shall work closely with the community colleges in the counties of Ocean, Monmouth, Middlesex and Mercer. Best practice services and training programs shall be developed to assist School District Homeless Liaisons and higher education personnel to become familiar with the requirements enhancing service to homeless students entering college.

Success packets shall also be introduced for homeless grade 12 students that include necessary items such as computers, calculators and school supplies for students continuing higher education. Contacts for higher education officials shall be made known to the school district homeless liaisons so that a coordination and identification of entering higher education students may be made.

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Social service and housing service recommendations and directories shall be provided.