Good morning,

Please see below for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- The Field Center – Campus Support Program Directly https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/campus-programming-directory-all-institutions/
- Money, Speed Bumps, and Opportunity Webinar https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/event/money-speed-bumps-and-opportunity-webinar/
- Calling All (Youth) Artists - 35th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference
- Prevent Suicide PA PSA Contest
- CWRC Podcasts Being Well Podcast Episodes Available
- October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Financial Aid

Calling All (Youth) Artists - 35th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference:



Calling All Artists!

The 35th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference is looking for all youth artists to showcase their work!

Do you know a young person who loves to create?
We are inviting submissions of youth creative expression to feature in a special slideshow during the opening ceremony at the conference. We welcome all forms of artistry — from pottery, acrylics, pencil sketches, and digital design to cake decorating, poetry, clothing or jewelry making, knitting, music, dance, and beyond. If they make it, perform it, or design it, we'd love to see it. Share a photo or sample of their work and help us celebrate the limitless creativity of youth!

Submit Work Here

Have questions? Email the conference team at conferencing@vocetogether.org.

pennsylvania
STATEWIDE ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY NETWORK

Prevent Suicide PA PSA Contest:



Youth Contest

The PSA Contest elevates and honors youth voice in suicide prevention efforts, with the goal of sharing awareness, promoting resources, and spreading hope among youth across Pennsylvania's **middle and high school students.**

Register Here

CWRC Podcasts Being Well Podcast Episodes Available:
Give our latest episodes of the Being Well Podcast a listen! This series is a collaboration between the CWRC and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

- Kids with Complex Care Needs – https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcast_being-well_13.htm
- Illicit Drug Ingestions – https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcast_being-well_12.htm
- Vaccine Basics – https://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/podcast_being-well_11.htm

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is a national campaign dedicated to raising awareness about domestic violence. Now more than ever, DVAM is an opportunity to uplift the needs, voices,

and experiences of survivors. Across the United States, we're seeing violence minimized, cuts to services families rely upon, and increased barriers to safety for survivors and their children.

- An average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been physically abused by an intimate partner, and 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have been severely physically abused by an intimate partner.
- Every year millions of children are exposed to domestic violence. DV incidents affect every person within a home and can have long-lasting negative effects on children's emotional well-being, and social and academic functioning.
- Learn more about Domestic Violence Awareness Month and what you can do:
  https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-awareness-month/
  https://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/national-domestic-violence-awareness-month
  https://www.dvawareness.org/WithSurvivors

Financial Aid:

SchoolHouse Connection

It's Financial Aid Day!

The FAFSA Homelessness Question Has Changed + New Resources from SchoolHouse Connection

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is open! Please encourage your students to complete the FAFSA.

Education beyond high school is closely tied to whether youth can secure stable housing, obtain good-paying jobs, and avoid continued hardship. Federal labor data show that full-time workers with only a high school diploma earn substantially less, on average, than workers with some college, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree.

Completing the FAFSA is often the first and most critical step toward accessing financial aid and making college attainable. When students understand the process and receive the support they need to complete it, they

New for 2027-2028:

Federal Student Aid (FSA) made changes to the FAFSA homelessness question that

are better positioned to enroll in postsecondary education and break the cycle of homelessness.

Applying to the FAFSA early provides students more time to obtain the necessary documentation to complete the FAFSA. Check your state and institution's priority deadlines to help students maximize the amount of aid they can receive.

follow SchoolHouse Connection's public comment recommendations. The question is now easier to understand, and students who indicate homelessness but don't have a determination now receive clearer instructions on what to do next. We are grateful to FSA for listening, and to the liaisons, counselors, and young people whose experiences shaped our recommendations.

New Financial Aid Resources

Use these new and updated resources to help students experiencing homelessness to submit the FAFSA and navigate the processes of getting financial aid.

College Access and FAFSA Calendar	**Who it's for:** High school counselors and homeless liaisons **Purpose:** This calendar resource helps high school counselors and liaisons prepare students experiencing homelessness for college and the FAFSA
How to Answer FAFSA Questions about Homelessness	**Who it's for:** Students, youth, and young adults **Purpose:** Use this step-by-step resource guide to help navigate answering questions about homelessness on the FAFSA and how to request an unaccompanied homeless youth determination
FAFSA Determination Templates	**Who it's for:** People who are authorized to make FAFSA determinations for unaccompanied homeless youth, including homeless liaisons and designees, financial aid administrators, homeless and housing providers, and TRIO/GEAR UP directors **Purpose:** Use this tool to provide unaccompanied homeless youth with a FAFSA determination

View all of our FAFSA resources here.

- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Determination: A Template for Financial Aid Administrators
- FAFSA Independence Guide for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- FAFSA Webinars Q&As
- Navigating Financial Aid for Immigrant and Mixed-Status Students Experiencing Homelessness

Upcoming FAFSA Webinar

SchoolHouse Connection's annual FAFSA webinar, "What's New for the 2027-2028 FAFSA: Updates for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth" is on October 28 at 2:00 ET.

This webinar will give participants the knowledge to navigate the FAFSA process for unaccompanied homeless youth by identifying who qualifies as a homeless youth on the FAFSA, what documentation they need, and how recent changes to the FAFSA may impact students experiencing homelessness. Come with your questions!

Register for the webinar here →

Have a great weekend.

Thank you,

Meghan O'Hare, MSW