

### **Before You Move**

- Tell your child's teacher and principal that you are moving and give them the new address.
- Let the school officials know if you want your child to stay in his or her school while you are getting the family stabilized.
- Ask for a copy of your child's school records, including immunizations.

### **If You Move Often**

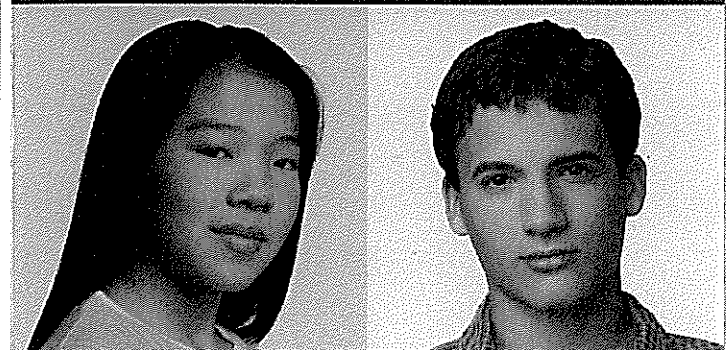
- Keep a copy of birth certificates and school records accessible.
- Safeguard all health and immunization records.
- Have a reliable person keep a second copy of these records.
- Enroll children in school as soon as possible.

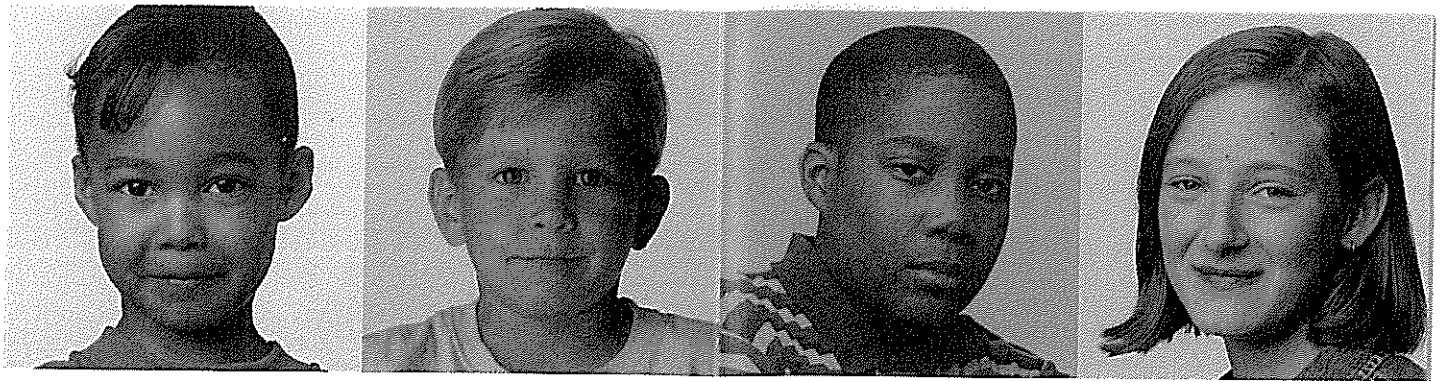
### **Ask About School Services**

- Breakfast and lunch programs.
- Transportation.
- Special education programs.



**What Families  
Need to  
Know about  
Homelessness**





## **Definition of Homeless**

*The federal government's legal definition of homelessness based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is anyone who...*

- *Lacks a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence (substandard housing).*
- *Is sharing housing due to economic struggles (double-up).*
- *Is living in a shelter, hotel or motel.*
- *Is living in a public place not designated for sleeping (cars, parks).*
- *Is an unaccompanied youth.*
- *Is a child or youth awaiting foster care placement.*
- *Is a child or youth abandoned in a hospital.*
- *Is a migrant child who qualifies under any of the above.*

## **Your Children's Rights**

Your preschool- and school-aged children have the following rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the last one they attended.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- Enroll without giving a permanent address.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of required school records or documents.
- Enroll and attend classes even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- Receive special programs and services.