

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

The City of Albany, located just 150 miles north of New York City, faces concerns of generational institutionalized poverty. The current unemployment rate for the City of Albany is 8.7% and the needs of the community exceed the available services, as reflected by a waiting period of 24 months for public housing. Homeless and Travelers Aid Society (HATAS) reports the number of unaccompanied youth, ages 16-20, in the Capital District almost tripled in the past decade, increasing 189%, from 63 in 2000 to 182 in 2009. The number of teen parents more than doubled from 44 in 2000 to 91 in 2009. Last year this agency served more than 5,100 individuals, including more than 1,800 children.

The City School District of Albany, partnering with St. Catherine's Center for Children Marillac Homeless Family Shelter and Equinox, Inc., proposes the ***Albany Education of Homeless Children & Youth Program***, servicing at least 450 students and families per year. Working together, these partners will engage in the following activities:

- On-site case management services to families residing in shelters and motels, including assistance in completing all necessary paperwork for enrollment, securing district transportation, distributing school supplies, and partnering with families to advocate for their children and remove barriers to increase school participation and parent involvement;
- One-on-one assistance to families with preschool-age children in completing the Pre-K lottery application;
- Analysis of each student's educational needs and development of an educational plan in collaboration with parents, classroom teachers, guidance counselors, and other school district staff; and
- Professional development for district staff to increase the awareness of the signs of homelessness and the barriers it creates to academic achievement.

Project staff will include the district's Liaison for the McKinney-Vento Program, Marillac's School Liaison Case Manager, and the Equinox House for Youth Case Manager. This team will meet on a monthly basis to provide peer support; to share resources to ensure a seamless continuum of services; and to discuss program implementation, evaluation of services, areas needing improvement, external systems problems, needs assessments, and local and regional trends in homelessness that affect educational goals. Data elements will be collected at these meetings and will include unduplicated totals of homeless children and youth served, as specified by the *USDE Consolidated State Performance Report*, Section 1.9 Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program.

The district requests a total of \$50,000 for the first year of the grant, with 95% of these funds allocated toward direct services and supplies to homeless students and families. Other funding sources will be leveraged, including utilizing Title I allocations to provide academic tutoring and educational materials for students. The district and its partners will also provide in-kind contributions of personnel and non-personnel items.