



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois • 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent

December 11, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

As you are most certainly aware, families in Puerto Rico continue to suffer in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Due to widespread damage to residential structures and public infrastructure, thousands of families have been displaced to areas across the United States and here in Illinois. In light of the very real possibility that your district receives one or more students or educators displaced by Hurricane Maria, we would like to take the time to detail protections and opportunities that apply to students and educators of Puerto Rico.

Access to Educational Programs

For purposes of educational access, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (“McKinney-Vento”) provides that a student is experiencing homelessness if they lack a “fixed, regular and adequate” abode. This includes students who share the housing of others due to loss of housing, commonly referred to as being “doubled up.” Subtitle VII-B of McKinney-Vento ensures educational protections for children and youth in homeless situations, including many who have lost their housing due to natural disasters. It provides stability and support and, with respect to students experiencing homelessness, requires the following of school districts:

- Immediate enrollment, even if the student does not present documents ordinarily required for enrollment/registration (e.g., residency documents, immunization records, school records, etc.);
- Immediate screening for English language services and, as appropriate, immediate enrollment in bilingual education programming;
- Waiver of all school fees;
- Free meals;
- Transportation as necessary to ensure the student has access to the programs of the school district;
- The removal of any other barrier that prevents enrollment, attendance, and full participation in all school activities.

School district homeless liaisons must proactively identify students experiencing homelessness, not simply coordinate with families that assert homelessness. The [Lead Area Homeless Liaison](#) (LAL) should be contacted if additional support is needed by the family, student, or district.

Critically important is connecting, when necessary, students and families to community-based health and mental health programs and other social programs, including programs that provide a framework for trauma-informed care. The [National Center for Homeless Education](#) provides detailed information on best practices in these areas. LALs may also be contacted to provide links to available local services.

Districts should document all students who are enrolling because of displacement from their home due to a natural disaster. In order to provide additional assistance to children and families, LALs have been making efforts to collect enrollment data from Local Education Agencies within their area. We also encourage you to visit the [Illinois State Board of Education's Homeless Education](#) website for additional resources. Additional questions or concerns with respect to the enrollment of impacted students may be posed to Vicki Hodges, State Homeless Education Coordinator, at vhodges@isbe.net or (217) 782-1863.

Educators Seeking Licensure in Illinois

Educators from Puerto Rico may face barriers in obtaining official transcripts, copies of pertinent licensure documents, and copies of their educator licensure. In recognition of the importance to provide meaningful support to those displaced educators, effective immediately, the following shall apply:

- *Eligible Applicants.* An eligible applicant is an individual who resided in Puerto Rico at the time of Hurricane Maria, is seeking educator licensure in Illinois, and who is otherwise qualified for the Illinois license sought.
- *Available Licenses.* Eligible applicants may apply for any license issued by ISBE, including but not limited to, Substitute, Paraprofessional, Teaching (including Transitional Bilingual), Administrative, or School Support Personnel Licensure.

Please note that eligible applicants seeking Teacher, Administrative, or School Support Personnel Licensure will be issued an Educator License with Stipulations (Provisional Educator). This credential is valid for up to two (2) fiscal years, provided the applicant passes the required licensure tests within the first twelve (12) months of issuance. If all other deficiencies are removed by the end of the second fiscal year, the applicant may qualify for a Professional Educator License. Applicants for a Transitional Bilingual License must first pass the required target language proficiency examination or otherwise meet the qualifications for the license prior to issuance.

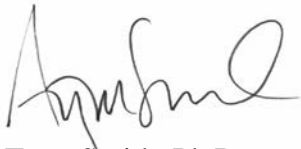
- *Licensure Fees.* Fees normally required for licensure, including application and registration fees, will be waived for all eligible applicants.
- *Application Format.* The application for eligible applicants asks the same background questions as regular licensure applications, with the addition of assurances that the applicant meets the specified criteria to participate in this process.
- *Documentation Required for Licensure.* Eligible applicants must provide whatever documentation possible as part of the application package (official transcripts, copies of

licensure from Puerto Rico, etc.). However, if such documentation is not available due to the damage and continuing disruption caused by Hurricane Maria, an eligible applicant may nonetheless file an application and, if they are otherwise qualified, be issued a license. The eligible applicant will be asked to sign an assurance that they will provide the necessary documentation at the time such documentation becomes available.

ISBE believes that flexibility provided to licensure applicants from Puerto Rico not only benefits the individual, but also promotes our focus on access, equity, and opportunity for all who reside in Illinois. For a copy of the application and additional information, please visit the [Hurricane Maria Educator Assistance page](#). Additional questions may be posed to Emily Fox, Division Administrator for Educator Effectiveness, at efox@isbe.net or (217) 524-2899.

We thank you for your commitment to all students and for providing equity and access to the most vulnerable among us. Included with this letter is a non-comprehensive list of resources for impacted families. Though all are Chicago-based, many programs listed extend outside the City of Chicago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Smith', written in a cursive style.

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Hurricane Maria Resource List

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Phone: (800) 621-3362

Services: To determine what federal assistance is available, individuals should register with FEMA by visiting www.DisasterAssistance.gov and selecting **Apply Online**.

Website: www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Office of Congressman Luis Gutierrez

3240 W Fullerton Ave

Chicago, IL 60647

Phone: (773) 342-0774; Fax: (773) 342-0776

Services: Constituent casework; access to Federal services; referrals for housing, homeless prevention, food, clothing, education, health, counseling, employment, and city services; translation services.

Website: <https://gutierrez.house.gov/>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

1615 W. Chicago Ave, 5th Floor

Chicago, IL 60622

Phone: (312) 743-0300

Services: Case management and referrals for specialized assistance, child services, youth services, human services, domestic violence victims, homeless services, veterans, workforce development and senior services.

Website: www.cityofchicago.org/fss

26th Ward Office (Alderman Roberto Maldonado)

2511 W. Division Street

Chicago, IL 60622

Phone: (773) 395-0143; Fax: (773) 395-0146

Services: Access to city services, translation services, assistance with application paperwork.

Website: <http://www.robortomaldonado.com/>

30th Ward Office (Alderman Ariel Reboyras)

3559 N. Milwaukee Avenue

Chicago, IL 60641

Phone: (773) 794-3095

Services: Access to city services, translation services, assistance with application paperwork.

Website: <http://www.30thwardchicago.com/>

Chicago Department of Animal Care and Control

2741 S. Western Ave

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: (312) 747-1406; TTY: (312)747-1409

Services: Pet food and supplies, resource center for disease, behavioral support, referral for free veterinary resources, spay/neuter and vaccinations.

Website: www.cityofchicago.org/cacc

Chicago Department of Business of Affairs and Consumer Protection

121 N. LaSalle Street, 8th Floor

Chicago 60602

Phone: (312) 744-6060; TTY: (312) 744-1944

Services: Liaison to business license, network of chambers of commerce, educate/outreach to prevent consumer fraud, investigate consumer complaints.

Website: www.cityofchicago.org/bacp

Chicago Department of Public Health

333 S. State Street, Suite 200

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: (312) 747-9884; TTY: (312)747-2374

(For 24-hour assistance or to report public health issues, call 311)

Services: Mental health, prevention, substance use, STI clinics, immunizations and sanitation inspections.

Website: www.cityofchicago.org/health

Chicago Department of Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

2102 W. Ogden Ave

Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: (312) 746-5773; TTY: (312)744-3314

Services: American Sign Language interpreters, advocacy for disabled clients for employment, accessible housing, in-home services and referral services.

Website: www.cityofchicago.org/mopd

Chicago Park District

541 N. Fairbanks

Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: (312) 742-7529; TTY: (312)747-2001

Services: Recreational centers and leisure opportunities for families. Facilities rental and program for all ages.

Website: <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com>

Hurricane Maria Resource List

Chicago Public Schools

42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (773) 553-1000

Services: Enrollment and placement services for students.

Website: www.cps.edu

PACE

Phone: (800) 606-1282

Services: Para-transit services for people with disabilities, transfer and accessible mobility.

Website: <http://www.pacebus.com/>

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center Obstetrics and Gynecology Treatment Center

3048 N Wilton, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60657
Phone: (773) 296-5652

Services: High and low risk obstetrics, routine gynecology care, cervical dysplasia clinic, family planning and contraceptive services, gynecologic surgery, behavioral health services and diabetic education for obstetric patients

Website:

<https://www.advocatehealth.com/immc/health-services/womens-services/>

American Red Cross

2200 W Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (872) 215-1579

Services: Emotional and spiritual support, Referrals for food, clothing, and housing assistance.

Website: <https://www.redcross.org>

ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois

2989 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60618
Phone: (773) 252-0972

Services: Education Services and Socio-emotional Support, Middle School and High School 100 seats available.

Website: www.aspirail.org

Catholic Charities

721 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: (312) 655-7500

Services: Food, shelter, clothing, senior care, housing assistance, veterans' services, spiritual care.

Website: <https://www.catholiccharities.net>

Family Focus Nuestra Familia

4145 W. Armitage
Chicago, IL 60639
Phone: (773) 276-0940

Services: Early Childhood Services (learning support, transition to school), parenting groups, case management/access to government services, translation/interpretation, benefits application assistance, referral services for medical providers, mental health support, addiction services, fatherhood programs, after school programs.

Website: www.family-focus.org

Grace and Peace Community

1860 N. LeClaire Ave
Chicago, IL 60639
Phone: (773) 489-5949

Services: Spiritual care.

Website: www.thegapc.org

Heartland Human Care Services

4411 N. Ravenswood
Chicago, IL 60640
Phone: (773) 336-6019

and

208 S. LaSalle
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone (312) 660-1300

Services: Housing assistance, asset building/financial literacy, identifying open waiting lists for subsidized housing, children's services, psycho—educational groups, healthcare, homelessness prevention, domestic violence services, employment and job readiness programs, HIV prevention, vocational English language training, case management, Travelers Aid at O'Hare, bilingual staff.

Website: www.heartlandalliance.org

Hurricane Maria Resource List

Hispanic Housing Development Corporation

325 N. Wells, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: (312) 602-6500

Services: Housing development, property management and affordable housing.

Website: www.hispanichousingdevelopment.com

Inner City Impact

3327 W. Fullerton Ave
Chicago, IL
Phone: (773) 384-4200

Services: After school programs, recreation, transportation.

Website: <https://www.icichicago.org>

La Casa Norte

3533 W. North Ave
Chicago, IL 60647
Phone: (773) 276-4900

Services: Housing for youth and families that are at-risk or experiencing homelessness, life-skills and technology training, education support, employment-readiness, case management, food, clothing, therapy, transportation.

Website: <http://www.lacasanorte.org>

Latin United Community Housing Agency (LUCHA)

3541 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
Phone: (773) 276-5338

Services: Rental housing, housing & financial counseling, legal assistance regarding landlord-tenant disputes and housing discrimination

Website: <https://lucha.org/>

New Life Centers of Chicagoland

1410 N. Springfield
Chicago, IL 60651
Phone: (312) 772-6675

Services: After school support and workforce development services.

Website: <https://newlifecenters.org/>

New Life Covenant Ministries

2704 W. North Ave
Chicago, IL 60647
Phone: 773-384-7113

Services: Food, clothing.

Website: <http://mynewlife.org/>

Norwegian American Hospital

1044 N. Francisco Ave
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: (773) 292-8200; Toll Free Phone: (877) 624-9333

Services: Full service hospital, medical services and child immunizations.

Website: <https://www.nahospital.org>

Oak Street Health

4848 W Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60641
Phone: (773) 724-6200

Services: Primary healthcare clinics that exclusively serve Medicare patients.

Website: www.oakstreethhealth.com

Old Irving Park Community Clinic

5425 W Addison
Chicago, IL 60641
Phone: (773) 427-0298

Services: Cardiac services.

Website: <https://oipcc.org/>

Puerto Rican Agenda

Phone: (773) 698-6003

Services: Advocacy services.

Website: <http://puertoricanchicago.org>

Puerto Rican Arts Alliance

3000 N. Elbridge Ave
Chicago, IL 60618
Phone: (312) 342-8865 Ext 104

Services: Cultural Arts & Music Education Programs.

Website: <http://www.praachicago.org>

Puerto Rican Cultural Center

Main Office

2739 W. Division St.
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: (773) 342-8022

Administration Office

2546 W. Division St.
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: (773) 394-4935

Services: After School Programs, Childcare, Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, HIV/STI Testing, Mental Health Counseling, LGBTQ Shelter, CEDA/UTILITIES.

Website: <http://www.prcc-chgo.org>

Hurricane Maria Resource List

The Salvation Army (2 Locations)

New Hope Head Start Center
4255 W. Division
Chicago, IL 60651
Harbor Light Freedom Center
828 N. Christiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60651
Phone: (773) 205-3520

Services: *Alcohol and drug treatment services, STOP IT – Anti Trafficking initiatives, homeless services, employment and job readiness programs, food, clothing, and housing assistance, youth and family services, day-car services, after school educational and recreational programs, children’s daily free meals for ages 3 to 18, Emotional and Spiritual Care, bi-lingual staff.*

Website: www.salarmychicago.org

Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center

4048 W Armitage Ave
Chicago, IL 60639
Phone: (773) 698-6004

Services: *Recreation services and cultural arts education programs.*

Website: www.segundoruizbelvis.org

Spanish Coalition for Housing

1922 N. Pulaski
Chicago, IL 60639
Phone: (773) 342-7575

Service: *Limited funding for security deposits, financial and housing counseling, advocacy, translation service.*

Website: www.sc4housing.org

Storehouse Church

5701 W. Montrose
Chicago, IL 60643
Phone: (773) 853-2048

Service: Food, clothing, spiritual care.

Website: www.storehousechicago.org