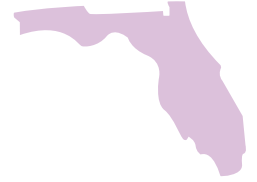


THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA



The School District of Osceola County (SDOC) serves 50 public schools with approximately 2400 students identified as experiencing homelessness as of June 2022. SDOC provided Wraparound services with a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) grant from 2018-2021. In 2021, SDOC was awarded the American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth Grant, allowing the district to serve students experiencing homelessness (Families in Transition-FIT), using the Wraparound Model.

Once students are identified as FIT, school social workers assess needs, behaviors, and attendance, and make a referral for services, if necessary. Referrals are then directed to the Wraparound Homeless Specialist for Wraparound services. ARP-HCY funds support the Wraparound Homeless Specialist position, as well as Wraparound Teams that serve as Facilitators and Family Support Partners. When referrals are received, the Wraparound Homeless Specialist reviews information on the student's school record and contacts the parents who have a choice of which agency they will work with. The Wraparound team then makes contact with the family and begins working on identifying needs and locating service providers in the community to assist with meeting those needs. The Wraparound Homeless Specialist and Wraparound teams work not only with students who are referred but also with siblings and family members to assist with various needs, such as finding employment, filling out housing applications, applying for public assistance, and getting connected with mental health supports in the community.

ARP-HCY funds also provide school uniforms, extended day, summer camp, transportation, hygiene products and school supplies to the FIT students. In addition SDOC is able to provide 3 nights hotel stay for our homeless families in need of emergency housing.

“ARP-HCY funds have allowed us to meet some of our Families in Transition basic needs, in addition to providing them with Wraparound services, which takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the youth and family needs. Our goal is to keep kids engaged and attending school and these funds help make that possible.

Gigi Salce, Wraparound Homeless Specialist