



Advocates for Children of New York  
Protecting every child's right to learn since 1971

## News Release

### For Immediate Release

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# 30 Organizations Call on NYC to Increase Educational Supports in Shelters

*The City Should Use Federal Funds to Hire Shelter-Based Community Coordinators to Help Students Get to School*

**April 29, 2022 (NEW YORK CITY)** — More than 30 organizations [released a letter](#) calling on Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks to use federal COVID-19 relief funding specifically designated for students in temporary housing to hire 150 shelter-based Department of Education Community Coordinators. Community Coordinators can provide crucial supports for students in shelter, helping students get to school every day and connecting them with the supports and services they need to be successful in school.

With 60% of students living in shelter chronically absent from school, it is important to have someone on the ground in the shelter who can partner directly with families, determine why a particular child is missing school, and resolve the problem. The DOE is getting American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds specifically to support students in temporary housing. The DOE submitted a plan to use part of its funding to hire 50 shelter-based community coordinators, but 50 is not nearly enough to serve the 28,000 students who spend time in shelters each year. The DOE must submit a plan in the next month for its remaining \$24 million in ARP-HCY funding. The groups are urging the City to use this opportunity to tackle chronic absenteeism for students living in shelter and create lasting change by providing families and students with support where it's needed most.

The letter is available at:

[advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/on\\_page/sign\\_on\\_letter\\_sth\\_coordinators\\_042922.pdf](https://advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/on_page/sign_on_letter_sth_coordinators_042922.pdf)

### **About Advocates for Children of New York (AFC)**

Since 1971, Advocates for Children of New York has worked to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, disability, race, ethnicity, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. AFC uses four integrated strategies: free advice and legal representation for families of students; free trainings and workshops for parents, communities, and educators and other professionals to equip them to advocate on behalf of students; policy advocacy to effect change in the education system and improve education outcomes; and impact litigation to protect the right to quality education and compel needed reform.