

**Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's
OLDER HOMELESS ADOLESCENT LEGAL PROJECT (OHALP)**

THE NEED

Approximately 12,500 homeless students are enrolled in the St. Louis City Public Schools. Of these students, 2,500 are older adolescents. An additional 10,000 students from the district are in foster care.

**WORKING WITH THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF
HOMELESSNESS FOR OLDER ADOLESCENTS**

OHALP has assisted more than 220 homeless youth in nearly 300 legal cases since 1997. In our 21-county service area, more than 20% of these cases are concentrated in the City of St. Louis.

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*Forty-nine service providers representing 27 agencies and organizations in the City of St. Louis participate in the Older Homeless Adolescent Task Force. The Task Force was created by Legal Services as a means of identifying and addressing the unmet needs of homeless youth in the St. Louis metropolitan and surrounding areas.*

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Staff from Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and Older Homeless Adolescent Legal Project regularly attend and contribute to meetings of the City's Homeless Services Network Board and the Board's Children and Youth Focus Group.

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*OHALP coordinated the publication of Keeping Kids in School: The Educational Rights of Homeless Children. Legal Services granted permission to City Homeless Services to copy and distribute the booklet to the nearly 400 parents attending the City's Back to School events for homeless children in 2000 and 2001.*

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OHALP provides volunteers at Homeward Bound and the Back to School event coordinated by St. Louis City Homeless Services.

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*OHALP has provided presentations on the laws affecting homeless youth and the rights and responsibilities of older adolescents to youth participating in Youth Build, SLATE, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board, and other programs offered by the Office of Youth Development.*