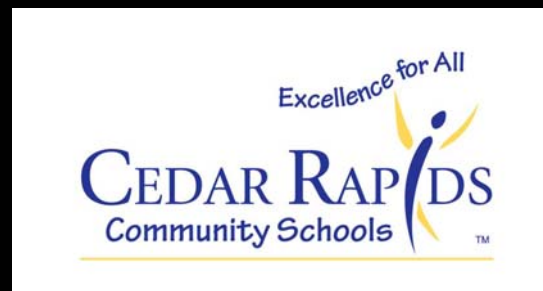


Homeless Liaison Program

Cedar Rapids Community Schools



Defining “Homeless”

...individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

- Sharing the housing of other persons...
- Living in motels, hotels, FEMA trailers, or camp grounds
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Living in cars, parks, or public spaces

Factors that contribute to homelessness:

- Generational poverty
- Economic conditions
- Psychological / mental health issues
- National Disasters



Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Flood of June 2008

Flooding in Eastern Iowa in 2008 ranks among the top 5 worst natural disasters in US history.

Flood 2008 by the Numbers

- 10 square miles of the city were impacted by the flood



Courtesy African American Museum of Iowa

Flood 2008 by the Numbers

- 5,390 residential properties were flooded



Flood 2008 by the Numbers

- 18,623 persons were located in flood-impacted areas



Flood 2008 by the Numbers

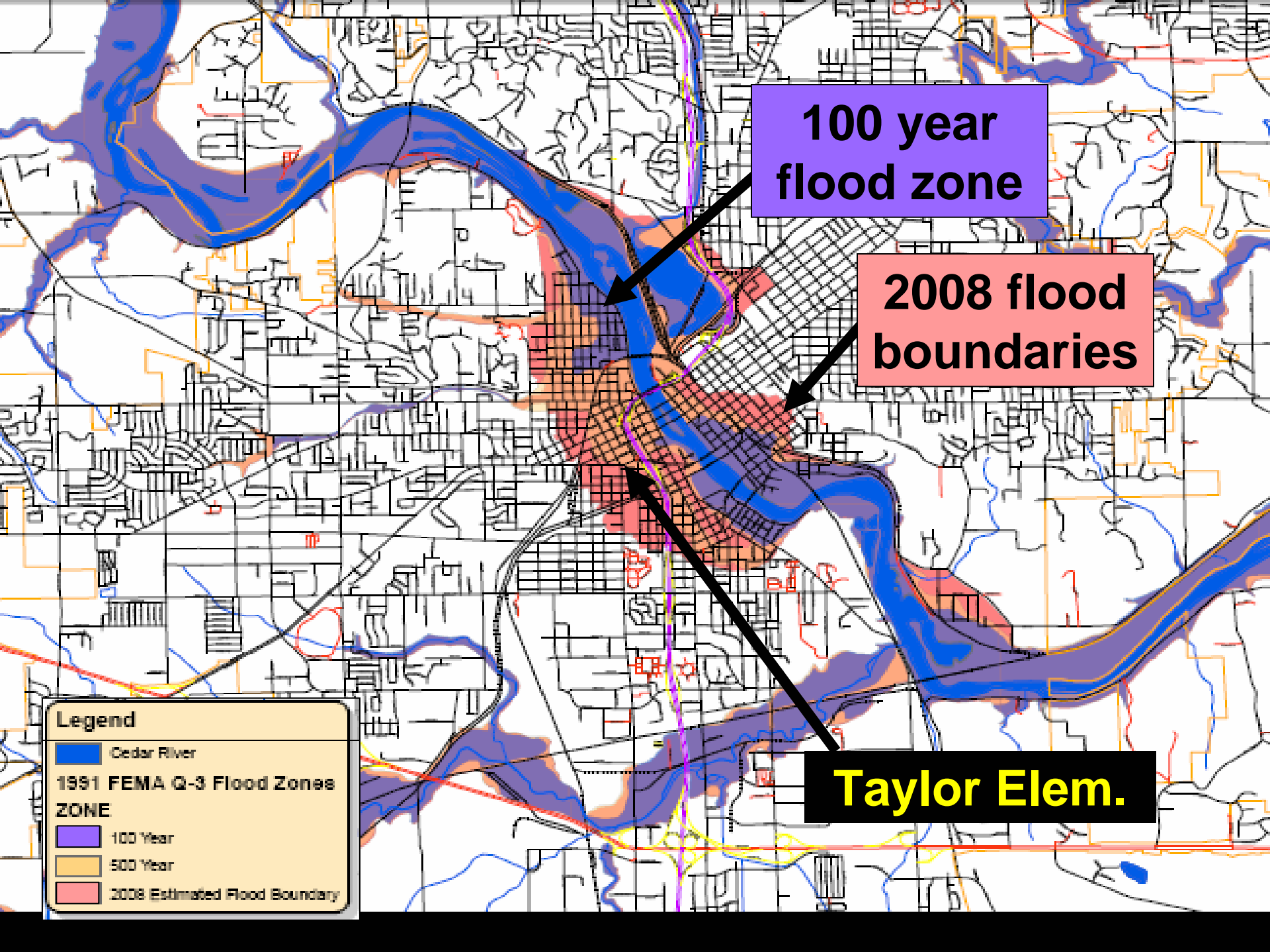
- 1,800 students in the Cedar Rapids Community School District were displaced by the flood





3' of water inside Taylor Elem. forced it to close for an entire year









**100 year
flood zone**

**2008 flood
boundaries**

Taylor Elem.

Legend

-  Cedar River
- 1991 FEMA Q-3 Flood Zones**
- ZONE**
-  100 Year
-  500 Year
-  2008 Estimated Flood Boundary

Schools located outside the flood zone were also impacted by families who lost homes due to flood damage.

100 year flood zone

2008 flood boundaries

Harrison Elem.

Roosevelt MS

Jefferson HS

Wilson 2-8

Taylor Elem.

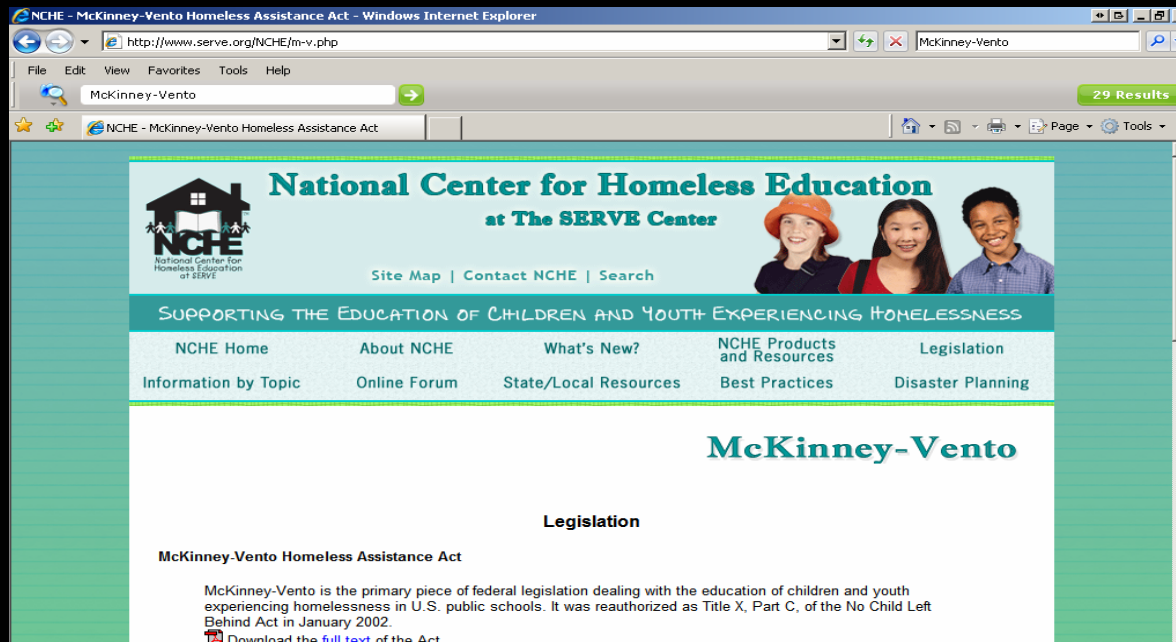
Legend

- Cedar River
- 1991 FEMA Q-3 Flood ZONE
- 100 Year
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- 2008 Estimated Flood Boundary

- With so many families displaced, Cedar Rapids district staff immediately began planning for recovery

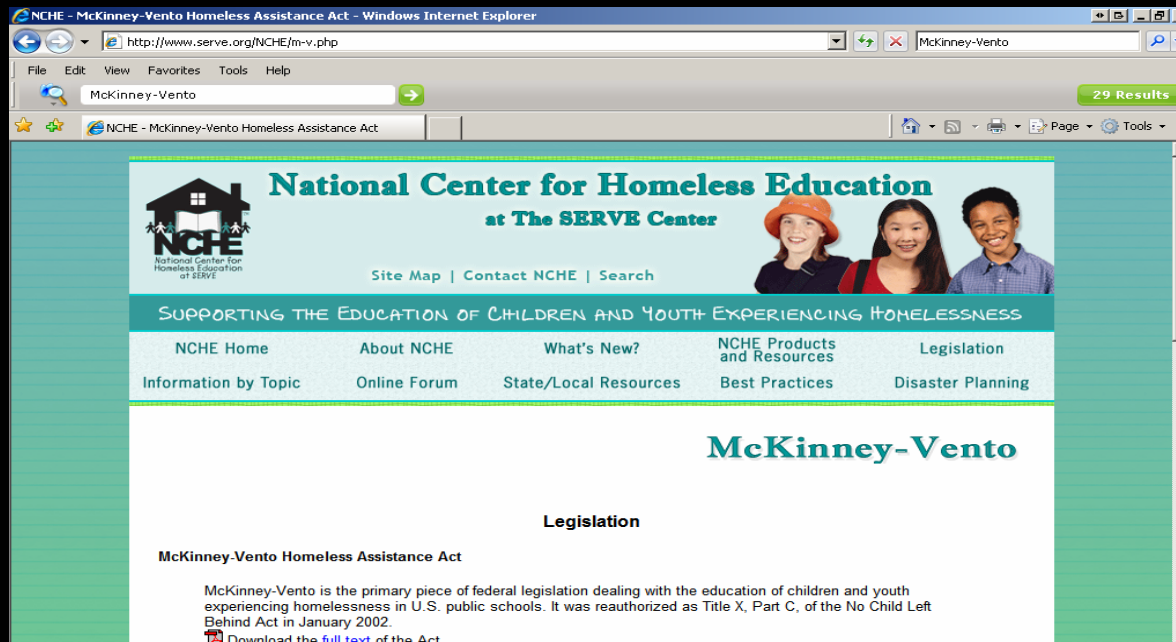


- With so many families displaced, Cedar Rapids district staff immediately began planning for recovery



Efforts were guided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Goal: Children should be Registered in school & Safe



Efforts were guided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
4 keys to accomplishing the goal....

Goal: Children should be Registered in school & Safe

- **Know the Law (McKinney-Vento)**
- **Know your client
(the family and the child)**
- **Communicate school services that are
available to families**
- **Connect families with other community
services**

4 keys to accomplishing the goal....

**Goal: Children should be
Registered in school & Safe**

• Know the Law (McKinney-Vento)

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act guarantees the rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness to a free and appropriate public education:

- Immediate enrollment**
- Access to needed services**
- School stability**
- Support for academic achievement**

Goal: Children should be
Registered in school & Safe

- **Know the Law (McKinney-Vento)**

...requires a liaison in every district

CRCSD Staff:

Rhoda Shepherd
(Director – Student Services)

Slayton Thompson

Joan Minney

Margaret Fitzgerald

Cindy Price

Goal: Children should be Registered in school & Safe

- Know your client (the family and the child)

Identify families:

- Word of mouth
- Media articles
- Neighborhood rallies
- Door-to-door canvass



Goal: Children should be Registered in school & Safe

- Know your client (the family and the child)

Ask questions / verify data

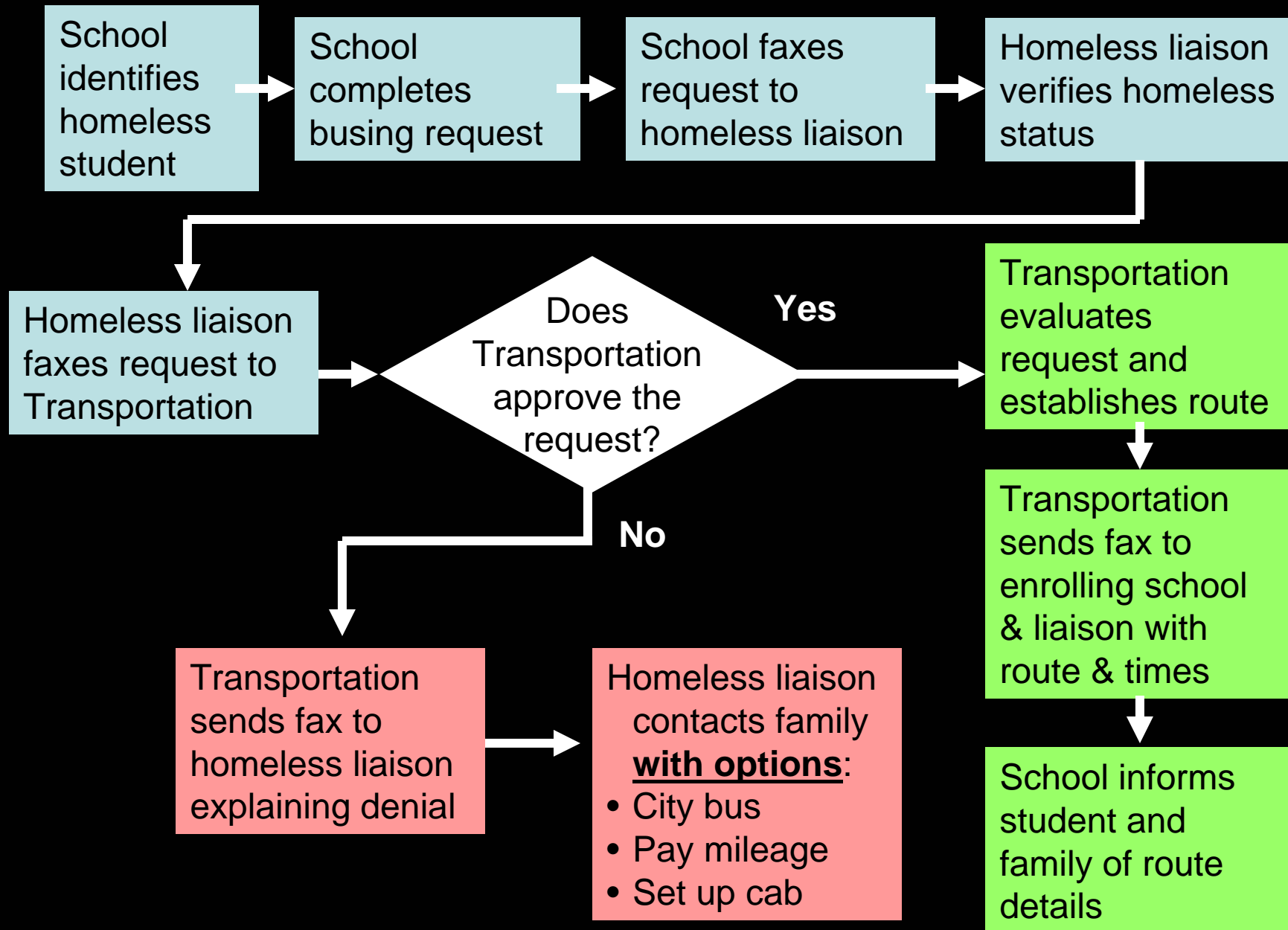
- Age & identity
- Previous school background, IEP history
- Health needs
- Emergency contacts
- Special circumstances
- Language barriers

Goal: Children should be
Registered in school & Safe

- **Communicate school services that are available to families**
 - Enrollment options & procedures
 - Access to Free / Reduced food service
 - Special programs, activities, & services
 - Transportation

Eliminate barriers!

Eliminating transportation barriers...accelerate decisions



Goal: Children should be Registered in school & Safe

- **Communicate school services that are available to families**
 - Enrollment options & procedures
 - Access to Free / Reduced food service
 - Special programs, activities, & services
 - Transportation
 - Free supplies



Donations come from:

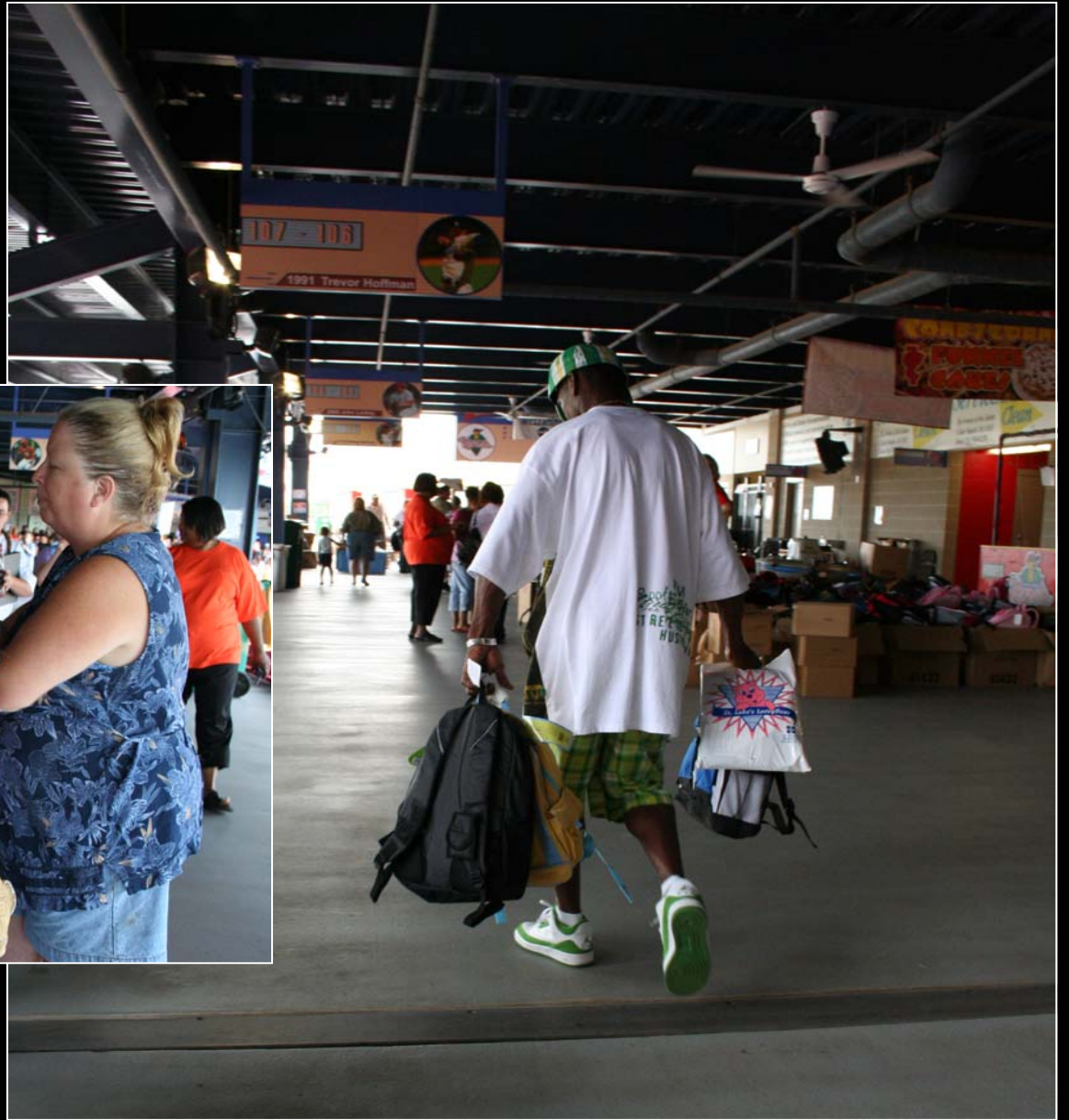
- Individuals
- PTAs
- Neighborhood organizations
- Corporations
- Government agencies











activities

With so many needs, school districts need help!

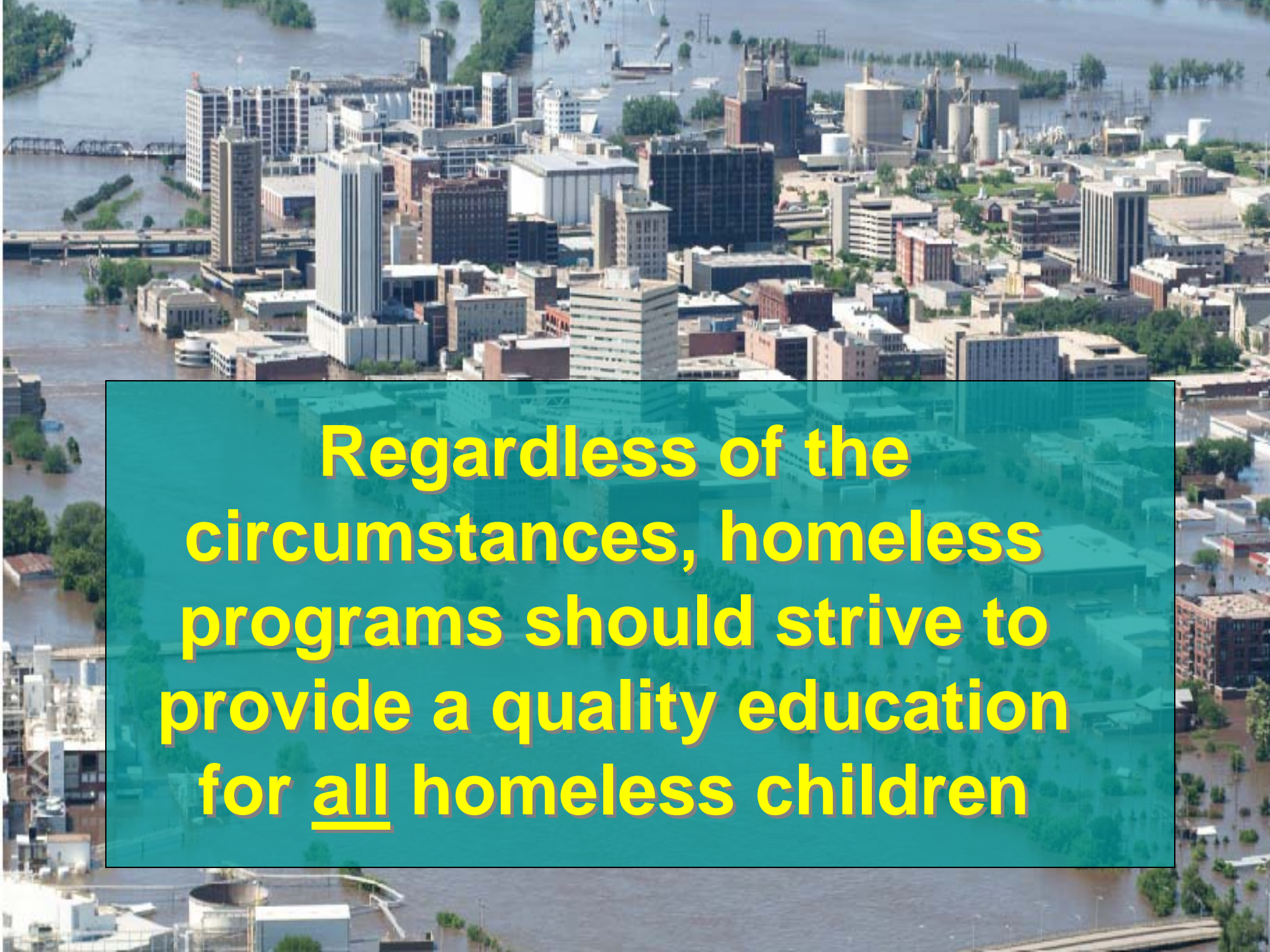
community agencies

support learning

Goal: Children should be Registered in school & Safe

• Connect families with other community services:

- Jane Boyd Community Center
- Tanager Place (Residential Treatment Center)
- Inn Circle (Transitional Housing)
- Foundation 2
- Parent Education Consortium
- Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- Horizons Family Services Agency
- Hawkeye Area Community Action Program

An aerial photograph of a city, likely St. Louis, Missouri, showing a dense urban area with various buildings, including a prominent white skyscraper. The city is situated along a large river, with industrial structures and a bridge visible in the background. The water appears somewhat turbid. A semi-transparent teal box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing yellow text.

**Regardless of the
circumstances, homeless
programs should strive to
provide a quality education
for all homeless children**



Homeless Liaison Program

For additional information, contact:

Slayton Thompson or Rhoda Shepherd

Cedar Rapids Community Schools

907 15th St. SW

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404